Reflections From Homely John's Diary

## by J. A. WELLS

Six dollars a week, no time for meals: Sixteen hours each day, now tired he feele Sad thoughts like these stir Homely John As homeward bound he trudges on.

He paced the streets from door to door For ten long weary months or more; Sought work, found some. No vagrant, he Mowed lawns, made fence, \{pruned apple tree.
One day at last his dreary search seemed P'er.
He's found work at a grocery store. good pay wanted, stteady work, To serve my customers from day to day."
The light of hope fllumes John's woe gone face:
How hard he'il struggle to retaln the piace:
He's at his work each 'morn 'twees six and seven;
He's found a ateady job, earth seems like heaven.
His elforts to provide no longer vain, He'll meet old winter with a proud disdain, Protect the dear ones from the stormy blast,
The cheerless dayt of hardship now seem past.
Bat, he'd forgot that pompous autocrats Reign e'en in peanut stands and itve in flats:
No matter where, if they command the boodle,
Employee's soul are less than their pet poodle.
Poor John could not surrender manhood's pride;
Give sixteen hours a day beside,
For the paltry sum of but one dollar, too: say gentle reader, sir, could you. comments.
Now, be it sald, this brief narration, Applies to millions in this nation. Applies to milions in this nation. At least five thousand in this oity Are working for starvation wages. You need not turn old Europe's pages, To see distress on overy hand. Unbridied averace rules the land.
We see a set determination, On part of monied combination, To crush men's souls, and make them humble.
Oh hireling slave, you must not grumble. Dependents, you must not demur, Resent no insults from the lordly our; Your fate is dangling in the hands of the ${ }^{\text {snobs }}$
Who may deprive you of your precious jobs.
Men, from eheer exaspiration, Insult the flag and curse the nation, Men whose grandsires set the mighty trec That mocked the storms of Europe's tyranny.
The hireling press, old party hacks Weighed down with piedges on their backs, Dare not rise to smite the potentate Who rides in gilded coach of state But coin new shafts of ridicule Pronounce each citizen a fool Who dares denounce in prose or rayme The shameful evils of the time. Feur million Africa's sons set free, By patriot blood in Sixty-three, Yet, soattered o'er Columbia's plains, Are fifty millions now in chains!
Fair virtue sleeps as if in death, While justice halts with bated breath; Migat, net right, holds wonted sway, While vice and ignorance rule the day. Profesting ministers of God Bow down and kiss the golden rod, Wielded by Wall street's iron hand, Which undisputed, rules the land. To men of Pharisaic mould, They preach in churches lined with gold: Forbide en ground to all God's poor, They ehrink in sadness from the door. On every hand are mutterings deep, That wake the echoes from their sleep. God is net mocked. be not deceived, Juatice will come to the aggrieved.

Advocate and Tribune: Another example of borrowing the livery of heaven to serve the devil in is the Republicans of Colorado trying to elect Harrison electors on a free silver platform. It is asconishirg what transparent schemes they will resort
aci Letter From Merrick County. [The following excellent letter is worth reading if it is a little out of date. Our apologies are due to Bro. H. for having over looked it.-EDITOR.] Central City, Neb., Sept. 17, '92. Mr. Editor:-It may please your readers to know what we are doing up here for the good of mankind.
I will assure you that we are all awake and when $y c u$ hear that the independents of Merrick county are not in it you may feel certain that in November the old parties will hear something drop.
Yesterday was a grand gala day for our party. The farmers came from all parts of the county and by 11 oclock the streets of the city were crowded and a procession miles in length m )ved over to the fair grounds to listen to the speakers who had been invited.
By the way, when we independents have a rally we need the fair grounds to hold our boys and their families, but only the day before we had our rally, the repub'icans called for their friends to rally and show the fool farmers that the independents were not in it. They rallied and tooted their horns and forty-three voters all told met at the opera house and listened to worn out
argumen's from some of their saw argumen's from some of their saw We called out over 1.000 voters to listen to Messrs. Van Wyck, Strickler and Poynter. Mr. Van Wyck was called home and thereby disappointed
many, but after we had listened to our many, but after we had listened to our next state senator, Mr. Campell, and to
Mr. Strickler and Poynter no one could say that we had not been well paid for coming to the best meeting ever held in the county.
I will not take the space to give you the arguments used by the speakers as delivered for many will hear these speakers in other parts of the state.
But I must say that V. O. Strickler was a surprise to all of us. He gave us a grand, good talk. In a pleasing, conversational voice, heard to the remotest part of the audience, he told his story of the wishes of our people. There was no great flight of eloquence, no great display of oratory, but for ovar an hour we listened and when he gave way to our friend Poyrter, we thought that our next attorney general had plenty of brains eighteen carats fine in
his head his head.
We are
We are certain that if he is elected he won't ra'tle around in the box, bu $W_{W}$ A to the brim.
W. A. Poynter, the next congressman from the Third district, closed the meeting and none who heard him will change their rote from him to either
of his opponents. He is a grand good of his opponents. He is a grand good
man, as honest as the day is long as we man, as honest as the day is long as we
all know from his past record as a legislator. The big Third district will give him a grand send off to Washington in Takigi
Taking it all together we were made to feel that the independents in other ccunties must hustle themselves if they keep pace with old Merrick. Our sd
vice to all has been and is now. once for the rights of man and if after that good deed you should feel ashamed that good deed you should feel ashamed
that you have done one good action, go that you have done one good actin, go pent." But we don't believe that any one will wish to repent. I find none around here. We feel sorry that we did not begin the good work sooner line. Yours for the rights of man.

M M. Halleck.

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