THE PITIFUL CRY OF THE POOR

"A Long, Low, Distant Murmur of Dread Sound."

THE BLIGHT ON OUR FAIR LA

Plutocracy and Pauperism the Pauperism ucts of a Quarter of a Century.

Conditions Not Apprehended by Our Forefathers-The Nation Fell a Prey to the Intrigues of Fiends Who Plotted While the People Reclined Upon a New Found Peace-A Friendly Warning to the Reckless and Bardened Barons. Oh, Ye Liars, Casuists and Hypocrites: [John Clark Ridpath in September Arena.]

The air is burdened with the half smothered cry of the poor. Their lines have gone out to the end of the earth. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. From every land and nation, from every clime and kindred, there comes up, as if from the abyss, what Lord Byron, in one of the

powerful passages of "Childe Harold,"

describes as A long, low, distant murmur of dread sound

is said to the effect that the poor we have always with us. This day is that saying fulfilled in the presence of us all. The poor we have with us, and we are ourselves the poor. It is our own cry, then, that we hear echoing around the gulfs and coasts of the world. So be it; but let us reason together a little about this awful condition of poverty among mankind. We say mankind because the disease

of poverty is universal. The world is smitten with it as with an epidemic. The eastern races are nearly all in a state bordering on pauperism. Ever and anon they pass the line and perish by thousands and millions. Whoever will put his ear to the earth may hear the moan of the dying. Oh, it is pitiful! The great regions of Asia are strewn with the decaying carcasses of the wretched beings that have died before their day from sheer want of the means of living longer. Beggary and semistarvation are the estate of more than 400,000,000 of Asiatics, a number six times as great as the entire population of the United States. The teeming islands of the sea, beautiful and fertile, are little more than pauper sepulchers that have swallowed up emaciated humanity until the very earth is a cake of man mold, rimy and poisonous. Strange to remark that there is less starvation in Africa than in either Asia or Europe; stranger still that the portent of pauperism is already on the horizon of America. Unless the baneful forces that are now rampant in our civilization can be reversed our land also will become-aye, it is becoming-a receptacle for millions of famished dead.

The onfall of general poverty in the United Etates was not to have been anticipated. No such thing was apprehended by the strong forefathers who Inid the foundations of our estate. We had here at the first a clean landscape and an open opportunity Ours was a virgin world, as our ancestors saw it, rising dewy and sunlit from the waters. They found it and entered it and made a covenant that it should be the home of freedom, and, if of freedom, then the home also of abundance and hope forever, for poverty is the concomitant shadow of slavery, the premonition of

it in every age and nation

Boundless were the resources of glebe and valley, of field and hillside, of lake and forest, when our mighty pioneers began to build us into colony and state and patton. Nothing more bountiful ever offered itself to the cheerful hones and ennobling ambitions of men than was revealed to the sober, industrious and frugal people who came here out of smothered Europe and began, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, to occupy this glorious and prophetic land. It was the new Atlantis. Population came on like a sunrise. Intelligence abounded. Just before the Revolution there was not a native adult in all New England who could not read and write. We got on well. Poverty was unknown. Like patriot Titans, we shook ourselves out of the old world condition and began an auspicious cureer of peace and plenty We alandoned the past. We abolished primogeniture. We sent entail into the limbo by the moon. We mocked at Dei gratia as an absurd delusion of antiquity. We declared three inalienable rights of man--namely, life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. We ought to have added the free possession of land

Under such anspices why should poverty have ever supervened in the United Status? Why should the voice of the poor ever be heard rising like a wail from plantation, bamlet and cityful? Why should there be seen standing at the door of the homes of the American; people the gaunt specter, want?

Poverty in the United States has come not moblenly, but by stages. At the close of the first quarter of the century it had score-ly appeared at all When the venerable Lafayette was in Boston in 1825, he made a speech from the balcony of an old house, still standing, at the corner of Paris and Boacon. streets. Looking round over the well ordered multitude of free men who blocked all the open spaces, the honored guest said, "Where are your poor?" He repeated it: "Where are your poor? In this assembly I see them not. Why have they not come abod" Some one said, "We are all here, rich and poor togeth-Lafayette replied: "No, the poor are not here. They are not anywhere in America. They are in Europe." And that makes the difference between an

assembly of free men in 1825 and an assembly of inchoate paupers in 1897

Down to the middle of this century the condition of equality, of common happiness, of free industrial pursuits, of fairly equal distribution of wealth, with plethora for none and poverty for none, still prevailed in our country Men now in middle life can well recall that happy and free condition of ambitious citizenship which existed in all parts of the United States as late as the outbreak of the civil war. The cry of the poor was nowhere heard. Even in the great valleys of the Ohio and Mississippi and around the farstretching frontier of civilization no wail of distress from want came up to vex the soul of philanthropy The humble homes of the common people abounded with the essentials of human happiness. One must needs have seen to his boyhood, as the writer saw and is now contemplating with tearful remembrance, the plenty of the old fashioned country homes, around which young fathers cleared new fields, and young mothers, the angels of the wilderness-God bless their memory!-rocked the cradles in which fat boy babies, with the spirit of the gods upon them, slept or crowed as the swelling ripple of life flowed

through their healthy souls It was only after our great struggle, after our day of battle and devastation, after the sad estrangement of the south and north, after the chasm had opened with dreadful animosity to close with indivisible reunion, that the condition of poverty in the United States appear-In an old oriental classic something ed. Indeed, it was not in the first period after the war that this condition came. It is within the easy memory of men that a full decade-nearly two decades -passed after the day of peace before the coming of the day of poverty

Nothing is more manifest than that this condition, this return of the old European and Asiatic fate to our American shores, was the result of some untoward and fatal break in the remedial methods by which we set about to restore ourselves after the civil war Had there been nothing abnormal, nothing criminal, in these methods, we should have got well again. After the storm the calm would have supervened. Our wounds would have healed. The grass would have grown green over the hallowed graves of our Union and Confederate dead. After the wreckage and turmoil the elements would have subsided, and the people would have been more free, more cheerful and hopeful in their subsequent abundance than in their preceding plenty

It was the destruction of natural conditions that sent our woe upon us. It work among the then silent forces of our forward movement that in the seventies and eighties brought about the conditions which we are now obliged to face. There were men-a large group of men-who were then alert while the nation was asleep. They began to intrigue before the smoke of battle had cleared away. They got hold of the industrial, economic and financial forces of this reviving nation and deliberately turned them from the course of nature and justice to the course of injustice and iniquity. They purchased the war debt of the United States and cunningly converted it into an instrument with lyzing their power to pay They invented a method by which to make impossible the payment of that debt. They transformed it into a fanged desmodont. They tampered with the contract existing between themselves and the nation. They made a fraudulent law in their own interest. They inserted a false counter into the money system of the United States by which, when the people paid, they paid nothing; by which, when they paid one half, the other half was greater than the whole; by which, when the robbers had extorted more than \$5,000,000,000 from the hard carnings of the people and had stored the tressure in their own vanits, the maw of the debt least was more insulable

than ever! Not satisfied with its store, the ogre wealth then began to organize and to concentrate its forces. It contrived one scheme after another by which to possees itself of more—more Producing nothing itself, it devised methods by which to absorb the producing energies of the whole people. It scrapled not to lay farreaching and dangerous schemes, the cords of which were gradually tight ened until after more than a decade the sense of suffocation began to arouse the people to the fact that an incubus had settled upon them, that a vampire was draining the blood and breath of our

national life Well known is the nature of the various enterprises which have been hatched in the last quarter of a century in the heavy but fertile brain of consolidated weedth. To say that when wealth accumulates men decay to only to repeat an aphorism good sines the days of Goldsmith and now unhappily verified in the United States. The recess is that the excessive accumulation of wealth is always effected from sources and resources other than its over. In proper tion as the resources produced by labor are taken away and given to those who labor not, to that extent the laborer to discouraged and readered hopeloss. To that extent his arm is paralyzed and his hears darkened. To that extent his producing power is statten with palsy and the soul of han begins to ank He lower the spirit of the free man and populos recoverd the hovel. Instead of supporting tree schools, he paye real and interest to his masters. With that powerty falls on time like a blight; anthe ontcome is either the endayment or the open rebellion of the masses.

This state, so anexpected and as pertentens, bus verme to pass in the United States. The great reass of the American vantage like juded beasts teiling on the apron of a treadmill, slipping back into lower and still lower industrial. economic and political conditions. As they are borne back and down by the tings and consforts of plenty. You think

it is the most pitiful wail of human history Whoever has the heart of humanity in him will hear as he goes about from city to country seat, from office to village, from field to distant station, the half smothered cry of the poor Let us note for a moment in what manner the appeal of those who are in want, or who are bordering on want, is received by the upper powers of society

Whenever the dolorous condition of poverty begins to be pointed out by the friends of humanity, the enemies of humanity pick up the complaint and say three things in answer. First, they say that it is a lie; second, that it was always so, and, third, that the good God loves his poor children and will take care of them. In this attitude toward the poor stands the high up and powerful world today, and in this attitude stands in particular the parvenu Amer-

ican aristocracy When confronted with the poverty of the masses, our aristocracy, our gilded clan, declares, in the first place, that we have no poor in the United States. In the second place it declares that the poor have always been and always will be, and, in the third place, it declares that the good God, whose servants we are, whose churches we build and whose priests and preachers we feed, will take care of his poor children, the meaning being that we are not responsible for it, that the estate of poverty is natural, and that the cry of the poor is only a false murmur of discontent Let us look you. Whenever the people begin to stir at this casuistical answer of wealth to the complaint of philanthropy.

In the first place, they say that there are no poor They say this for the reason that the poor may be avoided and not seen. The millionaire may build his house so that the unpleasing aspect of poverty may not shadow the halls or be Therefore go your way and teach no seen through the shutters. The walls are thick, and the windows are high, and the spiked bronze fence around is sufficient for the abatis of a fort. Within such a keep the cry of the poor will not be heard. He who lives there may say that there are no poor, since he does not hear them, and if the philanthropist, working his way by some kindly stratagem along the corridors, manages to meet the baron of the castle and asks him if he does not hear the cry of the downtrodden millions he only answers that there are no poor in this country. "Everybody," says he, "is well and happy in this glorious land. I read only this morning in The Metropolitan Hypocrite that the happy laborers are all at work again and that living was never before so good and easy! You are was the malevolent genius of man at an anarchist arraying the poor against the rich. There are no poor in this country, and you ought to be arrested for stirring up a strife among the class-

At the next castle the baron says: "Why do you try to alter the laws of nature and Providence? The good book has said, 'The poor you have always natural condition. It cannot be avoided. that it may be a blessing We ourselves never abuse or waste it-never."

are all doing our best to alleviate the griefs and hardships of the poor Espebuild poorhouses and asylums; we organize charities, we preach for the poor | tocracy and pray for them; we build great churches-tato which they never comeand organize gigantic pawnshopsgreat sums of money and consume our revenues in trying to lift up the abject in his front, but these sad human weak masses, and when our efforts are not nesses around him and behind I repeat, crowned with success we sorrow not as it is a hard battle, and who ver enters those who have no hope, but invent it must leave home and kindred behind some new method of appeasing the and offer himself freely for the good of dreadful condition which we admit, mankind, for the attempted reform of a but are powerless to reform.

Of one thing, however, we are sure, and that is that we have good hearts fear Let us perform our part in the and consciences, and we are doing as great contest that is on. Let us who remuch as we can to make beffer the sad condition of mankind For this reason we resent your interference and re- faith that was delivered to our fathers proaches. By reproaching us you disyourself an enemy of peace and prog science. But nevertheless the enemy system of wage industry. It includes and restrained sooner or later those burials for the poor. It includes the con-the rights of initiality, against the version of the mass of mankind into a equality and tretherhood of all men and concrete on which the structure of civ Ilization is resized. It includes the goverument of the many by the few. It includes the domination of consolidated procession and control of the resources of nations and peoples by a few hundreds or thousands of men, of which we are conspicuous examples. It in cludes the stock exchange, the Backcombination. the syndicate and the ican acciety, ye men who have bambel fruit it meludes every schems which together to destroy the great republic the quick-ned faculties of near have been able to device for perpetuating, in oil, owl handed fabric of the past, se a period form, the forrid disvertes of men who are the few of human liberty the past, and yet, says pintocracy, if you who do not believe in the democracy of would upnet the civilization of the world, and you shall not do H! Wparing We know you of old. You are people are dipping been from their a believer as democracy. Von think and teach that one man to us good as anothor You think and teach that wealth ought to be as generally distributed that all may have a share in the bless

their own mert weight, they mean and be abolished. You think and teach that sigh. That is their only sign, and I say instead of alleviating the condition of the poor that condition ought to be destroyed. You think and teach the great absurdity that there ought to be no poor, that men should go forth free and have families and feed them and educate them and bring them up to free citizenship in a great republic of equal rights for all.

We meet you, say the millionaires,

on this ground. We believe in none of the things which you advocate. We will accept none of them. We intend that the masses shall remain the masses. We intend that they shall not rise to freedom and spontaneity. We intend to keep them as they are-the hewers of wood and the drawers of water. We intend that they shall live under such conditions of ignorance and dirtiness and depravity as shall make their emergence impossible. We intend to hold them back and to hold you back. For this purpose we have fixed the powers of society and arrayed them against you and your agitation. We intend whenever you stir to blow you into eternity. We have our arsenals ready We have taken our millionaire sons and organized them into regiments and have instructed the capitalistic press to indoctrinate them into the true principles of solid government. We have packed our arsenals full of arms and munitions of war. Not one bayonet, not one bullet, not one belt, not one grain of powder in them all is intended or ever was intended for a foreign foe. It is intended for and to accept your pernicions doctrines of equal rights we shall let down our drawbridges and plant our batteries at the corners of the squares. We will vomit death upon you in great floods until we have taught you that freedom is a delusion and democracy a sham. more the doctrine of equal rights for all, or, if you teach at all, teach in a mild and soothing manner, so as to disturb not at all the existing order. Let us alone, for God is good, and we are his servants We will help him to take care of his poor children, and we will manage meanwhile to continue the consumption of the products of labor in those generous recreations, exercises and humanities that are the peculiar functions of the rich and noble. We will build our palaces and increase our livery and illuminate our ballrooms and provide our yachts with delicacies and rich wines and sail away on visitation to the capitals of those good old stable states where wealth is properly honored and where the poor know their places.

Such is the selfish plea of the Ameri-

can plutocracy

Hard is it, oh, my countrymen, to battle against the imperial powers of consolidated wealth! Hard is it to face the condition which has already supervened in the United States. Such is the alluring splendor of wealth and such is the rough exterior of free democracy that many are seduced by the former with you.' There was never a time in and many are in dread of the latter. the world's history when there were not | Fortunes are made, and those who walpoor people, and there will never be a low in them forget that their estate time when they are not. Poverty is a might be by disaster or convulsion brought down to the level of that of the He who fights against it is a fool. When under man. They adopt the motto, "Aftmen are poor, it signifies only that they are not able or not fit to have more. If there were less cause for fear in contemwhich to terment the people by para- they had more, they would abuse the plating the destinies of humanity, but gift and waste it. We are the providen- the disease of wealth lust has dissemitial guardians of the wealth of the nated itself like a poison, and the infecworld. We keep it and distribute it so tion of it is felt as far as the borders of society. The virus is in the veins of thousands and millions. It is perceived The baron of the third castle says that the rich are strong and free, that that God is good, meaning that we who they have not only houses and equilove him so much and obey him so well | pages and tables burdened with flowers, but that they also have pre-eminence in all things else Therefore we, too, must cially are we who have and control the be like them. Therefore we, too, must wealth of the world using it in such a by some means get away from our fel manner as to mitigate as far as possible low men, cease to share their hardships, the hard conditions of poverty We case to hear their cry and join the glittering cavalcade of the triumphant plu-

This disease of wealth lust must be met with an antidote, else we shall all likewise perish. Whoever strives to which they never enter; we spend amend the existing order is obliged to combat not only the organized enemy perverse condition in the civilized life. But let us do this freely and without tain our sympathies with democracy and believe in it contend fearlessly for the

As for the rest, we may be sure that turb the existing order, and, being a the enemy will hear nothing that is in disturber of the existing order, you are the nature of reason and truth and conress. We are the friends of the existing | shall heart somer or later the power of order. The existing order includes the consolidated wealth will be humbled the tenement system of residence (or ambitious and selfish intriguers against all women before the law, will be

brought to moderation and numility Oh; ye memory hards of the United States! Oh. thou parvenu, pig headed wealth over sectety. If includes the aristocracy! Oh, ye men of anbounded wealth and tieseous, ye men who reap where yo have not sown and gather where ye have not strewn, ye men who have arrogated to yourselves the right of establishing a despetism over Amer and to rebuild on its ruins the abandonshould doturb this existing order you man, who trample down truth and crush the aspirations and hopes of 70,000,000 people under your gilded have propored for you and are still pre Juggerman, ye toon whom nothing will satisfy but to gather up the total caruings of your countrymen and consume them in the attempted gratification of your insatiable greed and luxury, ye non whom preachers preach to and teachers teach and lawyers plead for and orators thatter and journalists glopressure that is upon them, and even by land teach that poverty itself ought to rify, yo men who have purchased the

A FULL AND COMPLETE LINE FOR ALL KINDS OF FUEL AT PRICES FROM \$10.00 TO \$75.00 A full and complete line of courses or many for all kinds of fuel made by the same mechanics and of the same molerial as "GARLANDS." MICHIGANS Are the poet of Any other line EXCEPT MICHIGA OUR STOCK OF GENERAL HARDWARE-HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS ETC. IS MOST COMPLETE AND SOLD AT LOWER PRICES THAN EVER RUDGE & MORRIS CO., experience much better than I." A visit organized powers of society and wno was made at the above concern where Mr. Wallace was seen. "I am," said use them as the dumb pawns of the gambler's board, who think you can Mr. Wallace, "yet a young man, still I have suffered untold agonies and tortures. I was born with that awful hereditary disease known as scrolula, and what I suffered cannot be well de-"It was first noticed in my early boy-hood days and as I grew older it manifeated itself, more strongly. The first physicians that treated me said it was a constitutional blood disorder and by constant treatment and diet it could be cured. The blood purifiers and spring remedies I used only made the eruptions

Don't Buy Counterfeits~
When you can buythe at the same

buy the world and convert it one half into a slave market and the other half into a park, ye men who own all the railways and all the bonds and all the sugar and all the petroleu.n and most of the cotton and all the whiskyheaven save us!-of the United States, ye men whose intolerable pride overtops that of the feudal lords and whose unmitigated selfishness devours the lives of others as the Roman gluttons devoured humming birds and snails, ye men who fear neither the proclamation of truth nor the appeal of innocence in torment, ye millionaires and multimillionaires and billionaires about to be, whose unchecked and whose arrogance already grins defiance out of the ironbound windows of your arsenals, stop—stop now!

The time has come for you to receive the first state of the control of the ironbound windows of your arsenals, stop—stop now!

The time has come for your to receive the first state of the first state o spoliation of the human race goes on The time has come for you to pause and Lake, Washington, but was not bene-listen! The low murmur which you fited. I then tried some proprietary hear in the distance, so sad and far, is medicine, but did not receive any benefit the cry of the poor. They who cry are your fellow beings. They are as good as you are. They have as much right to the blessedness of life as you have. They have brothers and sisters and children. as you have a few They have hearts, as some of you have. They are patient and true, as you are not. They are not arrogant and envious; they are humble and sincere. If there be a God, they are his loved ones, and now, by the goodness of heaven, you shall hear their cry We serve upon you a modest and generous notice to hear that cry. You shall do it. The nation will make you do it You are not the lords of the world; you are not the proprietors of nature. You are simply men, as are the rest of your rapidly and all my friends noticed the brothers. Your brothers will do you no harm, but you shall hear their cry You shall not be liars and say that there are no poor; you shall not be ensuists and say that it was always so and always will be, for civilization will either abolish poverty or be abeliahed by it. You tem rid of that awful disease. For over shall not be hypocrites and say that a year I have taken Dr. Williams' Pink God will take care of those whom you have robbed of their later and their satisfied that I am perfectly cured. hope, as though he were your confederate. Hear ye, hear ye, the cry of the poor and answer that cry with justice from all scrofulous thint. and compassion! Otherwise the future will come down on you like night, and Pink Pills for Pale People at the start ! your children's children, visited with a fate worse than that which you now inflict on the children of the poor, will damn you for your sin and folly.

A VAIN SEARCH

Several Years and Thousands of Dollars Expended.

An Expert Accountant and Bookkeeper of Detroit Troubled with Hered-Hary Secolula in its Worst Form-Spends a Small Fortune Secking to Find a Cure All

> Failed, but a Curious Experience Effects a Fermanent

From the Evening News, Betrurt, Mich. James H. Wallace, the well known expert accountant and bookkeeper, of Detroit, Mich., lutely had a remarkable experience, and a reporter called at his pretty home 240 Sixth Street to interview him regarding it. He found Mrs. Wallace in the midst of house leaning. The two handsome little children followed the reporter into the house at the invitation of Mrs. Wallace, and after the reporter stated the object of his visit or six boxes for \$3.50, and may be had Mrs. Wallace said: "You had better use. Mr. Wallace at the office of C. A. Haber-korn & Co., table manufactory on or. Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Schenectady, korn & Co., table manufactory on or | N. Y. chard Street, and he will tell you of this

more aggressive and painful. In 1888 I was a fearful looking sight and was in fact repulsive. On my limbs were large ulcers which were very painful, and from which there was a continual discharge

"One day in the fall of 1895 while

reading the paper I noticed an article about Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People, but did not give it much attention. That afternoon while moving some books I broke an ulcer on my leg and nearly fainted, the pain made mo sick and I had to stop work. While sitting in the chair I again noticed the Dr. Williams' Pink Pills article in the newspaper which was lying on the floor, 1 read it carefully and immediately decided to give the pills a trial, as the account which I read had been of a case similar to mine. I sent the office boy over to Frank Houp's drug store for a box and took some that afternoon. I continued their use and before I had used one box I noticed an improvement. I grew better improvement and alter taking eight boxes there was not a sore on my person. "I am covered with scars from the

ulcers but since that time I have not seen a single indication of the old trouble. I continued the use of the pills long after I was cured as I wanted to get my sys-Pills for Pale People, and today I am When I bruise or cut my hands of late the sore heals up without festering, and this is a sure sign that my blood is free

"If I had only bought Dr. Williams would be thousands of dollars ahead and had five years of health and happiness instead of torture. Today I feel like a perfect man and my doctors say I am entirely rid of my old trouble. I have recommended Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People to my friends that are alflieted, and I know many that keep them always in the house as they have been of great help to my wife, to give my experience if it will be of any use in convincing others what Dr. Wifimms' Pink Pills for Pale People will do for cases like tuine.

JAMES H. WALLACE. (Signed) Detroit, Mich., May 7, 1897. Defore me a notary Public in and for

Wayne County, Michigan, personally appeared James II. Wallace, who being duly sworn deposed and said that he had read the foregoing statement and that the same was true. ROBERT E. Hell, Je.

Wayne County, Mich.

Notary Public.

Dr. Williama' Pink Pills for Pale Peo ple contain, in a condensed form, all the ements necessary to give new life and reasons to the blood and restore shabtered nerves. They are also a specific for troubles peculiar to loundes, such as suppressions, irregularities and all forms of weakness. In men they affect a radio cal cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excess of whatever nature. Pink Pills are sold in boxes (nos. r in lacue bulk) at 50 cents a box