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THOMPSON & PIETLE, PROPRIETORS.

"In the beauty of the lillies
Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom
That transfigures you and me.
As he strove to make men holy
Let us strive to make them free,
Since God is marching on."
—*Julia Ward Howe.*

"Laurel crowns cleave to deserts,
And power to him who power exerts."

"A ruddy drop of manly blood
The surging sea outweighs."
—*Emerson.*

"He who cannot reason is a fool,
He who will not reason is a coward,
He who dare not reason is a slave."

N. R. P. A.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Address all business communications to Alliance Publishing Co.
Address matter for publication to Editor Farmers' Alliance.
Articles written on both sides of the paper cannot be used. Very long communications, as a rule, cannot be used.

CHICAGO proposes to take possession of the Economic gas plant and make her own gas. Gas at cost is better than gas at monopoly prices.

AT the recent democratic caucus of the house, the question of free coinage was subordinated in the debate to how it would affect the party. It is ever thus with politicians. Office at any price.

FIFTEEN thousand corporations were formed last year with a nominal capital of nearly six taousand million dollars. Part of this is the capital of old firms reorganized and part of it is water, but labor must earn interest for it all.

A LAST week's telegraphic report from Europe gives the information that famine prevails in norther Hungary, and 20,000 inhabitants of the county of Arva are in distress, equaling that prevalent in Russia. The government refuses to relieve the sufferers because they are of the Slav race." It was recently reported that 70,000 men were unable to find employment in Vienna, the capital of Austria.

THE great English statesman, Gladstone, says: "Strikes have done much good, and the possibility and fear of strikes have done more good." A better plan, incomparably better, however, is the union of the industrial classes at the ballot box which the national conference at St. Louis prepared the way for. New laws are what we need, laws which shall restore equal rights to all and be a wall of defense around each and every citizen.

THE first known gift of Jay Gould's to the church was a few days ago recorded. He gave $10,000 for Presbyterian church extension in New York city. This sum is less than his average daily robbery of the people, his income through monopoly enforced tribute being over $11,000 a day. But his gift of other people's earnings is credited to him by the churches of New York, and a dozen divines and an equal number of his fellow robbers had a big banquet together over it at his house.

PRESIDENT FRANCIS A. WALKER in an address before the American Economic Association, after describing the interest now taken by the public in social problems and the spirit of dissatisfaction with the existing order of things so rife among the producing class, admitted that there is a rising tide which threatens to overwhelm every position taken by the economist. "The latter,' he says, "have been driven from what was once the shore, far inland, and those, like himself, who refused to join the rout, now view the scene from the roofs and tree-tops in which they have had to take refuge." Society built on the "submerged tenth" and sinking classes, must expect to go down sooner or later. But we propose to put a new, just, solid bottom under it.

"WHAT'S THE TROUBLE," is the title of a 116-page duodecimo volume by F. E. Tower, A. M., a Connecticutt minister, who in its pages ventilates the labor question, the question that involves so much, the question of justice and righteousness. We have found in the little book a very full and vivid description of society from top to bottom, as it has been made by competition, with the fire dangerously repressed beneath, a society of classes and rapidly increasing inequalities. The style of the book is clear, the matter of momentous weight and interest, and the reasoning exceedingly wise and convincing. We commend it heartily, without reserve, to all who wish to study social problems. Twenty-five cents obtains a copy, and the publisher's agents are A. J. Philpott & Co., 54 Pearl St., Boston.

WE pay President Harrison $50,000 a year to execute *our* will. We also pay King Rockefeller $20,000,000 a year (400 times as much) to execute *his own* will. How far astray then was Carlyle when he spoke of the entire people as so many "millions—mostly fools?" We are not at the mercy of one sovereign, but many, in addition to Rockefeller the Goulds, Vanderbilts, Astors, Armours, and thousands more, each of whom takes his turn taxing us, and collects his levy out of each day's wages, and product marketed or purchased. Three million people plunged into a seven years war with the mightiest nation on earth, rather than submit to a tax, the disposition of which they were to have no voice in. They saw it to be oppression, the entering wedge and beginning of slavery, and prepared to spill their blood rather than lose their liberty. Would they not then despise us who tamely submit to oppression.

THE TRUTH SEARCHED OUT.

"The rich man is wise in his own conceit, but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out."

This declaration of the wisest man is 3,000 years old, but it is being verified in a national way at the present time. Poverty for the workers and wealth for the schemers, have been very rapidly increasing and in equal related ratios for twenty to thirty years. The oppressed classes for a long time could not understand the cause of failing wages, low prices, lack of employment, reduction of values in farm property, the rise of city rents, and general hard times for the willing wealth producers. The politicians assured them it was the tariff, and they could and would make it right; but the tinkering of the tariff by disagreeing theorists and office-seeking partisans, from time immemorial, has brought no relief. We were also blandly informed by the successful class that "over-production" was what impoverished us! But we could not see why big crops might not be exchanged for an equally large volume of manufactured goods, and so steady work and enough wealth for all be provided by an abundant harvest.

In each campaign the contending parties have divided and deceived the people with contradictory doctrines, with charges and counter-charges, and they have vied with each other in making large promises. But when in office they have succeeded equally well in drawing their salaries and contriving to do nothing for the people. They have been the willing tools of the "third house," so-called, the lobbyists kept at the capital during the sessions of congress by the banks, railroads and big corporations and trusts, to secure—for a fair congressional division of the spoils—special legislation for the rich. With the paid-up stock and cash which this sort of legislation has mysteriously conveyed into their pockets, poor politicians have been made millionaires. And so things have gone on from bad to worse.

Finally the people lost all faith in the old party leaders, discovering that their "statesmen" belonged, body and soul, to the capitalists, and their "financiers" to the national bank fraternity. They were forced to study commercial justice, statesmanship and finance for themselves. And so the ways of the thirty-one thousand who in thirty years have somehow secured absolute titles to half the wealth of this richest and greatest of nations with its sixty-five millions of people, have been found out.

When the war was raging and millions of brave men were fighting its battles the government needed money to feed, clothe and pay wages to its armies, and to buy munitions of war. It began making money, stamping its dollars, "legal tender for all debts and dues, public and private." Those bills represented value received, the products of honest labor, and each product or service was worth more than gold, with its sneaking, treasonable, vampire owners added. In the ink which printed full legal tender notes was mingled the life blood of a million patriots, which gave imperishable value to the nation's stamp and seal. Better money, or money with more behind it, was never made, and its value never depreciated. If our members of congress had permitted the treasury department to pay its obligations to the willing people as it began to do, with these national notes of hand, exchangeable for everything, gold included, and to be taken by the government in payment for all internal revenues and taxes, so completing the round of circulation, the nation would have saved its enormous interest-eating debt, and the financial burdens of the war would have been justly distributed. They would not have been felt, in fact, so great was the stimulating power of the demands of the war upon all lines of business.

But just here came in the "financiers," the men who owned the gold, the selfsame men who had brought all possible pressure to bear upon Lincoln and upon congress to not fight, to let the south go; caring more for the loss of a few dollars of their cursed individual gold, through the interference of war with trade, than for the union and the nation's life. These gold bug traitors saw in the non-interest bearing, debt paying, people's greenback an end to the blood-sucking business. And they stealthily stabbed it, drawing down with that blow the liberties and government of the people. We have since been ruled and robbed by the money power, the laws having been made for it. By act of congress, passed by ignorant and "influenced" congressmen at the demand of the gold bug shylocks, the full legal tender clause was taken from the national treasury notes; the soldiers were paid in national paper which the government issuing it refused to receive; it, because of this, depreciated in value and was bought by the banks who, by another act of congress, were permitted to buy with it at face value, gold interest-bearing bonds, which they were allowed to deposit, draw interest on, and make them at the same time the basis of the nationally-indorsed, but privately-owned, currency. National credit, private credit, and the public money was thus put into the hands of the national banks, who by these acts of congress doubled their capital at the start, enthroned shylock, saddled a three or four billion unending national debt upon the people, forced them to individually borrow of them at ruinous rates of interest, and began drawing away wealth from all the producing classes and concentrating it with unparalleled rapidity in the hands of a few thousand men. Railroads were built with government aid, enormous land grants and local bond bonuses; and then given over without reserve to these mighty money kings and became the means of levying ceaseless tribute upon all forms of industry. As capital was thus drawn into the hands of the few it was invested in other banks and railroads, in city real estate of ever increasing rental and labor-oppressing value, in mines and franchises which possessed monopoly taxing power, and it was used to buy out competitors in one business after another, and so trusts have secured control of and fixed prices on many of the necessaries of life.

But the crowning work of capitalistic strategy, the last congressional *coup d'etat* of the money power, was the contraction of the currency, which forced the people to pay debts contracted under one measure of values in measures of twice the length. When we remember that the creditor class in 1878 held paper calling for the payment of over $28,000,000,000 (according to the congressional financial committee's report) the extent of this gigantic unparalleled robbery begins to be dimly conceived.

This is what appears when judgment is laid to the line and righteousness to the plummet, with the refuge of lies swept away. The poor have found out the schemes of the rich and have arisen to demand justice for all. Shylock is to be stricken down with national money at cost. Speculation in land is to stopped. Transportation at cost is to make neighbors of all producers. A graduated income tax is to prevent the heaping up of vast fortunes. Wealth is to be given to him who creates it, and all are, by legislation, to be driven at last to work, if they would eat. The rich sneer, but these are the conditions that face them.

A SINKING SYSTEM.

Senator Ingalls in a speech about two years ago said:

A social system which offers to tender virtuous and dependent women the alternative between prostitution and suicide as an escape from beggary, is organized crime for which some day unrelenting justice will demand atonement and explanation.

You haven't thought the competitive system at fault and the cause of the poverty, dependence and degradation of the lower, the "submerged" and sinking classes? It is, nevertheless. The success of the rich is at the expense of the poor. It is made by their unjustly requited labor and deprivations, with multiplied temptations.

Again Senator Ingalls says, referring to the rich:

By some means, some device, some machination, some incanation, honest or otherwise, some process that can't be defined, less than a two thousandth part of our population have obtained possession and kept out of the penitentiary in spite of the means they have adopted to acquire it, of more than one-half of the entire accumulated wealth of the country. That is not the worst, Mr. President. It has been chiefly acquired by men who have contributed little to the material welfare of the country, and by a process that I do not care in appropriate terms to describe, by wrecking of the fortunes of innocent men, women and children; by jugglery, by book-keeping, by financiering, by what the Senator of Ohio calls "speculation," and this process is going on with frightful and constantly accelerating rapidity.

GET OFF, OR BLOW OFF.

Between the years 1821 and 1891, 15,641,688 emigrants sought freedom and fortune in the United States. The virgin soil and undeveloped resources of America have hitherto acted as a safety-valve for the class and capitalistic oppression of Europe. Every pound of pressure which human nature can endure has been applied by capitalists or land monopolists to the laboring class, the dependent wage earners. But the time has come when emigration of the landless class is not to be encouraged. This nation will no longer be the dumping ground of the world's pauperizing machinery And the European nations will have to take off the pressure from the poor, or face a hungry, suffering, desperate, vengeful proletariat.

Emperor William of Germany ten days ago got a glimpse of what is coming, unless steps are taken out of and contrary to present courses. France found a hundred years ago that there is a limit of oppression beyond which it is not safe to go. And that limit is pushed closer and closer to justice as the people become enlightened. Justice for the people, or judgment by the people, is inevitable. And the longer judgment is delayed, the more thorough and terrible will be its work.

THEY PRAY IN VAIN.

The *Atlanta Constitution*, the leading organ of democracy in the south, gets on its knees to the Alliance voters, once democrats, with the following prayer:

Democrats and democratic alliancemen—let us get together and pull together. We can win with these watchwords—"financial relief and tariff reform—Hill and victory."

Hill and victory! What kind of victory? The victory of the New York slams and their political patron saint, of the Tammany tiger and its rider, of a manifest Mephistopheles who with the nether fires in view repeats for men to hear, "lead kindly light!" Better call the ticket so headed "hell and victory," or, to save contradiction of terms, simply "hell for four years." Read elsewhere in this issue a history of Hill's doings written by the New York *Evening Post*.

Meeting of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee of the people's independent party is requested to meet at the Lindell hotel, Lincoln, Neb., Wednesday, March 16th at 7:30 p. m. The business will be to determine time and place of holding the state convention, to select delegates to the national convention, and to decide whether we will hold a separate convention to nominate a state ticket, and such other business as may come before the meeting.

C. H. PIETLE, Secy. J. V. WOLFE, Chairman.

THE HIDING PLACE OF DESPOTISM.

The six financial planks of the platform of the St. Louis national industrial conference involve reform of a most radical and far-reaching nature. Interest, or usury, as it was formerly called, is now and was first made possible by the need of the borrower, and the disposition and power to take advantage of it by the lender. It may have been fire, or flood, or the ravages of war, or sickness and death which first placed the destitute in a condition where they were compelled to borrow at others' terms. Whatever the cause of their dependence the payment of money or goods for the use of goods, added to the power and advantage of the lending class, enriching them by others' labor, and subtracted in equal amount and degree from the borrowing class. It was thus that the creditor and debtor classes originated, and once originated the wealth of the lending class could be made to steadily increase, and the poverty of the borrowing class must as steadily spread.

As early in national life as the time of Moses and the calling forth of the Israelitish people usurers were protected by the semi-barbarous, despotic laws of all the surrounding nations. But God, as a just ruler, and to protect the poor and weak, through Moses gave the law prohibiting the selling of the land forever, the creating of a landless class and the taking of money for the use of money, or goods for the use of goods. (See Exodus 22; 22-25, and Lev. 25; 23-28, 35 38.)

The Christian church down to the time of Henry VIII., and later in some of its branches, preached vigorously against legalizing usury (interest,) but its voice was finally silenced, and in so-called Christian lands for centuries usurers and capitalists have demanded more than they lent, "interest," and have received a division of almost every product of other peoples' labor. The result has been increasing inequalities in society, the destruction of just liberty, equal liberty, the liberties of the many; and the elevation of plutocrats to perpetual thrones of luxury, and grinding, taxing despotism.

Laws have been passed limiting the percentage of usury that men could legally take, but not holding to the principle of just, equal returns they were of no moral force, and it has been easy, by forcing interest to be paid in advance, to leap over every such limitation of greed. Usury, named "interest" to take the curse off, is the right arm of conquering capital and the ball and chain of poverty. It is the moss-grown citadel which walls those at ease from those who labor. It is the treadmill harness which forces the poor forever to grind for the rich. It is the unjust weight (or division) upon one side, which destroys commercial equilibrium and produces gluts in the market and periodical panics. It is the absorber of other people's products and purchasable land titles, leading to an ever-increasing number of monopolies, millionaires, "the coming billionaire," and a final countless army of the landless, work-begging, dependent proletariat.

Millions have fought for freedom and after drenching the land with blood secured it; and from their number great statesmen have arisen to frame into law the changeless principles of justice, to perpetuate in governmental constitution a defense of the rights of man. But their infinitely costly defense of liberty, their wisest, most elaborately constructed protection for the weak, has been overthrown by usury, and what our laws permitted it to buy absolute titles to. All the work of the statesmanship of the past has been swept away by this mighty wrong of the ages, the far-reaching power of which few have realized, and against which, for the overthrow of which, none have until this year organized and risen up.

It will be to the eternal honor of the industrial classes that among them have been found statesman who have not only been able to point out the fatal defect in Freedom's previous defenses, but with constructive ability to repair the breach. Their work will be sneered at, as was Nehemiah's, but it will go forward to perfection. These are their declarations:

We declare the union of the labor forces of the United States this day accomplished, permanent and perpetual May its spirit enter into all hearts for the salvation of the republic and the uplifting of mankind.

Wealth belongs to him who creates it. Every dollar taken from industry without an equivalent is robbery. If any will not work neither shall he eat. The interests of rural and urban labor are the same; their enemies are identical.

And this is their first blow for liberty:

We demand a national currency, safe, sound and flexible, issued by the general government only, a full legal tender for all debts, public and private, and that without the use of banking corporations, a just equitable means of circulation, at a tax not to exceed 2 per cent as set forth in the sub-treasury plan of the farmers Alliance, or some better system. Also payment in discharge of its obligations for public improvements.

Money at cost is the central idea of it, the government our creditor, instead of the voracious, never-satisfied, inhuman gold bugs. The destruction of usury means the recovery and perpetuation of liberty. In another plank—

We demand that postal savings banks be established by the government for the safe deposit of the earnings of the people and to facilitate exchange.

So we shall have a safe place to deposit money, a creditor who will lend us all we can secure the return of at cost of doing the business, all capital circulating and employed, and the producing classes will get all they produce.

In still another plank we at St. Louis declared that "the land, including all the natural resources of wealth, is the heritage of all the people and should not be monopolized for speculative purposes." And in still another we demand that the government should own and operate the railroads, telegraph and telephones, the means of transportation and communication, so clearing out the all-powerful gang which now stands between the producers and consumers, robbing both.

We may therefore hail the union of the working classes upon such a national political platform as "the dawn of a new day breaking," the beginning of the jubilee year for all the disinherited and overburdened millions of our much-loved land.

MAYOR STEWART of Philadelphia two weeks ago vetoed an ordinance granting wholesale privileges in four or five wards to the Northern Electric Light Company, which is a part of the Electric Trust. This does not settle the matter however. A big fight is underway to pass the ordinance over his veto.

WM. H VANDERBILT'S best whip cost $2,000. W. K. Vanderbilt has a whip which cost $350. Pierre Lorillard has one with carved ivory handle that cost $500. These are the items which the over-worked poor and the unemployed, work-begging, starving class cannot readily understand. Nothing is more natural, however, than for those who can scourge the people with hunger and who drive all to serve them, to have costly whips.

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, the Standard oil king, on March 1st gave to the Baptist university of Chicago another million dollars. He never earned a cent of it, but taxed it out of the people, forcing them to pay him a royalty or monopoly margin on what God gave equally to us all. Yet he says: "I make this gift as a special thanks offering to Almighty God for returning health." The religious press is praising him. We would like to also, but we can't. A man who gives away other people's property is not considered honest at our house.

THERE are five million agricultural laborers in this country whose wages average less than $194 a year, or 64⅔ cents a day. And many of the farmers one year with another are earning in net market value less than their hired men. The arbitrarily fixed price of transportation, interest and inability to hold their crops making them as much serfs and slaves as their own employes. Railroad kings getting as high as $20,000 a day regularly, and ten millions whom they dictate to directly and indirectly, getting less than one dollar a day!

JACOB RIIS, author of "How the other Half Lives," relates in his work that the owner of one of those indescribably filthy, disease-breeding dens, called tenement houses, built for the poor of New York, suffered loss by fire, and was seeking sympathy. His loss, however, was not the building. That was *fully* insured for $800. But he was getting on this $800 investment $600 a year rent. Another case given by Mr. Riis was that of a hardworking young couple, man and wife, from the old country. They took poison together in a Crosby street tenement leaving the statement that they were "tired," Mr. Riis says, after visiting the attic where they were forced to live, that it was all the explanation needed.

THE Philadelphia *Press* (rep.) labors hard to convince its readers that nothing is wrong, notwithstanding the fact admitted that $215,000,000 worth of merchandise exports in excess of imports have been drained away from us in the last eight months and we have nothing to show for it, not even less debts, as the *Press* would have believed. It says the departure of gold ($2,250,000 a week) is not yet alarming, and avers that this is "the only civilized country in which failures are not, week by week, more numerous than in recent years, and in which the large number of unemployed is not causing greater suffering, or as in Berlin, riots, which rouse rumors of worse to come than riots." Yes, we know the same evils which affect us are coming to a head in other lands, but that doesn't make us content to suffer and be kept forever poor and enslaved by monopolistic robbery.

GOVERNOR FIFER of Illinois lately delivered a speech at Joilet to a convention of farmers of the eighth Illidois Congressional district, and speaking of the present national trend said: "Just so certainly as I stand here this government will fall. All tends to wealth, wealth to luxury, luxury to weakness, and weakness to lapse." We should express our opinion this way: Capitalism with land, transportation and money monopoly concentrate wealth, and concentrating wealth leads through increasing despotism and distress to revolution. But by an intelligent use of the ballot bloodshed may be averted and liberty regained. Another way of expressing our opinion would be: All tends to the poverty of the masses, poverty to organization, agitation and education, education to the St. Louis conference, the St. Louis conference to united political action of the producing classes, and the peaceful overthrow of their law making class enemies.

WHAT CAPITAL WILL DO.

Marx in his "Capital, a Critical Analysis of Capitalistic Production," quotes this well written and perfectly true indictment of personified capital by the English writer Dunn:

Capital is said by a Quarterly reviewer to fly turbulence and strife, and to be timid, which is very true; but this is very incompletely stating the question. Capital eschews no profit, or very small profit, just as nature was formerly said to abhor a vacuum. With adequate profit, Capital is very bold: A certain 10 per cent will ensure its employment anywhere; 20 per cent certain will produce eagerness: 50 per cent, positive audacity; 100 per cent will make it ready to trample on all human laws; 300 per cent and there is no crime at which it will scruple, nor a risk it will not run, even to the chance of its owner being hanged. If turbulence and strife will bring a profit, it will freely encourage both. Smuggling and the slave trade have amply proved all that is here stated.

MEN WHO PRAY AND PREY.

The Chicago *Advance* of March 3d (Congregational church paper) speaks editorially of "a remarkable gathering of distinguished Presbyterian ministers and wealthy laymen, who came together a few evenings ago as the guests of Mr. Jay Gould and Miss Gould." It enumerates among the clergymen present Drs. John R. Paxton, John Hall, C. L. Thompson, A. E. Kittredge, Philip Schaff, H. M. Field, J. H. McIlvaine, David Gregg, E. B. Coe and R. R. Booth. And it goes on to say, "As for the laymen gathered there, there was money enough to buy a kingdom, among whom were such men as Russell Sage, C. N. Bliss, R. Hoe, Calvin L. Brice, Morris K. Jessup, Henry B. Hyde, Sidney Dillon, H. M. Flagler, R. G. Dunn, Henry Villard and J. S. Brokaw"—these and others meeting at Jay Gould's to talk up the business of Presbyterian "*church extension*."

Dr. Paxton, pastor of the church which the Gouldsattend, welcomed the guests on their behalf and explained the purpose of the gathering. He alluded to the saying of Dr. Edson, that typhus fever was in town; of Dr. Parkhurst, that the devil is in town, in politics; and of Ward McAllister, that in a town of one million and a half souls there are really only one hundred and fifty truly elect, worthy to be counted, and then declared:

But we Presbyterians never despair. We have the courage of David when he went out against Goliath, and the untiring patience of Christ when he put leaven in the sodden mass to reassure and regenerate it, when he went over to Gadara to reclaim one man and cast out his devils and leave him a missionary among the depraved swine herders to communicate virtue by contact with one good man; so we are here to face the foe, to take heart of hope, to give our money, our prayers, our tribute, our toil, knowing no such word as fail, to this good cause."

God pity the ignorance or cowardice of any minister who will meet such an audience and speak thus to and for them. The "sodden mass" referred to was the non church-going, most-sinned-against, tenement-house myriads of New York, whom these multi-millionaires and others have robbed of their just wages, independence, faith in men, and the religion that rich men and rich men's pastors preach, but do not practice. They were the "stripped and wounded" and these "laymen," with "money enough to buy a kingdom" were of those who did it.

The modern Dives and his friends sat down to "a sumptuous banquet" and the host gave a fraction of one day's monopoly-enforced robbery of the people to hire some one to go outside to the hard-working, miserable, disinherited beggars and preach to them about *future* salvation!

"Courage!" indeed! When John Baptist met Herod, the ruling sub-king, he gave him God's law at the risk of his life. When Paul was invited to visit Felix and his wife, he "reasoned of righteousness, temperance and judgment to come" till the money-making, luxurious governor trembled. When John Knox was founding Presbyterianism he published a "Trumpet Blast" against his own "monstrous" ruler, Queen Mary. But these hirelings of the millionaire monopoly tyrants talked about their victims as the "sodden mass," and seemed not to realize that the men before them were infinitely greater sinners, who needed both law and gospel preached to them without delay. Were they to thunder against the rich the well-known curses of God's word, His anathemas against those "who join house to house" and "lay field to field till there be no place" and who then are able to keep back by force and fraud "the hire," the just wages, "of the laborers"—were they to preach thus, the poor would flock to them as they did to Christ, in multitudes, for they would see them to be their needed friends and present saviors.

O Christ! true Son of God, return in power,
For thieves infest thy courts. Drive out once more
The men who pray and prey, while preachers cower;
And let thy poor find justice at thy door.

THE TREND IS DOWNWARD.

The great preacher of righteousness and noble friend of the people, Rev. Dr. De La Martyr of Akron, Ohio, writing Jan. 18, 1892, to General Weaver and his associate editors, says:

Have just looked over your paper. Glad that the farmers are waking. With good crops and no disaster, farm property has declined in price 25 per cent within five years past and the trend is still downward in Ohio. Mechanics' wages have been cut 25 per cent in the same time. One third of the subscribers to church periodicals in my church have just dropped their papers, affirming they cannot more than keep the wolf at bay. Yet John Sherman is again elected to hold the nation relentlessly to the gold basis. God pity the poor!

HOW CAPITAL SUCCEEDS IN ENSLAVING LABOR.

"The overwork of the employed part of the working class swells the ranks of the reserve," says Marx, "while conversely the greater pressure that the latter by its competition exerts on the former forces these to submit to overwork and to subjugation under the dictates of capital. The condemnation of one part of the working class to enforced idleness by the overwork of the other part, and the converse, becomes a means of enriching the individual capitalist and accellerates at the same time the production of the industrial reserve army on a scale corresponding with the advance of social accumulation."

Capital is glad to see half a million poor emigrants land here yearly, because with more seeking work it can force down the price of labor and absorb a larger percentage of labor's product. The army of destitute unemployed is the source of its power, the misery of the unemployed is the club with which it enslaves all workers. The legalization of land monopoly, and interest, are the sources of its strength, the canals by which it turns wealth from the channels of natural and just distribution.

Again capital enslaves otherwise independent labor, that which is in possession of land, by monopolizing the means of transportation, so controlling commerce. Standing between producers and consumers and exacting an unjust price for its labor it makes itself a king, levying tribute upon all classes. Capital with its present legally conferred and popularly permitted kingly power, will rule despotically as long as it can make labor work for it upon its own terms, or collect tribute from those who need credit.

FROM THE STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ROOMS.

Timely Suggestions and Recommendations—A Hopeful Outlook.

HEADQUARTERS PEOPLES' INDEPENDENT PARTY.
LINCOLN, Neb., March 7, 1892.

To the Independent voters of Nebraska, greeting: Since the last meeting of your committee in this city, in December, the cause for which we labor has been steadily moving onward. The honest, laboring, thinking people, not only of Nebraska, but all over the country, are fast realizing their true condition and the hopelessness of longer relying upon either or both of the old parties for relief. A great many good, honest people, we know there are, who are still joined to their party idols. Instead of laboring, and voting, to help themselves, they are still trying to reform their party, not realizing that it is easier for a hen to lay a fresh egg than to reform a rotten one. Their folly will be more apparent, however, after their parties hold their next national conventions, for we predict that neither of them will even *promise* the only measures that can bring relief. The party bosses will say to them, as the German emperor recently said to his complaining subjects: "If you don't like our rule shake the German (party) dust from your feet." We have confidence to believe that when that time comes, as come it soon will, that the grand army of the common people will receive such accessions as to make victory easy and relief to the toiling masses sure.

FINANCE.

It affords us pleasure to state that the promises made to your chairman and secretary, at the last meeting of the committee, regarding finances, have been reasonably well kept, and we have no doubt that all finally will be redeemed. If so we will be able to enter vigorously upon an early campaign. We want to make the coming campaign almost a purely educational one. Experience has taught us that, when the people see the light, they are willing and anxious to walk in it, and we hope to be able with speakers, and literature upon economic subjects, to open, as it were, a political school in every neighborhood, if not in every house in the state.

THE ST. LOUIS CONFERENCE.

We had the privilege and pleasure of attending the great St. Louis conference, and we congratulate our people and the country upon its worth, and its work. A body of men and women more religously devoted to the interests of humanity never assembled on this continent. It was unselfish in its purposes, grand in its numbers, and sublime in its utterances, and that its influences will be far reaching no one can reasonably doubt.

We call especial attention to one of its recommendations, and urge its observance. It was recommended that the organizations, there represented, meet on the 26th of March all over this country and ratify the platform of principles there adopted. We suggest that in Nebraska we ratify by counties. Let the county Alliances, Knights of Labor, Citizens Alliance and all other industrial organizations unite and hold at some central or convenient point, a grand ratification meeting of the St. Louis platform. As the principles there laid down were adopted by your representatives, by a unanimous vote, let us ratify them by a united voice that shall swell from sea to sea.

Every county has good local speakers, but if you desire others you will have to write to them in time, as the demand will probably be greater than the supply.

It is hardly necessary, in conclusion, to throw out a single word of caution. You who have stood by the cause of economic reform, and for the emancipation of the industrial classes in its darkest hours will not desert it in the dawning of its morning. Nor will you be unwise enough to notice, only with a smile of contempt, the efforts of the partisan press to create jealousy or distrust among you. The old parties recognize the fact that the only way they can possibly defeat us in Nebraska, at least, is to create a division in our own ranks, and to accomplish this they would lie awake seven nights in a week until the election. They have already begun their tactics by publishing imaginary interviews with "leading" "Alliance men," telling that the "ring has arranged it," and that the "slate is made out," etc. In short, anything and everything will be done for the purpose, and in the hope of sowing the seeds of discord, but we have no fears of their success. We haven't yet adopted old party tactics. It is not a question yet as to who shall lead in this movement, but who is going to be able to keep up with the procession. We recognize the fact that you will soon be called upon to select men from among you for the various offices to be filled. It is proper and wise to be casting around you for suitable candidates. Let neither prejudice nor personal preference, however, decide who the men shall be, whom you thus honor. Let them be true men, unselfishly devoted to our principles, competent to discharge the duties of the office to be filled, and, with all swift runners. Men in this country, you must understand, *run* for office, but a man can no more successfully run for office and carry a *load* than the Grecian athlete could win a race in the Olympic games, without first laying aside every weight. Be, therefore, wise as serpents, and yet harmless as doves. Draw all men, of all parties, to you, if possible, but do not go to or rely upon old parties themselves. There is strength in *union*, but not in mere combinations, or mixtures. Where there is sufficient affinity substances will unite; when there is not they will only come together and form a mixture that may be easily separated.

Keep, therefore, in the middle of the road, and we will succeed as sure as that justice is eternal, or that "Truth crushed to earth will rise again."

J. V. WOLFE, Chairman.
C. H. PIETLE, Secretary.

OUR readers will find in another column an article signed "Mechanic," which gives a very correct and interesting description of the condition of public sentiment on financial and industrial reform questions as it today registers itself in New England. The writer is a resident of Massachusetts, an intelligent observer and active worker.