

## A FATAL RESEMBLANCE.

Is the profile of your son  
Like that of Napoleon?  
Do your best to spoil the type,  
Wrench his nose with every wipe,  
Stretch his eyes and pull his chin,  
Puff his lips if they're too thin;  
As a patriot, 'tis your duty!  
Never mind the loss of beauty.

If the little fellow hears  
That old Nap. in him appears;  
If the little fellow knows  
That the likeness stronger grows;  
When the little fellow reads  
Of the Despot's mighty deeds,  
He may think: "It is my duty  
I must make the world my booty."

Should he, after youth be spent,  
Come to be our President,  
He may double import-taxes,  
Order guns and battle-axes,  
Go to war by land and sea,  
'Gainst a weaker enemy;  
Self-styled heir of old Nap's beauty  
He may say: "It is my duty!"

When we come to count the cost,  
Honor gone, Republic lost,  
Young lives squandered, land in debt,  
Government by fears beset;  
Enemies on every side  
Threatening our "imperial" pride;  
We shall curse Napoleon's beauty  
Mourn too late neglected duty.

Therefore parents, have your sons  
Profiles like Napoleon's?  
Let them fall down stairs, on ice  
Lip and nose and forehead slice.  
So may early, harmless scars  
Hinder later cruel wars:  
Our republic needs not beauty—  
What it needs is faithful duty.

—ELIZABETH E. EVANS.

## THE TRUST AND THE FARMER.

Agriculture is the vital interest on which the whole business fabric of the United States depends. What effect, beneficial or otherwise, will the "trust" movement have upon the farmer and the products of his labor? Will industrial concentration tend to lower prices of wheat and corn and other food products, or to make them fluctuate, or will it steady them and hold them up to a reasonable figure?

A constant demand for our diversified farm products at reasonable prices always means prosperous conditions for the tiller of the soil, and indirectly for the merchant, who depends so largely upon agricultural prosperity for his patronage. There is every reason to believe that the great industrial combines will tend to produce this kind of a demand. By preventing overproduction they will prevent the stagnation that always follows, and by holding industrial and wage prices from unhealthy fluctuation they will tend to keep all prices more steady, including those of farm products.

At this moment all the primary industries of the nation are actively and intensely engaged. Mills, factories, foundries, and shops are running on full time. Some are running on over-time, and a few of the greater ones, such as the iron industries, are compelled to work on double time in order to keep

up with the increased demand. As a result the products of the farm are bringing good prices in spite of the largeness of the crops, and the farming population is prosperous. If the new and heavy foreign demand for our steel and other manufactures can be maintained through the coming years the present degree of activity will be maintained indefinitely. But even if all over-time work should cease, leaving only a steady normal activity in our industries, farm products would continue to bring profitable prices. When factories and workshops close down the demand for farm products slackens and prices fall. It is the avowed object of the combines to prevent overproduction, waste, and failure, and in so far as they are honestly organized and financed they should be able to attain this object.

The concentration of American railways into great trunk line systems make it possible for the United States to be the granary of the world. Cheap and rapid transportation makes it possible for the farm products of this country to compete in the open markets of Europe upon a profitable basis. It is possible and even probable that what the trunk line systems of railways have done for our grain export business industrial concentration will do for our manufacturers—that is, open up the markets of the world to them. Already the vast resources of our steel plants enable us to fill a contract in Asia or Africa before British plants can get the work half done, and to fill them at lower yet profitable figures. The same is increasingly true of other lines of manufacture. These industrial giants are the strongest of their kind in the world. Why should they not go forth into all the earth and capture the markets of both hemispheres?

If this is to be the result of industrial combination, then the tillers of the soil will be among the greatest beneficiaries of the new order of things. Factories, furnaces, shops and mines constantly employing a full quota of workers at remunerative wages, supplying an ever widening domestic and foreign market, would be of more advantage to the farmers of this country than any number of temporary booms and subsequent collapses. THE CONSERVATIVE has shown in former editorial articles why the industrial combines are likely to check the long series of panics that have shaken the financial fabric of the nation during the past century. The same elements of stability and economical production that promise this result will at the same time steady the prices of agricultural products. Overcapitalized trusts will have their day and collapse, as the overcapitalized railways did, but the net results will remain in the shape of centralized industries capable of holding their business and keeping their workmen employed through dull times and brisk. As long as the wage worker is getting a

living wage the farmer will get a living price for his products.

Agriculture should welcome industrial combination rather than feel any alarm over it. The flour combine has not lowered the price of wheat, and it could not do so if it tried, but it has done much to increase exports. Every measure that prevents waste in manufacture and keeps our industries on an even keel from year to year is beneficial to agriculture. Aside from the natural fluctuations of the crops there is good reason to believe that the era of industrial concentration will bring a more stable income to the American farmer than he has ever had before.

## WHY AND WHEN WAGES RISE.

The impression that strikes are necessary to secure an increase of wages has become so general that the broad economic principles underlying the wage question are liable to be forgotten. The price of any article is the meeting point of buyer and seller. Wheat goes up when its consumers increase in number and in appetite faster than its producers increase their acreage. Wages in the different circles of labor follow the same lay. Wherever wages are highest labor organizations are usually the strongest, but the strength of the organization is due to the prevailing conditions that make labor well paid rather than are those conditions due to the organization.

An abundance of capital seeking investment at a low rate of interest stimulates the establishment of new industries, and increases the competition of employers for labor. This is the real way that wages are raised, and even the best work of the labor organizations is only incidental to this. They can sometimes, by watching industrial conditions carefully, be ready to take advantage of upward movements, and so bring about an increase in wages quicker than if the thing were left to the working out of economic law. The labor union shakes the thermometer and the mercury which had become obstructed rises to the place which the outside atmosphere dictates. Too much emphasis is placed upon the efficiency of even successful strikes and boycotts. They are only incidents.—Boston Transcript.

## OFFICE HUNTING.

EDITOR OF CONSERVATIVE:

Your issue of August 10th at hand. Your two editorial notes, "What" and "Seeking Nominations," are pertinent inquiries, from a patriotic or honest administration of state and national government standpoint. But they are impertinent interrogatories with which to ply a people who look upon their municipal, state and national governments as legitimate spoils and their public offices as a means through which and by which to gratify their own avarice