

highest mission of mankind is to make the world happy.

If we would have a return of prosperity in this country, we must overcome the habit of viewing existing conditions through the smoked glasses prepared by politicians; we must abandon the conventional ideas that charge the public mind; we must "hearken to reason, silence passion and turn away from delusive remedies." We must put partisanism aside and address ourselves to the task as patriotic citizens of a common country who desire naught but equal and exact justice to all. Political considerations are to be dismissed and party "expediency" must not be permitted to intrude. Our course must be determined solely by considerations of right and justice.

Self-preservation being the first law of nature, the American laborer is justified in demanding compensation for his toil sufficient in amount to provide for him, at least, the common necessities.

It is not only his right, but it is his duty to protest against the unbearable conditions imposed upon him, and no one shall justly question his patriotism because he interposes a defense against an invasion of his rights.

The wage-earners of the United States have a voting strength of thirteen millions. All power under this government lies subservient to their concerted demand.

Why longer bear the burdens that others should justly share?

No violence is counseled.

Patience, yet a while longer.

The law is the weapon of a free people—the ballot makes the law.

The laboring masses of this country united—working along the same lines, with a single, determined purpose, and the approval of conscience—have it absolutely within their power to assume mastery of the situation and to right every wrong that afflicts them.

Organization is essential—thorough union of forces, a fixed purpose, pure principles, careful management, reasonable and just demands, and methods that will bear the light.

Rise to your full stature, men!

Awaken to the fact that your own safety depends upon the security of your fellowman.

Abandon the doctrine of force and violence.

Organize in your respective communities. Anticipate the crisis, and forestall its fury.

Let the watchword be "Home and country—all political considerations aside!"

The American Equal Wage Union submits its principles to the considerate judgment of the country, and earnestly appeals to the sincere and the law-abiding of all classes to enlist under its standard.

RICHARD K. KATHRENS, President.

GEO. S. BATTELL, Vice President.
ARTHUR S. LYMAN, Secretary.
ROBERT S. OWEN, Treasurer.
ALBERT H. LANPHEAR.
SIDNEY SMITH.
GEORGE E. STEVENS.
JAMES C. REIGER.
THEODORE GOWDY.

Supreme Council, American Equal Wage Union.

WOMEN AS WAGE EARNERS.

Some of the Evils of a Grave Problem Pointed Out.

The American Equal Wage union, with headquarters in Kansas City, early in November issued an address to the wage-workers of the United States. It was an earnest paper and widespread comment and controversy have followed its appearance. One of the principal objects of the union is to call public attention to the economic evils growing out of the practice of employing women and children—at reduced pay—to do the work of men. The following letter, written by the founder of the new movement, is a reply to an argument waged against the theories of the union:

December 9, 1899.—To the Star: I have read with sorrow an editorial, recently printed in one of the great Eastern dailies, titled: "Women Displacing Men"—not because of any of its statements of fact, but because of its unfortunate conclusion. The editorial closes with this precise declaration:

"So long as women do not attempt that hard, manual labor for which men are physically adapted, but stick to occupations for which they are as well fitted as men are, if not better, there will be nothing harmful in a steady increase in the number of females in gainful occupations."

At first sight, such argument may seem to settle and dispose of this great problem, but it only tends to aggravate and to render more difficult the solution. There is a dangerous fallacy in that argument and I beg the privilege to point it out and to add some views and observations touching this question as it presents itself to me. The problem of woman's industrial condition and its relation to the home and the perpetuity of free institutions is too serious to be thus superficially viewed and dismissed. Beggars cannot be choosers. All who labor naturally follow the line of least resistance—the easiest and the most congenial commends itself with equal favor to men and women. But the woman who is dependent upon her own effort for support cannot say in what particular field she will devote herself. Necessity and opportunity must determine her place. Neither may she say: "I will not attempt that hard manual labor for which men are physically adapted, but I will stick to occupations for which I am well fitted." That day of inde-

pendence is past. The stern necessity of earning their own living is forcing women out of their sphere in life and crowding them into every channel in which men labor. Like the men who are displaced and pressed into new and uncongenial fields, so, too, the wage-woman is required, by stress of circumstances, to submit to the changed condition and to take what she can get. Already nearly 650,000 are toiling in the manufacturing fields; 3,600 are reported by the census department as "iron and steel workers," 2,700 "wire workers," 170,000 feeding looms and guiding everlasting threads over countless spindles, 42,000 are making shoes, 75,000 mill operatives, seventeen are making boilers, 9,000 are running printing presses, 16,500 are making wall paper, over 100 are blacksmiths, 200 are butchers, 260 are carpenters, 500 are carriage and wagon makers, fifty are laying brick. In Pennsylvania 3,500 women work in the anthracite coal mines picking slag, and New Jersey has presented the spectacle of women digging in gas trenches. Besides these, nearly 4 million women are engaged in extra domestic work in which men formerly found congenial and profitable employment.

The Effect on Society.

Time was when every man uncovered his head in the presence of a woman. The word woman had a significance which it does not bear today. Its simple mention in that good, past day aroused in the mind and heart of men a feeling of pride and love and respect. It stood for purity and virtue; for gentleness and devotion; for sweetheart and wife; for sister, home and mother. Our fathers can remember "our age of chivalry," when men and women were normal and recognized their obligations to each other, and before the "new woman" shed her doubtful luster upon the world. Then, every man looked upon a woman as a being little less than an angel, but today a woman is regarded as a little more than another sort of man and she is considered quite able to take care of herself. There is a natural yearning in the heart of every true woman to become, some day, the mistress of a home. That is her native field—the occupation for which she is best fitted. She is not a bread-winner, but a race builder. The home is the school in which mothers are tutored, not the store house or the factory. Domestic arts, a sympathetic nature, mildness of manner and gentleness of speech are not acquired behind counters or in business offices. To the maiden just budding into womanhood, business is harsh, unrefining, demoralizing. It presents nothing essential to the full mental or physical development of a mother, but rather reduces the womanly charm, begets an offensive masculinity, and often unfits her for the later assumption of those maternal duties to which nature