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## AS YOU GO THROUGH LIFE

Don't look for the flaws as you go through life;

And even when you find them,  
It is wise and kind to be somewhat blind  
And look for the virtue behind them.  
For the cloudiest night has a hint of light  
Somewhere in its shadows hiding;  
It is better by far to hunt for a star.  
Than the spots on the sun abiding.

The current of life runs ever away  
To the bosom of God's great ocean.  
Don't set your force 'gainst the river's course

And think to alter its motion.  
Don't waste a curse on the universe—  
Remember, it lived before you.  
Don't butt at the storm with your puny form—  
But bend and let it go o'er you.

The world will never adjust itself  
To suit your whims to the letter.  
Some things must go wrong your whole life long.

And the sooner you know it the better.  
It is folly to fight with the Infinite,  
And go under at last in the wrestle.  
The wisest man, shapes into God's plan  
As the water shapes into a vessel.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox, in *Ladies' Home Journal*.

## OUR CHICAGO LETTER.

We are having quite lively times just at present. Cyclones, hail-storms, hot weather spells, railroad accidents, church scandals and labor troubles are among the principal events which interest or alarm the morbidly sensational or the nervously debilitated.

The cyclone of yesterday in Pennsylvania was something terrific. Its effect on life and property cannot at present be estimated. It will, it is thought, be the cause of over one hundred lives lost, and of the destruction of several millions worth of property. Whole towns have been wiped out, literally speaking. In factories the ponderous machinery was twisted and twirled like eddies of autumn leaves in a forest breeze. Massive church towers were shattered and demolished as if they were pipe stems. Railroad round houses were taken up, bricks and all, and moved as if they were flagmen's shanties. Convent roofs were blown away and toyed with as if they were tin dish

covers. Whole towns and villages were swept off the earth, and the story of Sodom and Gomorrah was retold and re-enacted with startling realism in our own day, and in our own country. It would seem that church buildings were the especial objects at which the wrathful storm was directed. Roman and Methodist alike were swept away. People are remarking that it is no longer safe to live contiguous to a church building. Joseph Medill of the *Chicago Tribune* lives right in front of the Holy Name Roman Catholic Cathedral, but as yet he shows no sign of alarm.

A few months ago business men and capitalists felicitated themselves on the happy settlement of the May labor troubles. The developments of the last few days show that labor and capital are far from being harmonious bed partners. On September 1st next 8000 carpenters will go out on strike in this city. This means a paralysis of all the building trades, and all the building material dealers in Chicago. Of course opinions vary as to the justice of these strikes. One thing is certain—the boss carpenters have broken their treaty with the workmen, and no well balanced mind can sympathize with treachery, deceit, hypocrisy and violated troth.

The May strike was settled on a compromise. The men at the time demanded 40 cents an hour, and an eight hour day. The bosses would not give more than 35 cents an hour, but a compromise was effected through the intervention of three judges, men the most able and most self-sacrificing of the Chicago bar. This compromise was that 37½ cents an hour be the regular rate of wage on and after August the first. August came and with it no 37½ cents an hour. The carpenters have now decided to strike in a body on the first of next month.

The trouble in New York can be traced to a source somewhat similar. Last winter New York Central employees demanded overtime for all time worked over twelve hours a day. The demand was so reasonable that it was granted, but later on the heads of departments and time-keepers refused the men overtime. This quickened the men into activity in organizing themselves for concerted action. The Knights of

Labor is the Order or body most in favor with eastern workmen. In the west and around Chicago this Order is very unpopular. It has given way to a system of federated trades. When the New York Central strike first occurred, the news was received almost with joy by the federated trades. It was concluded at once that this strike would entirely obliterate the Knights of Labor from the archives of organized labor bodies. But as matters now stand all the departments of federated railroad employees are likely to be drawn in. At first the chiefs of the other bodies laughed at the idea of Powderly going to war with the Vanderbilts, but when Pinkerton and his armed anarchists were called on, the labor chiefs realized that something more than Powderly was aimed at. A number of switchmen from the federated bodies were ordered to supply the places of striking Knights, and on refusing were discharged. The fight was no longer a Powderly fight, and unless the switchmen are reinstated the critical hour between labor and capital has come. The Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen has a membership of 25,000, the brakemen 30,000; the switchmen, the conductors and engineers are equally strong, and all except the engineers are in the federation.

Even if the federation is not drawn in this time it is only a question of months, perhaps weeks, when it will be. Whatever way the ball rolls, the Knights of Labor, as a body, cannot exist much longer. Though many causes are assigned for its unpopularity and ill-fortune in strikes, yet there is only one cause that can be safely set for its disintegration. That cause lies in its defective system of organization. It gathered in whole communities, raw, undisciplined, and arbitrary in manner, and with such it was impossible to preserve order.

This method afforded a fine opportunity for the venal, the unscrupulous and the paid spy to get in, and such elements would bring even a God-given order into disrepute. In addition to this the system was too unwieldy, and placed power in too many hands. Certainly there is wisdom in a multiplicity of counsels, but there is executive and adminis-