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ON THE LABOR QUESTION.

One of the evils against which we have to contend as a community, is an obstacle placed by labor unions in the way of work for our boys. The number of youths who cannot find profitable employment unless they go out into agricultural districts, is increasing and forming a subject of alarm. "For Satan finds some mischief still for idle hands to do." Hoodlums are likely to prevail when there are no trades open for boys to learn and no factories to find work for them.

This evil is to a great extent chargeable to those unions which forbid the taking on of apprentices in certain lines of handicraft. They arbitrarily fix the number that may be permitted to learn the trade, and firms that will not bow to that dictum are notified that union men will not work for them. That is but one of the rules by which such organizations are bringing people and labor into bondage, and endeavoring to establish a tyranny that ought not to be borne but should be vigorously resisted.

By the courtesy of Mr. Oscar Groshel who represents in this city the National Cash Register company, we have been favored with a copy of a letter from John H. Patterson, president of that company to its employees. It is published in the N. C. R. for July. The country was startled some time ago, when the announcement was made of trouble between the unions and the company, because the institution had acquired a splendid reputation through its admirable provisions for its working people. The difficulty was removed, however, by the hands themselves who saw that the demands made were unreasonable. Recently, it appears, the union prevailed again upon its members to make trouble, and ten hours' pay was demanded for nine hours' work. President Patterson, after expressing his astonishment at this new demand, says:

"We cannot profitably run this factory if in addition to difficulties from without we have to meet this blind, unreasoning opposition from within. The unions must act less unjustly than they have in the past. When the assemblies made their demands some weeks ago, we had to turn nearly all our attention to the labor question, and we gave up pushing for orders."

"More than that, we had sent for two hundred of our agents to come here to a convention. The object of the convention was to teach them how to get more orders. Instead of discussing that subject, we were obliged to discuss labor troubles with them. They gave up these plans. We gave up other plans. We cut off advertising projects which we had planned. We stopped manufacturing stock again. We cut off purchases of material, and we reduced our working force by six hundred."

"Must we always have trouble of this kind? Have we got to be forever meeting opposition from within? How can we win and hold the market for the company and for you if you are continually fighting us?"

"I will not attempt to keep the factory running under these conditions any longer. If you bring this result upon yourselves, you will be responsible for the fact that four thousand people will be turned out of employment. In the days when the results of the strike are being felt, I want you to remember that you brought the trouble upon yourselves."

In the previous difficulty, which was over the question of the employment of four men demanded by the union, while the actual loss to the company was met by the advertising it gave the concern and the sympathy of the public, which was universally in its favor, the loss to labor, foolishly and unreasonably pitied against it, was about a quarter of a million of dollars without any compensation, for the four men were not taken on. The company pays out about \$50,000 a week to its employees.

On the subject of the growing unrest in labor circles and the unreasoning demands of labor organizations, the Philadelphia North American has the following words of warning, which we commend to our friends who are connected with the unions as sound and sage advice:

"A crisis in the life of organized labor in the United States is impending. It is foreboding in its dimensions, in its irrationality, in its seething turbulence of masses of men who can give no lucid reason for their turmoil, in the defensive drawing together of harassed employers, in the growing hostility of public opinion to purposeless disturbers of business. The need for sane counsel, sharp rebuke and expert remonstrance against foolish action is great, and the man who supplies that need takes his courage in both hands if he values the friendship of those whom he would save from their own folly."

We are fully aware of the consequences hinted at in the closing sentence of the remarks last quoted. But we think more of the general welfare than of any personal difficulty. We are willing in friendship to working people, whether in or out of the unions, in calling attention to the oppressive methods, wrongly resorted to by organizations that interfere with human liberty and the legitimate transaction of business. What we may be resented by persons who profit by the folly of their dupes, but genuine workers who are

open to sound argument will understand our position and appreciate our motives. Let reason and justice prevail, and the tyrannical measures that have come into use among the unions will soon be cast aside. If not, there will be serious trouble in store for them which may lead to complete disaster.

TRUTH ABOUT DYNCERS.

Two notable statements concerning lynching have been made lately, which deserve notice. Associate Justice Brewer of the United States Supreme Court says: "Every man who participates in the lynching or the burning of a negro is a murderer, pure and simple." That is plain, and to the point. The only strange thing is, that this self-evident truth is not recognized by every man, woman and child in this enlightened country.

The other statement is by Governor Durnin of Indiana. In an address read at the commencement of the Sons of Veterans, he said: "The man who joins in the senseless savagery of the mob is trampling under his feet the flag for which your fathers offered their lives, is hurrying himself insensitely against the barriers which centuries of civilization have erected between brute force and human rights. The men who, inspired by the stupid passion of race hatred, would prescribe the halter and the torch for an entire race because individuals of this race sometimes commit offenses for which our laws prescribe befitting penalties, have not within them a spark of that regard for the rights of the weak which made this Republic possible. Sons of Veterans, we will have no race wars, no class wars in Indiana. To all citizens, regardless of color or condition, impartial justice shall be meted out; upon all guilty of crimes the penalties prescribed by law shall be promptly visited, and he who goes to war in Indiana no matter what his pretext, must fight under the red flag of anarchy and against the inviolable flag of seventy millions of American freemen."

"That the governor meant what he said is evident from the fact that he refused to railroad the accused negro to the gallows, notwithstanding public clamor. To the request that the prisoner be returned for immediate trial, he replied that no grounds should be given for the suspicion that the civil authorities had been influenced by the demonstrations of the lawless, and then added: 'Let this man be tried as speedily as his condition will permit under the safeguard prescribed by our laws. If guilty, he will pay the penalty of murder with his life. If at any stage of the procedure it shall appear that there are those in your city who desire to deprive it of its efforts to exercise the function conferred by the people, then the state will be ready to give further demonstration of its disposition and its ability to do with rioters as they deserve.'"

ATOMS AND IONS.

It is truly astonishing what an amount of knowledge our philosophers have extracted from the precious small quantity of radium they have found. Not half a pound of it, all counted, has been produced, and yet it is claimed to be that it has upset all accepted theories of the nature and properties of matter. And what it will do for the future, is simply beyond comprehension. It is said of it, that it will revolutionize all economic conditions of human existence. How little it takes to upset the whole structure of scientific "truths" for years we have heard of the so-called "facts" of science, as contrasted to the "fancies" of theology; what becomes of those facts when an ounce of a newly discovered substance can disturb them in this way?

As to this radium, it is claimed for it that it proves that the atom is not the indivisible, indestructible, and inviolable particle of matter, which former scientists found it necessary to construct and give a place in their thinking, but that it is really a little universe, in which smaller atoms, called ions, are circling about, as the sun and the planets do in space.

Considering the fact that nobody ever saw an atom, any more than they saw a mathematical point, this discovery, that it is composed of suns and stars, is marvellous. But that is only the beginning of the wonders. These same scientists have actually counted the suns and stars in a number of atoms. They have found, for instance, that an atom of hydrogen contains 700 ions; an atom of oxygen has 11,200; an atom of gold contains 137,200 ions, and an atom of iron 36,623. You notice that the ions in an iron atom have all been counted, not one is overlooked, and yet no one ever saw an iron atom. Would it be irreverent to charge the builders of theories on such alleged facts, with credulity?

Some would object that so many thousand ions could not possibly find room to circulate in an atom, but we are met with the scientific explanation that if 139,000 grains of mustard seed could be floated separately in a cubic mile of air space, they would approximately represent the flying ions in a single atom of radium. That, of course, settles it.

We doubt not that the discovery of the peculiar qualities of radium, polonium, and kindred substances, marks an epoch in science, but we think it is too early to construct new hypotheses on the scanty evidence obtained. The worst fact in the new discovery is that it points to the mutability of matter. If this is proved, the world will again be full of alchemists, trying to turn the baser metals into gold.

NAPOLEON AS A HERO.

The great Napoleon was, some time ago, by Yale students, declared to be their "favorite historical character." The selection has been severely criticized, and we think, justly. The question may well be asked what kind of influence has been exercised over the minds of young men, who prefer Napoleon to Washington, or some other

hero of history who lived and died for the advancement of human rights? To an American young man, who understands the essential principles of American government, even Garcia, who fought so well for Cuba, should be a more interesting character than Napoleon.

Napoleon was for a time an instrument in the hands of the Almighty to chastise continental Europe for the fearful conditions brought about by an atheistic revolution. His work done, he was thrown away, as a rod for which the parental hand has no longer any use. As for his personal qualities, there was very little to interest, and still less to admire. He did not hesitate to lie, when he wanted to gain a point. His personal ambition was without bounds. He was false to his best friends, and therefore he had no real friends. He did not hesitate to break the heart of his wife, in order to contract an alliance with an imperial house, and that act alone reveals what he was. It is significant that from the very day he did this, his marvellous success left him. The unflinching treatment of Josephine, was a fitting prelude to Waterloo. That is, perhaps, one of the most interesting lessons in the life of Napoleon.

How July warms to its work!

No need to boil your water. The weather will do it for you.

James Barton Adams is the poet laureate of the newspaper fraternity.

It is the light-fingered gentry who make light of the rights of property.

The hot spell in New York is causing the water in many stocks to evaporate very rapidly.

Holders of government bonds are trying to console themselves with two per cent interest.

That proposed compressed air railroad from New York to Buffalo looks not unlike a hot air scheme.

The pet dogs of the New York summer girls have donned their muzzles. The girls also have put on their muzzles.

Postoffice department affairs seem, in large measure, to be very like certain classes of French verbs—regularly irregular.

Those diamond importing cases bid fair to become as famous as the Kohinoor and the great Hogarty Diamond.

King Peter of Serbia has piercing black eyes. But they are no good in the presence of conspirators armed with pistols and guns.

Rumor has it that Miss Ellen M. Stone contemplates returning to Turkey. The pitcher that goes to the well too often gets broken.

W. J. Maxson, the Oregon fruit grower who produced the famous Maxson strawberry, is dead. Keep his grave green with the Maxson strawberry!

G. Stanley Hall of Clark university is in favor of taxing bachelors. The proceeds arising therefrom should be covered into the fund for the prevention of race suicide.

The crop of lockjaw victims, the result of top pistol accidents is unusually large this year. But people will have forgotten all about them by the time the Fourth rolls round again.

Emperor William has given gold medals to John S. Sargent and Edwin Abbey. In thus recognizing their merits as artists he tickles our national vanity. What a splendid politician he is!

It is to be said in favor of Kentucky mobs that they do not draw the color line. Yesterday one at Flemingsburg lynched a white man. His immediate offense was an appeal to the court of appeals.

The department of agriculture has defined standard milk as milk containing not less than 8 1/2 per cent of fat and 8 1/2 per cent of solids not fat, and which has an acidity of not more than 1-10 per cent of lactic acid. It has also defined standard butter as butter containing not less than 82 1/2 per cent of butter fat. It is a fine definition but experience teaches that it is wholly impracticable.

THE ILLNESS OF LEO.

Kansas City Star.

The illness of Leo XIII has demonstrated the growing tolerance of the world. Religious matters are so vital to most people that it is usually difficult for them to discuss creed differences with moderation. But the bitterness of the great Protest has been accentuated by the legacy of hatred handed down from the religious wars that followed the Lutheran revolt. An aggressive antagonism has been fostered with the wave of sympathy that ran in behalf of the pope which has traversed Protestant countries in the last few days. Great age combined with suitable saintliness of character must always make an effective appeal to the heart. But a generation or two ago natural inclinations would not have had so free a play.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

It is characteristic of the pope that while he would vigorously release from the burdens of earth, he would also rely on a prolongation of his stay on earth which would enable him to carry out plans that are cherished but still unexecuted. His active interest will continue to busy itself with duties so long as he lives. The great age of the pope is against his recovery. In favor of his recovery are the strict regimen of his life, his consequent vitality, and his cheerful disposition and dominating intellect.

Baltimore Sun.

Medical science cannot, as the pope said, remedy old age, but a cheerful spirit and a calm mind can work miracles in making old age beautiful and useful. The spectacle of a man who has passed his 72nd year discussing philosophically on his deathbed his bodily condition and "chaffing" his physicians in a spirit of amiable banter appeals powerfully to the imagination as well as to the heart. That very little particle, the mind, as Byron calls the human intellect, is a fascinating mystery. It is never greater or more sublime than when it enables a man to face the problems of life and eternity.

with absolute composure and cheerfulness.

New York American.
Face to face with the destroyer, he writes a poem on his own death. Brushing aside the Stygian shade, he still sees and holds fast the problems of life. He is yet a man with his intellectual powers intact. He makes no boast of the battle. He does not call it a battle. He does not consciously resist; he simply lives and thinks, and that in itself is the most effective resistance. The stream of such a life is so strong, so deep and broad, that even on entering the ocean of eternity it pushes back the waves and maintains and marks its course beyond the horizon.

New York Evening Post.

Along with the solemnity and pathos of Leo's illness there seemed to be mingled elements of the serio-comic which reminds one of Gilbert and Sullivan situations or of M. Richard Garnett's six cardinals hiding under a table. Personal details, decorously hidden as a rule, come to the surface with the prospect of a convalescence which will be a tournament of many conflicting ambitions. Cardinal Gregia announces that he intends occupying a certain room in the Vatican, whereupon Cardinal Rampolla promptly has a thousand chairs stacked up in that particular room. One wonders whether we shall presently be regaled with the spectacle of these eminent men actually pulling at each other's hair. The convalescence which elected Leo XIII, was not free from passage of filippary. Gregia, now the only living cardinal of Plus IX's creation, delivered an interminable harangue against holding the convalescence in Rome. He was interrupted by Cardinal Ferrieri, who sarcastically called out, "Bibone, your eminence, let's go up in a balloon" upon which the entire Sacred college broke down.

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