

"Twentieth Century New Testament" is condemned. Religion is so much easier when it consists in reverence for sanctified phrases than in conformity to eternal principles of right, that obsolete habits of speech, which obscure scriptural truths, are ever more popular with mere pietists than the current forms of expression, which make their embodied truths obvious. This may be good piety, but it is poor religion. The real value of the New Testament is the vitality of its message and not the odor of sanctity that clings to the King James translation.

"The abandoned farms of New England," has long been a stock argument with pleaders for plutocracy in answer to the claim that land in the United States is getting to be scarce. Even to the average newspaper editor it is now becoming clear that these so-called abandoned farms were never an indication of cheap land. Against the competition of the great northwest, they were useless for farming purposes; and during the transition period from an old use to a new one, their value fell. But the new use began to assert itself several years ago, and now is evident to everybody. The Boston Transcript calls attention to this change in Berkshire, Mass., where depopulation was at one time feared, but where latterly—

there has been a record-breaking period of construction of street railways. The erection of big and modern hotels has been noteworthy. A large number of new industries of a minor importance have been inaugurated. In many cases the former abandoned farms have become summer residences for those who have plenty of money to spend and who are anxious to spend it. The advent of the summer boarder has caused the desert of the last decade to bloom as a rose garden. The abandoned summer house has now become a summer cottage, whose picturesqueness delights the trained eye of the artist.

It is hardly necessary to add that this improvement will put unearned money into some people's pockets. The Chicago Tribune says so in such a way as to remove all need of empha-

sis from us. Commenting upon the Boston Transcript's article, it concludes:

Thus what was at one time a serious problem has been most happily solved, and those who have been lucky enough, after moving away to the cities or elsewhere, to hold on to their land will make handsome profits. The worn-out old farm has more than once proved to be a bonanza.

In one of those fantastical classifications of human character with which inductive sociologists amuse themselves, Prof. Giddings, of Columbia college, the eminent advocate of imperialism for republics, tell us that in the United States there are four distinct kinds of human. One kind is an animal-like creature, instinctive, passionate and violent. In a second and somewhat superior class are persons who are "imaginative, weakly, but persistently emotional and easily influenced by suggestion." The third class "are more or less fanatical, speculative, devoted to 'causes,' 'reforms,' and so on, without end." And high over all is the fourth class, to which it is to be presumed Prof. Giddings himself belongs. This superlative class "are critical, calculating, inductive, scientific." Curiously enough, they are also creative, though the critical and the creative faculties are not usually congenial. We fear that Prof. Giddings has borrowed for his own class at least one of the virtues of the "crank" class, which he ranks as inferior. Curiosity may be excited also by the absence from Prof. Giddings's classifications of criminal characteristics. But close inspection will reveal their presence in the highest class. One of its characteristics is described by the learned professor as "rationally conscientious." If that means anything it must be an allusion to the kind of conscience that aims, usually with success, to keep its possessor just nicely on the outside side of the penitentiary.

The author of a recent book in defense of the plutocratic order of things, Prof. Gustav Simonson by name, starts with the assertion that

no one has a natural right to live. Does it follow, then, that some one has a right to kill? If so, who? Prof. Simonson further declares that no one has a natural right to labor. Then some one, surely, must have a natural right to prevent his laboring, for nothing is essentially requisite to labor but the laborers and their natural environment. If no one has a natural right to labor, some one must have a natural right — either by superiority of strength or strategy — to interfere. Who is this highly privileged person or class?

The Northwestern Christian Advocate, published at Chicago, has called out from an old and watchful subscriber a just rebuke for having republished an extract from one of the letters of that fluent but irresponsible gossipier who, under the signature of William E. Curtis, furnishes the Record-Herald with contemporaneous fairy tales.

WAGES AND PROSPERITY.

Several census bulletins embodying statistics of wages in manufacturing industries have been issued since those (p. 436) which we last commented on. One of them is Bulletin 105. It relates to the manufactures of Oregon, and shows a fall in individual wages since 1890, with an increase in profits on invested capital. Following is a summary:

1890.—Value of product.....	\$41,432,174
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses	23,902,246
Net product	\$17,529,928
Net product per wage earner (16,760 wage earners)....	\$1.045
Individual wages, \$9,569,734 for 16,760 wage earners.....	570
Surplus	\$475
Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses and wages.....	\$7,970,194
Percentage of profit (33.122,051 invested capital)....	5
1900.—Value of product.....	\$46,000,587
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses.....	28,342,550
Net product	\$17,657,937
Net product per wage earner (17,236 wage earners)....	\$1.024
Individual wages (\$8,533,433 for 17,236 wage earners)....	493
Surplus	\$541
Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses, and wages.....	\$9,324,504

Percentage of profit (\$33,-422,393 invested capital).... 28

Another of these census bulletins is No. 107, which relates to the manufactures of Colorado and Utah. For Colorado, the following excerpts make the wages comparison, showing a decrease in both wages and profits:

1890.—Value of product.....\$42,480,206
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses 22,796,541
Net product\$19,683,664

Net product per wage earner (16,016 wage earners).... \$1,311
Individual wages (\$9,873,406 for 15,016 wage earners).... 651
Surplus\$660

Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses and wages..... \$9,811,269
Percentage of profit (\$26,651,-840 invested capital)..... 37

1900.—Value of product.....\$102,830,137
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses 71,055,651
Net product \$31,774,486

Net product per wage earner (24,725 wage earners)... \$1,235
Individual wages (\$15,146,667 for 24,725 wage earners)... 613
Surplus\$672

Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses and wages. \$16,627,819
Percentage of profit (\$32,-825,472 invested capital)... 26

For Utah, the figures show an increase in individual wages and a decrease in the profit percentage; but the product as compared with wages is increased—each wage earner turning out a larger average product in 1900 for every dollar of his wages than in 1890:

1890.—Value of product..... \$8,911,047
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses 4,707,998
Net product \$4,203,049

Net product per wage earner (4,349 wage earners)..... \$966
Individual wages (\$2,191,266 for 4,349 wage earners)..... 504
Surplus\$462

Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses and wages..... \$2,011,784
Percentage (\$6,583,022 invested capital)..... 30

1900.—Value of products.....\$21,215,783
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses 13,841,877
Net product \$7,373,906

Net product per wage earner (6,615 wage earners).... \$1,115
Individual wages (\$3,388,370 for 6,615 wage earners).... 512
Surplus\$603

Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses and wages..... \$3,985,536
Percentage of profit (\$14,650,-948 invested capital)..... 27

But the most important census bulletin yet issued, with reference to

wages in manufacturing industries, that for Rhode Island alone excepted, is No. 109; for it relates to Connecticut, which is an old-settled and distinctively manufacturing state. If the year 1900 was more prosperous than 1890 in manufacturing industries in that state, this bulletin fails to disclose the latent fact. Not only did the wage earners produce more in 1900 for every dollar in wages they received than in 1890, but they actually got lower average wages. Nor do the capitalists appear to have enjoyed exceptional prosperity, for their percentage of profit in 1900 was the same as in 1890. Following is the table:

1890.—Value of product.....\$248,336,364
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses 138,582,181
Net product\$109,754,183

Net product per wage earner (140,514 wage earners).. \$781
Individual wages (\$66,465,-317 for 140,514 wage earners) 473
Surplus\$308

Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses and wages.. \$43,288,866
Percentage of profit (\$227,-004,496 invested capital)... 19

1900.—Value of product.....\$352,824,106
Cost of materials and miscellaneous expenses 208,731,025
Net product\$144,093,081

Net product per wage earner (176,694 wage earners)... \$816
Individual wages (\$32,767,725 for 176,694 wage earners)... 468
Surplus\$348

Profit on capital, namely, gross product, less cost of materials, miscellaneous expenses and wages. \$61,325,366
Percentage of profit (\$314,-686,736 invested capital)... 19

Tabulating all the census bulletins so far issued and noticed in these columns, we have this result:

	1890.	1900.
Coke industry (1889 and 1899):		
Net product per wage earner.....	\$554	\$936
Individual wages.....	453	417
Percentage of wages to net product.....	81	45
Percentage of profit on capital.....	2½	16

Manufacturing in Delaware:		
Net product per wage earner.....	711	747
Individual wages.....	421	417
Percentage of wages to net product.....	59	56
Percentage of profit on capital.....	18	18

Manufactures of Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming:		
Net product per wage earner.....	1,108	1,113
Individual wages.....	632	617
Percentage of wages to net product.....	57	55
Percentage of profit on capital.....	29	31

Manufacturing and mechanical industries of Montana:		
Net product per wage earner.....	1,242	2,161
Individual wages.....	691	787
Percentage of wages to net product.....	56	35

Percentage of profit on capital 30 34

Manufactures of Rhode Island:		
Net product per wage earner.....	708	782
Individual wages.....	410	426
Percentage of wages to net product.....	58	53
Percentage of profit on capital.....	19	19

Manufacturing in Oregon:		
Net product per wage earner.....	1,045	1,024
Individual wages.....	670	483
Percentage of wages to net product.....	55	47
Percentage of profit on capital.....	25	28

Manufacturing in Colorado:		
Net product per wage earner.....	1,311	1,285
Individual wages.....	651	613
Percentage of wages to net product.....	49	48
Percentage of profit on capital.....	37	26

Manufacturing in Utah:		
Net product per wage earner.....	966	1,115
Individual wages.....	604	612
Percentage of wages to net product.....	52	46
Percentage of profit on capital.....	30	27

Manufacturing in Connecticut:		
Net product per wage earner.....	781	816
Individual wages.....	473	468
Percentage of wages to net product.....	61	57
Percentage of profit on capital.....	19	19

If these census statistics could be put into the form of one of those concealed pictures which are now so familiar, the most appropriate legend would be: "Find the prosperity."

NEWS

The struggle of the Chicago public school teachers to enforce the Illinois tax laws against the special privilege or franchise corporations of Chicago, 20 in number, has now got into the federal courts.

A decision in favor of the teachers (p. 467) was made last month by the Supreme Court of Illinois. Pursuant to that decision, Judge Thompson, of the Circuit Court for Sangamon county, sitting at Springfield, issued a mandamus (p. 489) directing the state board of equalization to meet and assess the 20 delinquent Chicago corporations upon the value of their stock for the year 1900, the year with reference to which the teachers' law suit had been begun, and to report to the court on the 22d of November. Following Judge Thompson's action came a rumor (p. 500) that the corporations were about to apply to a federal judge for an injunction prohibiting the board of equalization from obeying the mandate of the state courts. This rumor was confirmed on the 15th by an authentic newspaper report that on the 14th two of the Chicago corporations, the Chicago Union Traction company (lessee of five of the street railways