

Deep down in the well of all philosophies, lies that precious truth. It is ancient beyond the records of man, but is ever youthful. Elusive of the "scientific" probings of the wise, yet it reveals its splendors to babes. The sport of the powerful and their satellites of every epoch, it has nevertheless been the cherished day star of the unsophisticated in all ages. Torn from its exalted place and crushed to earth (often by its professed friends) with every novel appeal to its standards, yet this truth invariably justifies the faith of the unsophisticated while it confounds the wisdom of the wise and laughs at the "science" of the scientific. It rises again and again, as truth crushed to earth will always rise, and makes of each occasion a new land mark along that pathway of human progress which its fires mark out and its light illumines.

This truth knows no distinction of race or color. All men look alike to it. Equality before the law is a universal principle. With reference to legal rights to life, to legal rights to liberty, to legal rights to pursuits and to the enjoyment of property, it admits, as a principle, of no discrimination. The precepts of religion and the axioms of morality make the recognition of this equality an indisputable obligation upon conscience, while the ethics of experience inculcate it as an unavoidable necessity of civilization. As matter of abstract principle, then, the legal rights of the American Negro in respect of his life, his liberty, his pursuits and his property, ought to be precisely the same as those of the American white man.

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.

Let us swear an oath, and keep it with an equal mind,
In the hollow Lotos-land to live and lie reclined
On the hills like gods together, careless of mankind.

—The Lotos Eaters.

Pittsburg, May 10.—In these valleys and upon these clustered hills of Allegheny live the lotos eaters of the Occident. They do not, however, have the nepenthe which comes from "that enchanted branch" of the minstrel's song; but from the swinging censers of the high priests of a ruling party the incense of Protec-

tion has been inhaled so deeply, so constantly, that, like those dwellers of "the purple hills," the average dweller here "lies beside his nectar" and "the bolts are hurl'd against any that would dare to quench the flames from whence it came."

While the nation's Chief Magistrate is "swinging the circle" and here and there delivering an incoherent defense of Protection, a brief glance upon Pittsburg, "the workshop of the world," may not be untimely but truly apropos. For it is here as in no other part of the Union that the blessings of Protection are most manifest; nowhere else could be found the incarnation of the doctrine so exemplified in "giving employment" to the tens of thousands of workers in steel and allied industries and the vast army of men, women and children engaged in other fields of toil. Enthroned, indeed, is the fetich of Protection, and it is to reside in this atmosphere to truly understand how the workingman would battle for this system which "gives him work," gives him bread and meat—even as the work horse is rewarded with its hay and oats.

To the stranger this busy city is one of striking contrasts. No other American city furnishes the same conditions, and probably in no other district in the world is the display of human energy so manifest. "Work, work, for every one wishing it," as the newspapers say. To this city and district, because of such extraordinary industrial activity, there has come a tide of humanity representative of every nation, and, overflowing from the city, it is peopling the hills and valleys for many miles beyond. In the past three years building of dwellings has been carried on upon a scale unprecedented in the history of the city, but it has been the rule that these structures have been rented from the very beginning of erection, and hundreds of houses have been occupied at a stage of two-thirds of completion. The present year promises to maintain if not eclipse the record of building, so great and urgent is the demand. This one feature alone is pointed to by newspaper and magazine writers as the strongest evidence of the marvelous prosperity that now floods our great Republic with a golden glow, and also that these happy conditions could never have obtained but for the maintenance of the sacred schedules of the tariff.

From the beginning of that period of industrial depression in 1893 to the year of Mr. McKinley's first election to the Presidency, this district was among the first to feel and the

last to recover from those stringent times.

Great mills were closed and idle thousands sought in vain for employment at anything and at almost any wage. Temporary relief was afforded by the city authorities in giving work on street and park improvements at a wage of a dollar a day, and among these workers were men who at their legitimate calling could have commanded treble and more of that amount.

Those were dark days for these valleys, and men made desperate by pressing needs were nerved to desperate deeds. And now that for a comparatively brief period employment has been continuous, the wage workers have but renewed their fealty to the fetich which "gives them work," and they read with unconcern that owing to business depression, a result of American competition, 5,000 shoe operatives in a German city have been thrown out of employment, or that thousands of weavers and spinners in New England are idle and fighting again the battle for existence against corporate greed on the same field where their fellows were led by the gallant Howard, nearly 20 years ago. No longer is the legend emblazoned out: "An injury to one is the concern of all," and yet that same great primary cause of every industrial paroxysm will sooner or later cast its baleful shadow over these valleys where the wageworker is nepenthenized by the drug of Protection, and he cares not for his fellow man.

In view of all the manifold blessings of Protection the relations of the tin workers in this district (employees of the American Tin Plate company, a subsidiary company of the United States Steel Corporation) with their employers is at once extraordinary and astonishing. Strangely silent have Republican newspaper editorial comments been regarding a compact entered into by the tin workers with their employers. Early last fall representations were made by the company to the workers that unless a reduction in wages was accepted the tin plate mills in different sections would be shut down for an indefinite period, but if the men consented to a reduction of wages the company could accept a very heavy order from the Standard Oil company and thus keep the men employed. Otherwise Mr. Rockefeller would send his order abroad, and later idle tin workers would pay a higher price for the oil they burned.

What a club to hold over American protected workingmen, does the indignant reader say? No, not a coarse club but an instrument representing the refined diablerie of an

infamous economic system defending Monopoly. Does not Labor here typify Laocoon in the embrace of the serpents?

The tin workers, members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers carried the matter to their leaders, and after discussion in lodge meetings a reduction of wages was voted down, but it was agreed to give the Tin Plate company a rebate on every ton of black plates produced, the rebate representing the duty on imported plates. Thus it is that now these tin workers are each assessed for the privilege of working for Morgan's combine, but they feel assured they are being protected from the pauper labor of Wales. Is this not an illustration in social-economic life of the fable where, fastened upon its prey, lulling it into a dreamless sleep with fanning wings, the vampire draws its victim's life away?

Because of the unusual demand for dwellings the landholder is of course clothed with powers of almost life and death. For the past three years speculative values of land have risen in ratio with individual greed. In the downtown sections of this city fortunes are being made by those disposing of their holdings. It is believed that in some sections frontage is held at as high a figure as any in New York city, and here, where the percentage of the workingman who owns his home is so small as not to be worthy of mention, and as a well-known and prominent real estate broker recently stated that 90 per cent. of all realty in Pittsburg was mortgaged, it can be easily understood why rents are so excessive and the cost of food stuffs so high—at figures suggesting a period of war and not the piping days of protected prosperity and peace.

Spring immigration has now set in, and the daily accounts of arrivals at eastern ports indicate unusual numbers for so early in the year that are coming to our shores. This city and district will receive a large quota, for over the seas has gone the tale of fiction of abundance of work and pay; but would those now on their journey hither not pause and perhaps return to their native land if they could read and understand the conditions surrounding those here who sit in sorrow amidst appalling degradation?

Obligation is acknowledged, for a glimpse of the "other side," to Maj. W. A. Simmons, of this city, whose paper on tenement life in Pittsburg was read last March before the members of the Baptist Union, and was a shocking revelation to those who are always

unwilling to believe that there is no want in this city, more than that which is "natural" in every large city. Speaking of a notorious tenement known throughout the county of Allegheny as "Yellow Row," the major says:

Most of our citizens have seen "Yellow Row," on Second avenue, near Try street. It is dilapidated outside, as well as inside. It looks bad in front, but the rear view is much worse. For years it has been known as the resort of toughs. At one time Yellow Row was considered the worst of all tenements. I have changed my mind on that point. It is bad enough, but I have seen many places that beat it for filth and misery. It consists of eight houses of 56 rooms; 16 of the rooms being dark, with no light or air except that which comes in through an inside door. At least 20 families live there.

In this picture of a remnant of people for which Sobieski fought, how does their condition differ from that under Russian thrall?

The Polish colony is out Penn avenue. There are thousand of Poles; the tenements literally swarm with men, women and children, and the population is growing. Polish row has a record of 26 births in one month. In one tenement in Penn avenue the three stories are divided into 72 rooms, occupied by Poles. There is a family in almost every room, and many of them keep boarders. One family of three persons has four men boarders, all living in one room. Then there are Slavs, Russians, and many other nationalities.

Speaking to a bright Polish boy standing in the door of one of the cellars, Maj. Simmons asked: "And you have only one room?" He replied: "Oh, there is not many of us; just the old man, the old woman, and three children and myself. Why, next door, in one room is 16 boarders." The beds in this tenement do double duty. That is, the men who work at night occupy them in the daytime, and the men who work in the daytime use them at night.

Basin alley is the home of the Syrian colony in Pittsburg, and of this quarter the major said:

Basin alley extends from Washington street to Elm street. The first few houses are of good appearance, then comes a row of disreputable wooden shanties occupied by Syrians and negroes. One house of six rooms shelters four families. One family pays six dollars a month for a room 10 by 13 feet. A basement room rents for four dollars, and is occupied by six people. At the head of Basin alley is a large brick building which was once a church, but is now subdivided and partitioned off into rooms. It is swarming with Syrians. The destitution in the colony is terrible. In one house of four rooms were found 67 people. Most of the homes are entirely destitute of furniture, except beds, and from two to six beds were found in each room, many of them being only a row of boards.

While living amid squalor and destitution, the tenants here are above still worse infernos, for there are human beings glad of the shelter of cellars, as will be seen:

In Etna street, a few doors below, is a brick row of four houses extending back

into the yard, containing five rooms each and cellar, with three families to a house. A family lives in each cellar, and pays \$6.50 for the privilege. One of the cellar tenants informed me that after April 1 the rent will be \$7.50. The families above ground pay \$7.50 per month. One of these cellar tenants, an aged woman, had crawled to the top of the steps to get a breath of fresh air, and was sitting there knitting on a many-colored stocking, unmindful of the rain which was falling fast.

In the rear of 150-152 Pike street, a man, his wife and five boarders occupy one room about 12 by 12. The front room at 158 Pike street, about 16 by 20, contains eight wooden bedsteads, dressed in linen of anthracite hue. Many of these beds do double duty; that is, a gang of occupants for the daylight, and another for night. The room was filled with a frightful odor. I was told it had been aired about a year ago. There were other beds and many families in the rest of the house.

No. 30 Spring alley had 25 rooms, 36 families, and 100 people. Nos. 45, 47 and 49 Spring alley are brick houses of four rooms and cellar each. Six families occupy two rooms each, and the three cellars are occupied by six families. You have heard of a family living in a cellar, but doubtless never heard of two families living in one cellar.

At Second avenue and Greenock street a house of 12 rooms contains five families and 35 people.

No. 66 Water street, a house of 15 rooms, has several women and about 100 boarders. One room has 25 beds in it. This is the house in which Gen. Lafayette slept when he visited Pittsburg.

Graham's row, 70 to 80 Pike street, has ten houses, four rooms, and two cellars each. The 60 rooms contain 20 families, and the rent paid is \$200 per month. The houses cost when new at a fair estimate \$6,000. Deduct two per cent. for taxes, and we find the landlord makes 38 per cent., as no money is ever paid for repairs.

To show that these plague spots are not confined to any particular quarter of the city, Maj. Simmons gave his auditors a glimpse of submerged life in various parts of this modern Babylon:

At High street and Old avenue is a house of eight rooms, a store-room and a kitchen. It is rented by a man for \$40 a month. He sublets the eight rooms to five families. The rent nets him \$40 a month. The entire family of husband, wife and six children sleep in the kitchen.

In Etna street, Ninth ward, the tenements are in a wretched condition. A whole row contains 12 families, averaging eight persons each, to a room. By the side of this is a row of at least six houses which has just been emptied of its tenants. It is actually falling in—roof, doors and walls.

In Zug's alley, in the rear of these tenements, are a half-dozen houses occupied by several families. On the door of one of these were a smallpox sign and a diphtheria sign—a double scourge. In the house were a woman, a man without legs, a man with only one arm, and several small children. In Pike street is a frame row of three houses is built on a spot of ground 20 by 70 feet. The six rooms and three basements are occupied by six families, who pay \$432 a year. These three houses when new cost at least \$300, and could be built to-day, when lumber is selling by the pound, for \$1,000. The only expense on the property is the tax—nothing being expended for repairs. This nets the owner about 43 per cent.

The Eagle's Nest is one of the worst spots in Pittsburg. It is located at Mulberry alley and Twentieth street. Forty families are crowded into what would be room for 15 families. The whole place is reeking with filth. More than 400 people sleep in the Eagle's Nest.

In Spring alley, in the rear of 1107 Penn avenue, there are eight rooms, containing seven families, and all keep boarders. At Spring and Slocum alleys a house of 26 rooms contains 100 Italians. Men rent the floor in spots. Spring alley has three families in one room of a house.

At No. 1330 Penn avenue a German family lives in one room on the second floor. There are five in the family; two children grown.

McKenna's court, Liberty avenue, near Thirteenth street, consists of three rows of seven houses each. At least 100 people live there. Three hydrants furnish all the water the tenants get. They stand in line waiting their turn for water. Some time ago a fire burned off the roof of one of the houses. Mr. Hunfer, the health inspector, said it took three months to get the landlord to repair it. During all this time the house was occupied. Almost every nationality is represented in the tenement; hidden away in dingy, wretched hovels, in narrow alleys, in cellars ten feet below the ground, in dirty courts, on the river banks, high up on rugged cliffs, hanging in the air on the hillsides, where one would think only a goat could climb with safety; within sound of the throbbing industries of the city they are found by scores and hundreds. Thousands of Italians are found in Webster avenue and the cross streets of the Fifth ward. A large colony lives in Oakland. At the Point, once the home of aristocratic Pittsburg, dwell the representatives of the Emerald Isle. There the old women wear ruffled caps and short skirts and smoke pipes as they would across the sea.

In concluding his melancholy recital of conditions as he found them in this, the greatest center of industrial activity in the world, Maj. Simmons says:

The filth, misery and degradation found in some of these places is beyond belief. Men, women and children sleep on the floor like animals, huddled together in foul smelling cellars and garrets, without the sign of a water connection nearer than the yard, and then many persons are compelled to use water from the same hydrant. Indeed, it is almost impossible to get enough water for the people's needs. The women fare the worst in these places, as they are compelled to remain indoors more than the other members of the family. If we allow human beings to live like brutes, we must not be surprised to find them sink to their level—without cleanliness, feeling affection or morality. Where people are herded together vice is bound to thrive.

To one who had looked upon these scenes of monumental misery could the platitudes of the nation's chief and alleged statesmen describing our Republic as a world power and in the vanguard of civilization have any inspiring meaning? As a last word of review the major could only add: "How shall the love of God be understood by those who have been nurtured in sight only of the greed of man?"

Dwelling for a moment longer upon this revolting and soul-sickening social disease, it may be said with truth that in this teeming district nothing is so cheap and regarded so lightly as human life. The mortality among his countrymen alone has been so great, resulting from accidents in mill and factory, that the consul of Austria-Hungary has called upon his country "to protest to the United States against the wholesale deaths of its subjects in Pittsburg, 1,000 deaths occurring each year."

Turning away to the eastward one may walk for miles and pass stately mansions with wide spreading lawns where now bursting bud and bulb promise their perfume and beauty; here and there lordly estates where will soon be heard the fountains' play and the song of birds. No sign here

of the ghastly want a league and less away. Hundreds of unoccupied acres are also seen where "no trespassing allowed" signs tell of the sacredness of private property in land.

As a tree is known by its fruit, it is here that the blighting effects of the protective system affords its greatest object lesson. Reasoning from the sophistries of those politicians and so-called statesmen who have been responsible for the fastening of this ulcerous economic principle upon American industries, throughout this district there would be none of the dark shadows of which we have had but a passing glance. "The impossible specter of Free Trade" was the way Mr. Cleveland put it in one of his messages to the American people, as he was endeavoring to foist emasculated measures in the name of "Tariff Reform." This one reference to what he termed a phantom to be dreaded by a great people demonstrated to all thinking men Mr. Cleveland's equipment for economic investigation and broad statesmanship. Here for years has been the full operation of Protection, and in its wake has followed an enormous increase in cost of every necessary of life. While in many instances wages have been increased, that increase has more than been filched from the wage worker in the enhanced cost of living, and a great mass of unskilled workingmen pressed still further down upon the plane of dependency. The "impossible specter of Free Trade" of Mr. Cleveland's dwarfed discernment is not here, but the gorged vampire of Monopoly squeaks notes of admiration to its guardian of Protection.

Anomalous as it is, Labor, etherized by Protection, and firmly believing that only by its faithful guardianship can it be employed at highest wage, maintains with religious zeal its trade unions in almost every field of toil. As a truth this is Labor's only defense, for without it in a few years a condition of peonage would be its portion.

A hopeless task (to the faint heart) does it seem, then, to break this spell which has stupefied the masses and dulled perception. But it is not so. On every hand there are signs of awakening thought among men who will yet be leaders in the holy crusade against the citadel of Injustice. From the first onward movement there will never be a retreat. The struggle of the people with Land Monopoly will be the conflict of the ages, but under the aegis of Truth and Justice the victorious host will eventually bivouac in the light of the dawn of a nobler civilization.

JAS. A. WARREN.

Though sawdust mush and gravel grit
For breakfast proves a winner.
Thank heaven no one has the nerve
To make a "food" for dinner.

—Puck.

NEWS

Week ending Thursday, May 14.

The teamsters' strike at Omaha (p. 71), in which several other classes of workingmen have become involved, some out of sympathy and some on account of quarrels of their own, has given birth to a new departure in the practice of "government by injunction." The familiar Federal injunction, which had been already granted against the labor unions (p. 71), along with similar injunctions by State judges, seems to have suggested the possibility of injunctions against the employers' unions; and on the 12th Judge Dickinson, who is described as a judge of long experience and high reputation, was successfully appealed to to grant one.

Hotel and restaurant proprietors had brought suit in the State courts to enjoin the waiters' union, and preliminary injunctions against the waiters had been allowed, whereupon the waiters filed a cross complaint bringing all local members of the Business Men's Association into court as parties to the suit and asking a sweeping injunction. The reported substance of the cross complaint is as follows:

The Business Men's Association, of Omaha, is a local branch of an organization of national scope, which has for its object the destruction of labor unions; the defendants are members of this association, and they have formed a conspiracy whose object is the destruction of all unions. In carrying out this conspiracy they have by threats of injury to business, by threats of boycotting and of refusing to sell supplies, forced other persons and firms into the organization. After such persons have joined the association they are placed under a heavy fine in case they employ union labor or recognize unions. They have refused to sell building material to contractors who have agreed to employ union labor, and as a result of said conspiracy no contractor having any agreement with union labor has been permitted to purchase material for construction, and more than fifteen contractors who had such agreements have been unable to execute contracts. The members of the Business Men's Association have threatened members of union labor with personal violence and loss of employment and with blacklisting, unless they give up their organization. The defendants and the association have collected a large sum of money for the unlawful purpose of