

VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

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ORGAN OF THE NEW ENGLAND WORKINGMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

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VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

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Poetry.

To the Village of Industry.
A Glorious Victory!

By J. V. H. H.
How free for the victor! 'tis we who lay in store!
(Our soldiers have measured space hundred fold more!)
With stately, ye angles! 'tis we who lay in store!
We have not disgraced our broad banner of stripes;
True, true to the letter our army has been;
It has subdued the weak, Medicine once and again.
Honor for our soldiers! 'tis we who lay in store!
Honor for our nation of Christian and Freedom!

When we tread on a worm, and it bites at our feet,
It crawls out on life, and it crawls out on life,
It crawls out on life, and it crawls out on life,
It crawls out on life, and it crawls out on life,
It crawls out on life, and it crawls out on life,
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It crawls out on life, and it crawls out on life,
It crawls out on life, and it crawls out on life,

When England advances to face the Chinese!
To take down her big gun, and yield up their tea—
When we heard the loud noise of her cannon's roar,
It was the nation with her own sword at her side,
The nation with her own sword at her side,
The nation with her own sword at her side,
The nation with her own sword at her side,
The nation with her own sword at her side,
The nation with her own sword at her side,
The nation with her own sword at her side,
The nation with her own sword at her side,

Our people are frightened, the corner of streets
Thronged by terror-faces, all that one moment
And we may as tremble; the blood, black and heavy,
The hands or her hands, comes from Mexico's ray,
All in the bright canvas of the Bravo's flag, may
Lies, lie to the trumpet of Mexico's legion,
Honor for our soldiers! 'tis we who lay in store!
Honor for our nation of Christian and Freedom!

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VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

To the people of the United States.

Tracts on Factory System, No. 1.

At the present time when the Manufacturing system is making such rapid progress in this country, it should be a matter of serious consideration with the people, as regards its ultimate effects upon society in general, especially when we have the destructive effects produced in other countries, by an unregulated operation of its powers, before our eyes. The people generally hail the increase of mechanical power in any country, as one of the greatest means of its prosperity, and hundreds of our fellow creatures, having families, view the erection of factories with almost frantic joy, when they calculate the dollars, which will be brought to them, through the exertions of their children. Blinded by the prospect of the dazzling mineral, they never for one moment think of the deleterious effects of factory labor even under the best regulations, nor alas! do they consider, that in many cases, they are making voluntary sacrifices of such children on the altar of cursed avarice. Then let us unhesitatingly look down and seriously reflect upon the subject, before the abundant power becomes too unobscure, so that you are unable to check its destructive operations.

It is true, says Mr. Adams, that the cotton mills are the "Principality of the destitute," the "Palaces of the poor," and Mr. Adams is a very good authority. "Who has not been delighted with the clock-work movements of a large cotton manufactory?" asks Mr. Henry Clay; another very high authority. I wonder how the Misses Adams and Clays' would like to be torn from their beds a little after four in the morning, and immersed in one of those Paleces, necessarily watching the beautiful movements of this clock-work machinery, and exercising their snow-white finger tips upon the grinding apparatus until seven o'clock in the evening. It strikes me, that they would not present any very "Queenly appearance," and that their heads would cry aloud for a "Ten Hour Bill!" But I had forgotten—"That let me speak to the poor. Your children are doomed to run the race of life against the combined powers of nature and art. All the elements are laid for exercise in opposition to the proper development of the body." Wherever a number of persons are crowded together in one room, the air becomes vitiated and injurious; but this is more especially the case in factories. Not only does this result from the number of persons necessarily in the same room, but the materials upon which they work are generally deleterious. A great quantity of dust and other impurities arising from the machinery, are drawn into the system by the respiratory organs, serving upon the lungs, thereby vitiating the healthy action of a vital portion of the machinery of the human body. The general position of the body, the unvarying and never ceasing attention required, combined with the long and tiresome hours of labor, create a list of maladies of the most dreadful character, and which would require the pen of an oil of the most able medical practitioners to describe. We talk a good deal about sinners and sinners, but I fearlessly assert, that the present unlimited factory system, is the most wicked, because it is one of the most cruel plans for torturing human beings, that ever was devised by man. It is a sin against nature and humanity, that every thing which is valuable in manhood is sacrificed to an interior pecuniary advantage in youth. You purchase your advantage at the price of the health, happiness and life of your children. West India Slavery was denounced by every humane individual, and demanded for its abolition; was sold, that the British Government were obliged to pass an act of emancipation. Yet it never equalled our factory system in its refinement of cruelty; there the labor of young persons was principally exercised in gathering the green crops for the stock, and in the most violent and vigorous condition of their bodies, though working in the open air, subjected to labor of the same duration as factory laborers. A soldier is never kept under arms more than six hours a day, unless before the enemy. Even a convict is not required to labor the length of time im-

posed upon our factory operatives; yet the system continues in full force, silently preying upon the vitals of a great portion of our fellow creatures.

We will next glance at the effects produced intellectually, in doing which, I must refer back to the physical effects which act here, as a cause or barrier against intellectual improvement. Extreme toil tending to weaken the energies of the body, has also a debilitating effect upon the mind, acting powerfully upon the nervous system, producing irritability of temper, making the individuals fretful and discontented, weakening the powers of thought and the energies of the spirit. In fact the present factory system is nothing less than a necessary cause, which produces feeble bodies and fretful minds. If after the exhausting toil of the day, the poor creatures should take up a book, in order to amuse or instruct themselves, nature imperatively demands it to be given up, sleep steals upon the senses, they return to rest, until the bell strikes upon their drowsy senses in the morning; when they are compelled again to drag their weary bodies to the employment of the "rattle-boxes," to be subjected to the same fatigues as before. But though I contend that the present system is absolutely necessary, yet even that is not enough when compared with the acquisition of development of the domestic and kindred duties and affections. Without these, woman, however much outwardly adorned, is still destitute of all which makes her really beautiful in the eyes of discerning minds, and of that which she dispenses happiness to those around her. Thus, the present system is destructive both physically and mentally. And so long as it is allowed to continue, the greater portion of those subject to it will remain in a state of degradation, truly shocking to contemplate. Here we find thousands of our fellow beings, principally of the tender sex, only regarded as parts of the machinery which they set in motion, and with as little attention paid to the moral welfare of the one as the other.

The practice of the moral virtues is instilled into the mind, by means of scholastic education. The most powerful method however is by example. This being the case, I would ask, can it reasonably be expected, I have a word to say to the people, that the present system of the factory system, which in the first place exhausts their physical energies until the paroxysms of corporeal suffering are aggravated by deep mental depression? Can we wonder that the wretched victim of this disease, should endeavor to cheat his sufferings for a short time, by the false excitement produced by various spirits. The female too, is frequently driven to the same expedient, and if not to the swallowing of ardent spirits, they find a substitute in the chewing of opium or other strong narcotics, equally destructive to their effects upon both body and mind.

Again, the assembling and continuance of both sexes in the same room—crowded together under circumstances that contribute to disease and vice; degrading them to the condition of things, to be used only to add to the wealth of the few employers, to minister to the luxuries of the rich, and to create overgrown capitalists still more "vast and oppressive," will not, nay, cannot produce a moral community, but must have a directly opposite effect. If we look at the subject in a National point of view, we shall find that there exists serious cause of alarm. The people constitute the nation; it ought therefore to be the first, the greatest, the most important question with Legislators, Reformers and Philanthropists to consider the circumstances or causes which contribute to the formation of the character of individuals, because it is the multiplication of individuals of which the nation is composed. If the present system of Manufactures reduces the persons engaged in it, to a weak sickly or debilitated population; upon what are we to depend for our defence in case of invasion or of such a people had been existed, the towering forest would still have reared its majestic head upon the soil from which wealth now tempts in abundance. Let us be warned by the fate of other nations, and beware of infamy on the one hand, and of moral degradation on the other. Let not our otherwise glorious Republic sink under accumulated ills, which may be prevented by a timely application of legislative policy.

But it is not only the physical weakness thus created in the persons engendered by the system, which we have to fear. Ignorance is the parent of vice, immorality and crime. Look at your criminal statistics, walk through those strongly fortified buildings called prisons—converse with the wretched inmates immured within their massive walls, learn their history from themselves. Then examine your large cities, not by passing a transient view and merely passing through the streets, but enter the wretched dens of infamy, see vice and immorality unmasked in all their unnatural deformity, make a searching enquiry into the causes which led to such a debasement of human beings, such a prostration of

the nobler powers of our nature, and you will find oppression and consequent ignorance, the great moving cause. And are we to sit silent spectators of the steady and sure progress of such a state of things? does not justice, money, humanity, prompt us for action? will our legislators continue to shut their eyes, and close their ears to such a state of progressive evil? Is there nothing for the nation to fear from ignorance and vice? I tell them that they are allowing a vast accumulation of inflammable materials to collect themselves, which at no distant day, may explode, spreading destruction, devastation and death on every hand. Such is the sure effect of the unrestrained passions of a brutalized and ignorant people.

I am aware that property receives the greatest attention from legislative assemblies in the present day. Protection of property ought to be inscribed in front of every legislative hall. But let me tell them that property can never be secure in such a state of society; its security can only be felt in the midst of a contented people.

In the rapid increase of Manufactures which must take place in this country and the consequent condensation of persons within a limited space, with the increased facilities for intercourse, the feelings of hostility and animosity naturally engendered in the minds of the employed towards the employers must eventually become a source of Government, or anarchy and confusion will be the result. Then let the nation demand the immediate liberation of industry from the bonds under which it is now groaning and struggling to be free. The people can at any time command their representatives to authorize their will into effect,—let them join it at once upon the great question of factory labor, and we may still see the rosette hue of health crimson the cheeks of our sons and daughters, and live amongst a smiling, happy and contented people.

Then, I contend that the corrective hand of the State ought at once to be applied to remedy an evil of such magnitude. The community ought to rise en masse and demand that just legislative enactments should forthwith be placed on the Statute Books of the Republic,—that our country's history may not be written with the life's blood of her children.—Let there no longer be such indiscriminate and unlimited employment of the poor, under circumstances calculated to perpetuate their poverty, the ultimate effects of which will be of so serious and alarming a character, that no reflecting person can contemplate them without dismay. Let not our boasted mechanical ingenuity and skill be converted into instruments of torture, and become the bitter curse of the nation.

In conclusion, I call upon the fathers and mothers of our rising population, by all the ties of affection, to come forward and ask their legislators to enact a "Ten Hour Bill." In my opinion, even that is longer than the youthful portion of community ought to labor, especially in the unwholesome air of a factory. However, it would be a salutary mitigation of the evil, and we have no time to lose. Let petitions be got up and signed by every individual throughout the length and breadth of the land. Send deputations with them to your Houses of Representatives, and thus let them know, that it is the will of the people and must receive immediate attention. By these means, you will save your children, and confer a lasting benefit on your country. Pay no attention to the delusive cry of foreign competition,—sacrifice of the manufacturing interests &c. &c. I say rather than the present system should continue, rather than human life should still be sacrificed at the shrine, let manufacturers perish! Let the people live in industrious, virtuous, healthy, intelligent and happy. From such a population, there is nothing to fear. They are the nation's strength in time of peace, and her best, her only defence in the event of war.

I am your friend, an OBEYSER.

Dr. Brisbane says, that when he was in South Carolina, one of his Baptist brethren underwent a church trial for a very serious offence. This Baptist brother had been the means of separating a slave husband and wife forever. He had been importuned not to do it—to sell them both to one master, and not bring their hearts with the agony of separation; but he said "he would see them both in hell first!" He was brought up before the church, and tried, for what, think you? For the infamy of sending man and wife to hell! But for using profane language? His spiritual advisers and co-workers took no thought of the crime of parting what God had joined together, but they were horrified at the profane expression used by their brother—Emanzipator.

With true religion, man is divine; with no religion, he is humane, but with false religion, he is infernal.

Industrial Congress.—Its Laws &c.

ACT I.

MEASURES—CONSTITUTION—MEMORIALS—PUBLICATION OF THE LAWS.

Whereas, It is the right and duty of man to earn his bread by the sweat of his face, or in other words, by some kind of useful labor; and whereas, by the present constitutions of these States and of the United States, some are deprived of the right to labor for themselves and forced to labor excessively for others, while those others are exonerated from the duty, which double injustice is mainly effected by allowing some to possess more than their fair share of the soil, and by depriving others of even their proper share; and whereas, the right to labor can only be secured and the duty enforced by securing the equal right to the use of the soil from which alone subsistence can be procured; and whereas the rights to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness," asserted in the memorable Declaration of '76, cannot possibly be enjoyed without the possession of a fair share of the soil by each family; therefore

§ 1. *Be it Recommended*, By the Industrial Congress, that every Industrial Association in the Union, and every Association of the friends of Human Rights, adopt as a qualification of membership a pledge to support the following measures: (1) A reasonable limitation of the quantity of land that any individual may acquire possession of hereafter; (2) The exemption of the Homestead from debt or mortgage hereafter; (3) The freedom of the Public Lands to actual settlers; (4) A limitation of the hours of daily labor for wages in all public works, and in all establishments authorized by law; to ten.

§ 2. *Be it Further Recommended*, That all the friends of Human Rights, the Industrial Association, and all who live by useful labor, use all possible influence politically, to cause alterations of the State constitutions, whenever necessary, to secure the first and second measures named in the preceding article of this act; let the Congress of the United States to secure the third; and State Laws to secure fourth.

§ 3. *Be it Further Recommended*, That for the necessary political action, there must be formed Auxiliary National Reform Associations to elect every Representative Election District of the United States.

§ 4. *Be it Further Recommended*, That where Associations may be formed, both for beneficial purposes and political action, on the plan proposed by the Industrial Convention of 1845, members may be admitted to such associations for political purposes only, but none for beneficial purposes only, and that where this plan be adopted, the funds for political and beneficial purposes be kept distinct, the beneficial funds to be appropriated only by the beneficial members.

§ 5. *Be it Further Recommended*, That until the right to the Soil be restored to the people, annual memorials shall be circulated and forwarded to the State and National Legislatures, urging the adoption of the measures named in § 1 of this act.

§ 6. *And be it Further Recommended*, That this and all the laws of this Congress be published in the people's papers now established, and that all the papers which will publish them and advocate the free soil principle, and such as may be established in other localities where needed, be supported by their friends equal rights.

Passed at Boston, June 8, 1846.—Approved,
DAVID BRYANT, Pres't ten.
Geo. H. EVANS, Sec'y.

ACT II.

FORM OF AUXILIARY CONSTITUTION—TAKING ORGANIZATION.

§ 1. *Be it recommended*, by the Industrial Congress, that in every representative election district of the Union where there are five persons who recognize the principle of Man's Inalienable Right to the Use of the Soil, and who believe in the measures of the National Reform Association, as set forth, as a means of restoring to man his natural right to the soil, they shall form themselves into an Auxiliary to the National Reform Association, and that the following Constitution, with such alterations as may be necessary, be adopted in districts where no such Association has been formed.

CONSTITUTION.

Whereas, The independence and happiness of the people are greatly abridged by the monopoly of the soil, now allowed by our constitutions and laws, compelling the poor and landless to labor for the benefit of the rich, and depriving them of the enjoyments of a Home, and the fruits of the elements necessary to their subsistence, which every citizen living thing possesses, when unobscured by man; and whereas, the evil being caused by state and national political action, it must be eradicated by the same means; and whereas, to effect the necessary political action, the Industrial Congress, at its first session in Boston,

has recommended the formation of Associations auxiliary to the National Reform Association, in every representative election district, therefore we, whose names are subscribed agree to form ourselves into an Association, and adopt for our guidance the following constitution:

ART. I. This Association shall be called the National Reform Association.

ART. II. The objects of this Association shall be (1) to limit the quantity of land to be hereafter acquired by any individual; (2) to exempt the homestead of every family from the public debt and mortgage; (3) to limit the public lands of the States; (4) to restrict the hours of labor for wages to ten, on all public works, and in all corporations created by law, and we will vote for no man, for any legislative office, who will not pledge himself in writing to use all his influence, if elected, to cause these measures to be adopted by law.

ART. III. The officers of this Association shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, to be chosen quarterly and by ballot, whose duties shall be those usually pertaining to similar offices.

ART. IV. The officers of the Society shall constitute a standing committee to transact the necessary business of the Association.

ART. V. The funds of the Association shall consist of initiation fees of twenty-five cents from each member, monthly dues of one cent from each member, and donations.

ART. VI. The initiation fees of each member shall be forwarded by the Corresponding Secretary to the State Central Association, if such body exist, or to the parent Association at New York, until such State Central Association be formed, with the names of the members, &c. correctly and plainly written, for a numbered certificate of membership and a diploma for framing, according to the Constitution of the parent Association.

ART. VII. By-laws may, from time to time be passed, which shall not conflict with the provisions of this constitution.

ART. VIII. The Association shall spread its principles either by public meetings, lectures, debates, newspapers, or tracts, or by all these means.

ART. IX. This constitution shall be amended only by a vote of two thirds of the members present at a regular meeting, after notice of such amendment has been given in writing at a previous regular meeting.

ART. X. The following are recommended, that each State where there are five Auxiliary Associations, they shall elect a representative to a conference, who shall have power to fix upon this place where the State Central Association shall be located.

Passed at Boston, June 9, 1846.—Approved, DAVID BRYANT, Pres't pro tem. GEORGE H. EVANS, Secretary.

ACT II.
PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES.

Whereas in the contest for a Free Soil, it is of great importance that the Executive officer of the nation should be in favor of the principle, therefore

Recommended by the Industrial Congress that the National Reform Association adopt the most democratic mode they can devise, for nominating candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, pledged to the Freedom of the Public Lands, and that all National Reformers or Friends of a Free Soil co-operate to secure their election. Passed at Boston, June 24, 1846.—Approved, DAVID BRYANT, Pres't pro tem. GEORGE H. EVANS, Sec'y.

Ministers—the Cause in Woonsocket.

We clip the following from the Woonsocket Patriot—a paper by the way, that is pledged to the cause of Labor Reform, *“Aunt and Nephew”*—the editor writes. A series of able articles have lately appeared in its columns, upon the necessity of abridging the hours of toil. They are doubtless from the pen of Rev. Mr. Davis. We join the Workington of Woonsocket in their resolution of *“thanks”* to him, for the fidelity in this truly humane and religious cause. O, that ministers every where would imitate his noble example. It would not be one year before a public opinion would be created which would successfully demand the restoration of the rights of Labor. The working men and women of Woonsocket will see to it, that they give their countenance and support to a ministry that does not, like the Priest and the Levite of old, pass them by on the other side. Would that one minister among the twenty-five in Lowell, would regard the physical and moral condition of his operative supporters, as the Rev. Mr. Davis.

WORKINGTON'S MEETING. The Mechanics and Workington of Woonsocket, with a view of establishing the *“Ten Hour System”*, have arranged to make every effort to accomplish so desirable an object. In pursuance of a previous call, a large number of this class convened at the Clinton School-House, on Saturday morning last, and remarked, *“THE BROTHERS’ MOTION”*—and may it onward roll, till the desired reform is attained, and the condition of the Laborer is essentially ameliorated.

In notice of C. F. Jones, who promised that while the Workington of Woonsocket had been so long trodden down by the golden rule of contract law, it believed them to show some gratitude to their friends—it was above some gratitudo.

Resolved, That as a body returns our sincere thanks to the Rev. James M. Davis, for his timely and able manner in which he has vindicated the rights of the Laborer, in the present and through the press.”

VOICE OF INDUSTRY.

WHAT WE LABOR FOR.

The Rights of Man to himself, to a permanent home on the earth, the choice of industrial pursuits, to limit his production, to secure the best opportunities for education, and to freedom in every thing.

LOWELL, JUNE 19, 1846.

Introductory.

In entering upon our duties, as editor of the *“Voice of Industry”*, a word, by way of introduction to his friends, relative to the course which we shall pursue, will not be inappropriate. Let me premise that I feel deeply the responsibility of the situation, and my anxiety to fill the position, and to bear the trust reposed in me, has led me to conduct heretofore, and much is expected of it for the future. It is at once the creator and the creature of the spirit that sustains it. This working men's movement, commenced in this country, not by announcing at the commencement any generally received philosophy of Reform, nor by proposing any specific and universal remedies for the evils complained of. Its voice was first heard in our factory villages, striking from the depths of its agonized and excited spirit, for a reasonable limit of the hours of labor, and for more ample pay for its ceaseless, life-consuming toils. It asked for a guarantee against the capital spirit of free competition—the price was going down lower and lower, the price of wages in the market, and making the laborer but the plundered victim of commercial speculation. In the country, it was the alarm of the hard handed landholders; as if seeing his fields being taken from under him into the office of the black-leg speculator;—among the inventors of machinery, it was the chargin, at their splendid discoveries, clutched up by the capitalist, exchanging places in their workshops with themselves, or their brethren, turning hundreds and thousands out of employment, breaking down single handed enterprise and throwing weary, worn-out labor into unrelenting competition with muscles of iron and brass;—everywhere, it was the cry of indignation against the giant strides of monopoly and corporate privilege, which seeks to grasp earth, air, and ocean, and has but too well carried off in its fiendish purpose,—against the cheatery, the frauds and overreaching of commerce,—against the hypocrisy and cant of papal politicians,—against the insinuations of a perfect hell of social evils, that were increasing upon every hand.

Numerous papers, like the *“Aid”*, the *“Operator”*, the *“Operative”*, the *“Laborer”*, the *“Social Reformer”*, &c., &c., were thrown to the breeze,—each looking upon the advent of Industrial Reform from a different standpoint, and proposing the greatest variety of remedies. All saw the evils to which we were exposed, and agreed upon the necessity of Reform. These various papers held longer than they had the means of support, accomplished their mission, and ceased to be published. *“THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY”*, has taken their place, and thus far it has been as successful as its name, combining the good that was evolved by all the others. It has translated the cry of oppression and outrage that has come up from all classes of sufferers, in city, village and country. It has been the mouth-piece of labor every where, in the east and the west, the north and the south, on the sea and the land.

From time to time, in the progress of the movement, new principles of Reform have been announced, and new remedies proposed. An efficient law, law, to give mechanics a hold upon their productions till they have been paid for their labor; the limitation of the hours of toil on all public works and in privileged monopolies, to ten; or, in other words, the freedom of the public lands to actual settlers; the inalienable homestead, despite of mortgage and bills of credit; the limitation of land monopoly in the States; the right to the use of machinery, and to an equal share in the inheritance of the past; the Protective Union among different classes of laborers, by which they dispense with the sharks of commerce, either in the exchange of commodities, or in the different branches of industry, and guaranteed to each other at the same time, support in misfortune, sickness and old age.

These are some of the principles and measures that have been suggested, at different times, and generally incorporated in the theoretical and practical life of the exchange of commodities. And it is for the application of these principles to the life, to government and society, that we are now laboring.

A paper, whose object should be more limited in its views than this, would not be the *“Voice of Industry”*. Or, in other words, the *“Voice of Industry”* must be the exponent of the broadest principles, the defender of the rights of the laborer, the advocate of the widest philanthropy. It must be a *“voice”*, free to be the voice of man, and the voice of heaven; free as human thought, benevolent as christian love, and faithful as the prophet's conscience.

White, therefore, it will be the main object of the *“Voice of Industry”* to give expression to such principles, and to propose such remedies as have been referred to above, it will be free, as it ever has been, to advance any new thought which this prophetic age may reveal, and to echo the voice of Constructive Reform, by whomsoever spoken.

It will endeavor to remove the causes of the evils complained with their effects. It will not, therefore, deal in low personalities, in private abuse, in condemnation of individuals, nor in indiscriminate warfare upon classes. Its words may sometimes sound harsh—they may appear severe, even; but it shall be the harshness of truth, and the severity of love. Our work is indeed no child's play, no scheme of idle amusement, no game of human selfishness. We are in earnest. In the holy name of God, in the deepest spirit of christian sympathy, having measured well our words, and counted well the cost of our enterprises, do we utter the cry for Reform.

With this feeling, we throw ourselves upon the stream of human destiny, and relying for aid, upon the strength of the Omnipotent Father, we give ourselves to the work before us. Our position, therefore, cannot be *“defeated”*. We are not defensible, it is confessed by changing; we are in motion, *“progressive”* forever.

We can only pledge the friends of industrial reform, the assurance of our devotion to their cause, and of our best efforts for its success.

We are happy in being able to assure our readers, that Mr. Young, the former editor of the *“Voice”*, will continue his contributions in the paper, and that Miss Bagley, Juliana, and other able writers will continue their favors as heretofore, as our rich columns need not testify.

Other correspondents, are also solicited to give us their best thoughts upon the enterprise in which we are engaged.

“Hoping that the *“Voice of Industry”* will be as loud and clear as ever, that it may continue to repeat the cry of the oppressed, to echo the wail of poverty and wrong, and to herald the glorious future, when labor shall be elevated and proportioned to its merits, and freedom, wealth, education and social happiness be universal. I am, &c.

JOHN ALLEN.

Lectures in the City Hall, on Industrial and Political Reform.

Albert Brisbane, Esq. of New York, addressed the citizens of Lowell on Thursday evening last, upon the subject of Political Reform. He gave a very clear analysis of the evils growing out of the present false relations of capital and labor, showed the importance of protecting the industry interests of the laborer as the creator of all wealth, and as the human race could not subsist a year without it. He showed the injustice of subjecting the Creator to the will of the Creature,—making the producer the slave of his productions, or, in other words, the injustice of giving such unlimited power to capital and monopolized machinery,—tending immediately to, if not having already reached, a state of anarchy, in which the laborer will be but parts of the machinery which they ply, or the *“dependent and tools”* of the executives who employ them.

FACTORIES. While in the city, he visited several of the factories, and held conversations with operatives and overseers. And from personal observation, and authentic facts, in his lecture of Friday evening, he gave a most graphic view of the evils of factory life. He found that ten hours the operatives are compelled to toil, the half holidays allowed them, the incessant, monotonous labor to which they are subjected, the deafening noise of machinery, the unnatural position in which they are forced to stand or sit, the heated, impure atmosphere and dust they are obliged to breathe, the short interval between hours of labor allowed for their meals, the crowding of six or eight persons into the same sleeping rooms in factory boarding-houses, the want of all opportunity for retirement and privacy, the monastic discipline to which they are subjected, relative to their mode of spending the Sabbath, rules forbidding them to board with their friends, unless they happen to live on the Corporation;—these and a host of similar facts made a vivid impression upon his mind, and found their way to the lecture-room thoroughly roused, not only with a sense of the impending evils that will be entailed upon us by the continuance and growth of this outrageous system of labor and life, but with a consciousness of the terrific power of oppression and wrong, which it has already attained.

IRVING'S. From the same source, the system, which we are now combating, as he affirmed that its results were:

- 1st. Physical assassination. The constant violation of the laws of health, which necessarily must murder the operatives by inches,—by entailing upon them diseases which, if they lived, must make life a perpetual crucifix, a cruel bitter, an aching burden, and transmit to their children the seeds of disease and early death.
- 2d. Intellectual assassination. He affirmed, that if this system of labor was persisted in, till we have the same permanent factory population in this country as in the Old World,—the same mental degradation and ignorance, the same dullness and stultification of mind would inevitably follow. That he had visited the manufacturing districts of Europe, and that the poor, wretched, careworn, exhausted victims would move round, as listless, as thoughtless, heartless, and hopeless, as though they were walking dead. And this, said he, for the natural shabbiness of the American complexion, for the early active, lively education of the operative, in their country homes, that the same intellectual death does not prevail here. But it will come. The work of assassination has commenced even here.
- 3dly. Moral and social assassination. He spoke at length upon this subject, and showed that the procuring causes of vice were inherent in the system. That it was not strange that the laborer had four hundred and fifty grog-shops, and that the hells of infamy in other cities were not infrequently supplied with victims from amongst the once pure and virtuous daughters of New England, who had been sacrificed to the vicious influences of factory life. But it is impossible to give an idea of this portion of his lecture. It could not be reported. It must have been heard, to be even conceived of.

4th. Making the operative the Slave of Machinery. In other kinds of industry, the laborer uses the tools. In the factory, the machines, the tools, command the service of the laborer, demand his constant attention: He must be the ceaseless, servile water of an untrusting despot of iron and brass; a tyrant that has no heart to feel, no soul to pity. The thirteen hours of toil must be borne, for three hundred days in the year, for the machine commands it.

WHO IS TO BLAME? These magnificent (?) results, he said, were not achievements of the political economist, and LEGISLATIVE errors of this age. That either the idols of the two great parties knew no remedies for these accumulating evils, or that if they did, and there was any danger (?) of their exposing them, and proposing a remedy. Capital, which was thus feasting on the life-blood of labor, stood ready to buy them up, to raise for them a fund of a hundred thousand dollars, to stop their “godlike” mouths, and that they stop their labor and the laboring classes had nothing to hope from the leading political demagogues of the times.

REMEDY. As a remedy he proposed preliminary measures similar to those adopted by the National Reformers, and the late Industrial Congress, and a system of guaranteeing, or mutual insurance—of which the Laborer's Protective Union is the germ. He also spoke of an improved system of manufacturers, where labor should continue but eight hours per day, and to some extent combining with it, the operation of the laboring classes had to dispense with the services of commercial voyagers, who now absorb in unjust profits more than two-thirds of the productions of labor, without any addition to its value.

MEASURES. As the means of effecting these results, he recommended an effort to enlist in the cause, some philanthropic capitalists, who would build up a model factory village, with ample accommodations for the operatives, large airy pleasant rooms in which to labor, large gardens connected with their boarding-houses, in which they might spend a part of each day's effort, with the guarantee of integral education for their children, and of honorable support under misfortune, in sickness and old age. And at the same time, he advised a withdrawal from present political parties, who had abandoned the interests of labor, and deserted the cause of the people, and appealed to the ballot-box, in behalf of new principles and measures. And that in carrying out these plans of reform, no time should be lost in disseminating information among the people, and securing pledges in favor of a new and thorough system of political action. We should act at once, lest it should be too late.

Grand Mass Meeting of the Industrial Reformers, at Lowell, July 4th.

Come, ye men and Sisters, to the green wood on the banks of the beautiful Merrimack, and under the shade of those old trees, listening to the music of the waters as they merrily dance over their rocky bed, we will have our Jubilee.

Come from the dingy work-shops and crowded mills, ye that dwell on the banks of the gentle Neponset, and in our sister towns, close about you, when the hum of spindles is heard amid the roar of the waters as they rush maddly on their rugged way.

Come from the hot and dusty Metropolis! Show us by your presence the true *“Protective Union of hearts and hands”*.

Come from Lynn and all the regions around us, where there are hearts to feel and hands to help in the good cause.

We will acknowledge our right to the soil, we are with you to a man—aye, and what is better, to a woman too.

To our Temperance friends, we would say, we are all staunch tee-totallers.

Abolitionists! The hired laborer of the North deeply sympathizes with his brother slave at the South.

Friends of Peace, who is more interested in peace than the workington, who is obliged to do the fighting, and then foot the bills?

We are oppressed on all sides. Who then needs your countenance and aid more than the laboring classes? They are the producers

of all that is useful, good and beautiful in art, should they not reap the benefits of their labor? Come, then, all ye that feel for the cause of bleeding humanity, give us a helping hand to lead on in the good work which we have begun. Come, and the banks of our noble river, with their quick water, shall join in a general shout for *“Liberty”*, telling our oppressors that “we know our rights, and knowing dare maintain them.” By union, we shall help along “the good time that is coming,” and our cause in the end will be crowned with success. So, come one, come all!

The War!—To the Friends of the Voice.

To-day we enter upon the second volume of the *“Voice of Industry”*. And it is with pride and gratitude that we look back upon past and present, with enthusiastic hope to the future. In our reform sheet, so radical, so philanthropic in its doctrines and purposes as the *“Voice”* has been, meets with so much public favor. It is rarely indeed, that any newspaper, however truckling and sycophantic, should meet with such a measure of success. It has not, indeed met the entire expense of its original outlay and weekly issue.

For commencing without patrons, without an existing public sentiment to sustain it, without any visible means of support, it seems almost miraculous, that it should not have met the fate of other similar efforts. But contrary to the expectations of many of its friends and to the false prophecy of its enemies, it has passed safely through its first volume, and we begin the new year with renewed hope and courage. Its list of paying subscribers, has now been swelled to nearly two thousand, and is rapidly on the increase; its press and type have been purchased, and now are owned by the *“Voice”*, which means support, it seems almost miraculous, that it should not have met the fate of other similar efforts. But contrary to the expectations of many of its friends and to the false prophecy of its enemies, it has passed safely through its first volume, and we begin the new year with renewed hope and courage. 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