

WEST-CAROLINA RECORD.

THE STRONGEST BULWARK OF OUR COUNTRY—THE POPULAR HEART.

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RUTHERFORDTON, N. C.

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"A sower went forth to sow."

I
A sower went forth to sow;
His eyes were wild with woe;
He crushed the flowers beneath his feet,

Nor felt the perfume, warm and sweet,
That prayed for pity everywhere.
O'er that brown and bladeless place
By iron, and to heaven laid bare.

He shook the seed that he carried
Of love is a thunder-fail.
He shook it, as God shakes hail
Over a doomed land.

When lightnings interlace
The sky and the earth, and his wand
Of love is a thunder-fail.
Thus did that sower sow:

His seed was human blood,
And tears of women and men.
And I, who near him stood,
Said: When the crop comes, then

There will be sobbing and sighing,
And souls to hell-fire flying,
And a woe that is worse than woe.

II

It was an autumn day
When next I went that way.
And what, think you, did I see?
What was it that I heard?

The song of a sweet-voiced bird?
Nay—but the song of many,
Through-thrilled with praising prayer!

Of all those voices not any
Was sad of memory.
And a sea of sunlight flowed,
And a golden harvest glowed!

On my face I fell down there;
I hid my weeping eyes,
I said: O Lord, Thou art wise!
And I thank Thee, again and again,

For the sower whose name is Pain.
—"The Old Cabinet," Scribner's for August.

The Little Laborers of New York City.

It is estimated on trustworthy grounds that over 100,000 children are at work in the factories of New York and the neighboring districts, while from 15,000 to 20,000 are "floaters," drifting from one factory to another.

Of these the envelope factories employ about 8000 children, one-quarter of whom are fifteen years of age. The average earnings of the little workers are \$3 per week.

The ventilation in the factories is generally good. The gold-leaf factories employ a large number of children, though the exact statistics of the number can not be given.

This occupation requires much skill and delicacy of touch; it is not severe, but demands constant attention. The outside air is carefully excluded from these factories, owing to the fragile nature of the material used.

The girls employed are mostly over fifteen years of age. The burning of gold, silver, and china-ware is mostly done by girls, some of whom are under thirteen years of age.

Singularly enough, it is said that men in this business require to wear breastplates, in order to prevent injury from the steel instruments employed, while the girls who labor at it sit at long tables, their undefended breasts pressing against the handle of the frame.

Paper-collar factories are a very important branch of children's labor. Fully 8000 girls from twelve to sixteen years of age are employed in it. A girl can count and box 18,000 collars in a day of ten hours.

Paper-box factories, embracing all sorts and sizes, from a match to a work box, employ at least 10,000 children. These become very expert, and often invent new patterns. The material being cheap, the children are permitted to take home enough to do extra work, and are thus, in fact, excluded from night school.

In regard to factories for making artificial flowers it is extremely difficult to obtain trustworthy information, as access to the shops is rigidly refused. After considerable investigation, it seems to us that from 10,000 to 12,000 children are engaged in them, of whom nearly 8000 are under twelve years of age. Many are only seven years old. The latter are employed preparing and cutting feathers for coloring.

Employers claim this to be a healthy business, but, judging from the pale and sickly countenances of the girls, we doubt the assertion.

Another important industry employing children in the city is the manufacture of tobacco. The tobacco factories contain fully 10,000 children, of whom 5000 at least are under fifteen years.

The youngest child we saw employed in them was four years of age. He was engaged in stripping tobacco, and his average earnings were about one dollar per week.

Many laborers work all their lives in these factories. We saw persons as old as eighty years in them. A man seventy years of age told us he had spent thirty years in one factory. His two boys had entered the factory with him at the age of ten and twelve years, and were now at work as men in the same shop.

Another, the foreman, and general workshop manager, had entered that factory thirty-five years ago, when a boy ten years of age. In some of these factories boys under fifteen years are employed in dusky cellars and basements, preparing, bringing, and sweetening the weed preliminary to "stemming."

The under-ground life in these damp, cavernous places tends to keep the little workers stunted in body and mind. Other boys ten to twelve were squatting on the floors, whetting the knives of the cutting machines with a mixture of ram and water applied with a sponge.

The rapidity with which the girls work is wonderful. A girl of sixteen years can put up thirteen gross of packages of chewing tobacco in tin-foil, and twenty-two gross in paper, in one day. Girls and boys from twelve to fourteen years earn in this business from four to five dollars per week. Some little girls only eight years of age earn \$3 per week.

The fact is that these children are often able to perform the same amount of this light labor as adults, while they only receive a portion of the pay given to older laborers. Thus the children who ought to be in school are made to deprive older laborers of their employment and remuneration.

Still another branch absorbs a great number of children—the twine factories. No accurate estimate can be obtained of the number of little laborers in these, but it is known to be very large. In one up-town factory alone, 200 children, mostly girls are employed.

This work is dangerous. The "hacking machines" are generally tended by boys from ten to fifteen years of age. Their attention must be riveted on the machinery, and can not relax for a moment, or the danger to life or limb is imminent.

The "twisting machines," attended to by girls, are equally dangerous. Many have lost their fingers, or joints of them, that were caught in the twine. Only great presence of mind has saved many of these girls from losing the whole hand.

We know in one instance, in a single night school in New York, five factory girls who had each lost a finger or thumb. It is evident that strict legislation is needed here, as it has been in England, to protect these young workers from dangerous machinery.

The air of these twine factories is filled with floating particles of cotton and flax, and must be exceedingly unhealthy. It will be seen from these condensed statistics what an immense population of children in this city are the little slaves of capital.

How intense and wearying is their daily toil, and how much of their health and education is sacrificed in these early years and premature labor! The evil in New York is evidently enormous and most threatening to our future. These children, stunted in body and mind, are growing up to be our voters and legislators. There are already over 60,000 persons in New York who can not read or write. These lit-

tle overworked operatives will swell this ignorant throng. Fortunately this great abuse has not escaped the attention of humane men.

An ingenious effort for the benefit of the destitute children of the city is the "placing out system," which has been carried out by the Children's Aid Society during the last twenty years with such remarkable success.

The society early saw the immense benefit in taking advantage of the peculiar economical condition of this country in treating questions of pauperism. They at once recognized the fact, and resolved to make use in their plans, of the endless demand for children's labor in the Western country.

The housekeeping life of a Western farmer is somewhat peculiar. The servants of the household must be members of the family, and be treated more or less as equals. It is not convenient nor agreeable for a Western peasant to have a rude European peasant at the same table and in the same room with the family.

She prefers a child whom she can train up in her own way. A child's labor is needed for a thousand things on a Western farm. Children, too, are valued and thought much of. The same opportunity is given to working children as to all other children.

They share fully in the active and inspiring Western life. They are moulded by the social tone around them, and they grow up under the very best circumstances which can surround a poor boy or girl.

No treatment which man could devise could possibly be so beneficial to the laboring children of this city as that afforded by Western farms. Moreover, a child's place at a table in our rural households is of small account. Of food there is enough and an abundance. Generosity, and especially toward children, is the rule in our Western districts.

This benevolent association, taking advantage of these great facts early made arrangements for scattering such little workers of the city as were friendless and homeless all through the Western country. Western agents are employed who travel through remote farming districts, and discover where there is an especial call for children's labor.

An arrangement is then made with the leading citizens of the village to receive a little detachment of these homeless children of the great city.

On a given day in New York the ragged and dirty little ones are gathered to central office from the streets and lanes, from the industrial schools and lodging-houses of the society, are cleaned and dressed, and sent away, under charge of an experienced agent, to seek "a new home in the West."

When they arrive in village a great public meeting is held, and a committee of citizens formed to decide on the applications. Farmers come in from twenty to thirty-five miles round, looking for the "model boys" who shall do the light work of the farm and aid the wife in her endless household labor; childless mothers seek for children that shall replace those that are lost; housekeeper look for girls to train up; mechanics seek for boys for their trades; and kind-hearted men, with comfortable homes and plenty of children, think it their duty to do something for the orphans who have no fair chance in the great city.

Thus in a few hours the little colony is placed in comfortable homes. Subsequently, if changes should be necessary, the committee replace the children, or the agent revisits the village, while a steady correspondence is kept up by the central office with the employers. In this way something like 25,000 boys and girls have been placed in country homes during the past twenty years. Nearly 3000 a year are now sent forth by the society. Great numbers of these children have acquired property, or have

grown up to positions of influence and respectability.—Harper's Magazine.

Sincerity.

Give me sincere friends, or none. This hollow glitter of smiles and words—compliments that mean nothing—protestant of affection as solid as the froth upon champagne—invitations that are but pretty sentences, uttered because such things are customary—are worthless to me. There is no need of them. It is proper to be civil and courteous to the most indifferent stranger; but why assume friendship's outward show when no reality underlies it? When one feels friendship, the object of that sentiment cannot suffer, and leave your hearts untroubled—cannot be slandered, leaving us unharmed. To see our friends successful, even beyond our own powers of success, is a great joy to us; to hear that a friend is applauded is a pleasure. Yet, every day, men, who fancy themselves friends show mean envy of each other's luck hits; and women, who kiss on both cheeks when they meet, will whisper treacherous little stories of each other—yes, and whisper them to men. So that, when most women say to me, "We were talking of you just now!" I wonder only—for one is not sincere enough to say it out—whether it has been possible to squeeze one drop of scandal into the hundred story of my life; or, failing that, how many times they have been multiplying my age by 10, to prove me older than I confess myself to be. But it is not sincere to praise everybody. It sounds amiable, but men cannot all be "charming," and women all "so sweet." I like to know from the speech of men and women that this one is a friend; that, a mere acquaintance. I think warm-hearted people are never general admirers. All cannot be loved sincerely; all cannot be really even pleasant. Constant laudation of everybody may be a pleasant form of insincerity, but it is insincerity, after all, for me. If Heaven will help me, I will be sincere. I will not abuse my intimate friends when their backs are turned; I will not praise any one I do not like, I will not kiss women I hate, nor give men loving looks and loving smiles when I do not like them. And as I do, unto others may they do unto me, for I deserve no better.—Alice Aspinwall.

Commercial Morality.

BY THOMAS MORRIS.

What is the reason that so many leading business men, who are members of churches, seem to be so reluctant to attend our prayer and class-meetings? They have no relish for them, and habitually stay away. This is the case with many business men, and especially with the wealthier. They say to the poorer and more godly members of the church, "You do the praying, and we'll do the paying?" This is no fancy picture. The original is not difficult to find. Places could be named when wealthy business-men, stewards and trustees, have scarce entered a class or prayer-meeting for years. How is this? Is there not something in the habits of our business men which they instinctively feel are opposed to the claims of an enlightened conscience? Can they honestly say as in the presence of their Maker, "I am doing unto my neighbor as I wish him to do to me?" Do they not make a practice of telling lies in trade, and, when reproved will even justify it, and boldly say that business cannot be conducted without it? Some have more than one price for the same quality of goods. They will take advantage of the ignorance of the buyer by asking more for an article than it is honestly worth. What is this but downright robbery? What,

wonder, then, that they have no relish for prayer or class-meeting. The wonder would be if they had. Better stay away forever than be a hypocrite! Let me relate a story. The steward of the Duke of Wellington once purchased a farm, which his Grace had long desired to add to his estate at Stratfield. After the delivery of the deed, the steward said: "I congratulate your Grace on the good bargain you have made."

"Good bargain! What bargain?" cried the Duke.

"Why, sir, that farm was valued at \$5,500, but, owing to the difficulties the farmer was in; we got it for \$4,000."

"In that case," the Duke rejoined, "you will please refund \$1,500 to the late owner, and never let me hear again of cheap land!"

This was downright honesty. But would not many men who hold the "Iron Duke" in contempt for his lack of piety have failed to act in so honorable and Christian a manner? The rule of trade with many so-called Christians now-a-days is to buy as cheap as you can without regard to the value of the purchased article. "Squeeze the lemon to the rind," is their motto. The greater the seller's need, the harder the bargain is driven. This is the case with regard to many of what are called "good bargains."

"I have got a bargain," say you. Yes, indeed, but at what a price! At the expense of your own honesty and your neighbor's purse. Ask thy conscience—How will this good bargain over which I have chuckled and rubbed my hands in glee, how will it stand fires of the last day? "What doth the Lord require of thee but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." To be just, that is the first thing. Be just to thyself, cheat not thine own soul. Be just to thy neighbor. Be just to thy God. For, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Those Queer Modoc Names.

Our readers have probably often wondered in what strange way the Modocs came by their queer names. Hooker Jim, Shacknasty Frank, Bogus Charley, Captank Jack, have anything but an Indian sound. An article by a writer in the Savannah News gives the explanation. In every tribe a large number of the Indian youths have no names. Under a liberal construction of our Indian treaties, every male, if but a month old, is accounted a warrior and entitled to an annuity. The government requires every warrior's name to be entered by the United States agent in duplicate books, so as to obtain a census of the tribes. These infant annuitants are therefore given names according to the fancy of the agents, who often tax their ingenuity and expose their want of good taste in giving them unmeaning and ridiculous epithets—names which mar the nomenclature of Indian tribes. Singularly enough, when these names are given and recorded in the book of record, the Indians, catching the words, though ignorant of their meaning, religiously adhere to the names given to their children, believing that by changing them they would forfeit their annuity rights.

The New York Herald informs us that "the Second Auditor of the Treasury has just completed the settlement of the account of Jacob Thompson, Secretary of the Interior under Buchanan's administration, and acting at that time as trustee of the Indian fund. It is shown there is a deficit of \$821,000. The statement is made that it has not been possible to take up these accounts until recently, owing to the fact that all previous accounts were required to be settled before reaching Mr. Thompson's case."