

The Carolina Watchman.

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A STATESMAN'S CALM SURVEY.

The report of a conversation with Horatio Seymour comes, says the New York World, in the present feverish and unhealthful state of public opinion, like a pleasant breeze through a hospital. There is healing on its wings, and a certain sense of freshness and breadth of scope breathes through it. The statesman has ceased to be partisan, but he has not ceased to be Democratic in his cast of thought. The difficulties of the times have a few terrors for him, because he knew that they were to be expected in a popular Government tested by the evils that follow financial mismanagement, and because he has full faith in the ability of a popular government to surmount all threatening dangers. He considers Communism dangerous only where the lowest classes are without hope of attaining wealth or comfort, but in this country there are few who do not dream of winning more through individual exertion than Communism can hold out to them. He is even of opinion that the open and reckless advocacy of Communist theories of government will so far educate the public that they will be ready not only to reject all new experiments in that direction, but to reject those elements of Communism which the Republican party has already introduced into the National policy, and to receive once more in favor of the old-fashioned Democratic theories of non-interference on the part of the Government in business enterprises. He turns this point into a powerful argument for free trade. The protective tariff was based on the idea that it is the duty of Government to take care of private enterprises and foster particular interests. In pursuance of that theory Congress selected certain manufactures for protection. Virtually the people were taxed to keep the artisans engaged and to make the capital invested in these manufactures profitable. This is Communism, and Horatio Seymour thinks everybody will recognize the fact when the plea for a protective tariff is set beside the plea for the employment of all idle workmen by the Government. Indeed he goes so far as to describe the former as the more dangerous form of that fallacy "that political power, and not industry and pursuits adapted to the condition of our country, is the true source of wealth and prosperity." If the Communism which has taxed the consumers of the country to procure for New England factories and Pennsylvania iron mills and mines a brief prosperity has been followed by bitter distress and utter prostration among the protected operatives and interests, what good can come of devoting the principle? If sustaining our ship-builders by protective navigation laws has resulted in the destruction of our foreign commerce and the ruin of our ship-building industry, what can we expect if the nation take in hand the management of all business enterprise? This argument is double edged, and Socialist and Republican alike win from it. Never was more said in short space for the Democratic principle that the functions of government should be confined within the narrowest possible limits, and the ordinary avocations of life left to individual enterprise and the people of the neighborhood. The issue stated in this way would be Free Trade and Home Rule against Communism and Centralization. Mr. Seymour thinks that the West lost seriously by the inflation of the currency, but he holds that that section is now growing rich far more rapidly than the East, as it is selling more than it buys and profits by the appreciation of our currency in value. Another reversal of valuation would be a fruitful disaster, but the continuation of the present tendency will gradually bring the preponderance of political power west of the Alleghanies.

To sum the whole matter up, continues the World, Mr. Seymour cheerfully declares that the agitation in politics which seems to threaten confusion and disorder will result in sound views on labor, government, and finance. The new parties may elect a few candidates, but they will pass away, since they appeal to men as members of particular classes, not as citizens.

THE STORE CLERK.

Clerks in our shops often make a very serious mistake by overmuch praise of the goods they exhibit. Any sensible person wishes to examine articles before purchasing, and is disgusted when a voluble clerk keeps up an incessant strain concerning the excellence, beauty, cheapness, etc., of what it is simply his duty to show with courtesy, explaining what may not be obvious, and giving such information as may be desired.

"The very best fabric ever made," concluded a clerk, the other day, after much puffing of his goods. "I am selling it to you at less than the actual cost of manufacturing."

The lady at the counter turned away saying, "I will not take the goods. I have no wish to pay less than the cost of manufacture, and no merchant can afford to do business on such terms."

Of course there are cases where goods are purchased by merchants under such circumstances that they can afford to sell at less than the manufacturing cost. And stating this fact is very well. But the persistent, incessant commendation of goods, combined with a disagreeable air of insisting on a purchase, is very obnoxious to all refined people.

THE CURRENCY QUESTION.

(From the People's Press.)
Record of North Carolina Representatives
—The Hon. W. M. Robbins.

We follow up to-day our work of exhibiting the record of our Representatives in Congress on the absorbing issues of currency and finance. And we begin, as most convenient, with that of the Hon. W. M. Robbins, of the Seventh District whose record is, substantially, that of our other Democratic Congressmen—one of entire consistency in favor of a liberal monetary policy, in opposition to forced resumption and contraction, the gold monopoly and favoritism to the bondholders and money-kings. We premise that we are indebted to Mr. R. himself, for the compilation:

1. When the Resumption Act was passed by the 43rd Congress, he voted against it.
2. He has constantly favored its repeal; and he labored and voted for the repealing bill which passed the House Nov. 23, 1877.
3. January 22, 1874, the House Committee of Ways and Means reported a bill enlarging the limit of United States legal tender notes to \$400,000,000. Mr. Robbins voted for this. Amendments were offered to this bill limiting the amount to \$350,000,000 and \$322,000,000, respectively. Mr. Robbins voted against both these amendments.
4. April 11, 1874, Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, offered in the House a proposition to issue \$400,000,000 additional United States Legal Tender notes, and gradually substitute them in place of the National Bank currency. Mr. Robbins voted for this; but that House being Republican it was lost.
5. June 19, 1878, the Committee on Banking and Currency had a bill before the House providing for the gradual substitution of United States Legal Tender notes for National Bank currency. Mr. Robbins voted for this bill, and it passed the Democratic House.
6. June 18, 1878, Mr. Robbins voted for Townsend's bill to forbid the sale of bonds to raise money for resumption purposes; and also requiring the Government to receive legal tender notes for duties on imports. This bill received a majority vote but not the required two-thirds majority.
7. June 20, 1878, Mr. Robbins voted for Southard's bill providing that payment of customs duties might be made in legal tender notes. This bill passed the House, but failed in the Senate.
8. January 29, 1878, Mr. Robbins voted for the Matthews' resolution declaring that U. S. Bonds are payable in silver as well as gold, and not in gold only, as the Republican Congress in 1869 had enacted they should be, in order to favor the bondholders.
9. Robbins voted for the bill remonetizing silver in the early part of the late session, and in favor of sundry amendments to it which looked to the enlargement of the amount of silver coinage.
10. February 28, 1878, the President having vetoed the Silver Bill, Mr. Robbins voted to override the veto and pass the bill, and this was done.
11. April 29, 1873, Mr. Robbins voted for Fort's bill to prevent the further contraction and retirement of legal tender notes, and to require the re-issue of such of these as might come into the Treasury in the course of business. This bill passed the House.

ROMANCE OF A NUN.

Mother Theresa, the oldest member of the order of Carmelite Nuns in America, died recently, at the convent of the order, corner of Caroline and Biddle streets, Baltimore, in the 81st year of her age. Her name in the world was Miss Mary H. Sewall, and her birthplace was at Georgetown, D. C., in 1797. Her father was an officer in the Revolutionary war, and, it is believed, was a member of Gen. Washington's staff. He was wounded in battle, and Gen. Washington, who was particularly interested in him, stopped on one of the battlefields until his officer's wounds were attended to. Mother Theresa, when a child, was a pet of Gen. Washington, and often sat on his lap. When 19 years of age she took the veil and vows of the order at the only Carmelite convent in the country at that time, which was in Charles county, Md. The cause that led her to take the vows, as told by herself, is rather singular in its character. She was engaged to be married, and the time for the wedding had been fixed. She was called to attend the funeral of an intimate friend—a young lady of remarkable beauty—whose death had been a severe affliction to her. The burying ground was some distance from her home, and the coffin which contained the body of her friend was borne the whole distance, as was then the custom, upon the shoulders of pall-bearers. By an accident upon the way, the coffin slipped from the grasp of the bearers, and the body of the dead girl, clad in its white robes, was thrown out upon the roadside. Miss Sewall, who was a near witness of the accident, was so terrified by the view of the dead body, that she immediately resolved upon a life of religious seclusion. Her engagement of marriage was broken, and she at once entered the convent.

MONEY.

There is more money now by nearly three times than there was in 1860, but it is scarcer than it was then, and the pertinent inquiry is made, where has all the money gone? There are thousands of dollars scattered all through the country in sums of from \$50 to \$5,000, in the hands of farmers and non-trading persons. This money is laid away and kept inactive, consequently drawn from circulation as effectually as if it had burned. And why is it? The legislation not only in North Carolina, but in many other States, for the past twelve years has been such as to destroy confidence by the passage of the homestead, bankrupt, stay and other laws that would prevent the collection of debts, consequently men are afraid to lend their money to their neighbors, as they do not know who is good, and to properly secure a loan, a mortgage was to be taken, little investigated and other formalities gone through with that the common run of people are not acquainted with, consequently an attorney has to be employed, and expenses incurred that it makes it too costly to loan small sums, and the result is that thousands of dollars in every community are lying idle, that would, if we had good laws, be loaned out at small rate of interest. This money, if it gets in circulation at all, is deposited in some bank at a small interest, where it is then loaned out second handed at one per cent. a month, and when used at this price in business eats up profits and makes business unremunerative, in other words, keeps all the business of the country engaged in work paying its profits to the money lender.

Before the homestead and like laws were passed, when everything a man had was bound for his debts, if a man was worth one hundred dollars his credit to that amount was as good as a man who was worth a hundred thousand. A man with small means was enabled by his credit to trade and make money and rise in the world. But the homestead law has struck down the credit of the poor man, when credit was his only capital, and has bound him in shackles stronger than iron, that will keep him and his children after him poor. It has built up a moneyed aristocracy by prescribing how much a man must be worth before he can be trusted. Poor men, young men, who aspire to accomplish something, with only their aspirations, their energies, their capacity and their credit as their capital, have had this taken away from them by law, and it takes years of toil and savings under difficulties to place themselves outside the limits fixed by law that makes them responsible.

The farmer raises his produce and his stock. His neighbor can't buy from him because if he is not worth so much money the law makes him irresponsible, consequently unsafe. The result is competition in buying is lessened, and men with money or good credit are enabled to fix the price of almost everything they buy from the producer, and when a poor devil who has the protecting arm of the homestead law thrown around him, gets credit for anything he has to beg and promise and mortgage for it, and pay two prices. The homestead law injures the poor man because it destroys his credit. To the moneyed man it is an advantage because it gives him exclusive control of the business of the country and enables him to fix the buying and selling price of everything, and the mortgage system that follows in its trial will eventually rob the poor man of this homestead for which he has sacrificed his credit and his manhood. If we ever get the good old prosperous times of our fathers again, we must return to the old honest ways of our fathers, when the laws of the land compelled a man to make his word as good as his bond. The government may issue greenbacks until it is as plentiful as leaves on the trees, it will do no good. Nothing short of that good credit that is born of confidence will ever restore prosperous times to our country.—*Winston Sentinel.*

NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

Influence of Electricity on Plants.

Some interesting experiments as to the influence of atmospheric electricity on the nutrition of plants have lately been made by M. Grandean, and communicated by him to the Academy of Sciences, of Paris. He placed two plants of the same species (tobacco, maize, wheat) under same conditions as to soil, aeration, isolation, etc., but the one withdrawn from the action of atmospheric electricity by means of a Faraday's cage. The plants thus withdrawn elaborated, in equal times, 50 or 60 per cent less of living matter than the others. Plants of small elevation above the ground are also affected by atmospheric electricity. The centrifugal amount of proteic matter formed appears not to depend sensibly on this action; it is proportional to the yield. The proportion of ash is higher in plants removed from the electricity, and the proportion of water is less. The French scientist, however, does not explain why it is that two plants of the same species, growing in a field side by side, and under the same conditions, do not always attain the same development nor elaborate the same amount of material from the soil.

BILL ARP AGAIN.

He Makes a Dig at the Officeholders and Office-seekers.

"Bill Arp" having threshed out his wheat, seems to think he needn't work any more, and is resting himself by writing letters to the *Constitution*. His last is in that paper of Sunday, and this is an extract from it:

"Well, the corn is growin' out of sight. It ain't givin' us any chance to lay it by decently, for the rain come along every time when we get ready to plow, and then we have to wait for the ground to dry. Old Peckerwood remarked that it was the rainiest time he ever experienced, and hereckoned somebody must have hung up a power of dead makes this spring. If these good seasons continue, there will be corn enough made for another small war, and I'm afraid it won't bring more than 25 cents a bushel. I everybody had a little money we would all be comfortable for things we have to buy are powerful cheap. But that's the trouble, and I've noticed for thirty years that when the things I wanted are cheap as dirt I didn't have a cent to buy with. I do believe it is better to have a pocket full of poor money and let things be high, for there is comfort in feelin' it tho' it ain't worth much. When it took a hundred dollars in 'Confed' to buy a pound of tobacco I felt sorter like a gentleman, if I had the money, but now I feel as mean as a yaller dog when my assets gitts down to half a dollar.

I think I understand those law-makers purty well. It is their intrust to make money scarce. You see they are keeful not to reduce their salaries, tho' one dollar will buy three times as much now as it did when they voted themselves six thousand dollars a year. Its no wonder they 'stand for the reelection.' Human nature would stand forever on such a hand as that. But we, the people, are the sufferers, for if they don't reduce taxes, we are just like them mules that pulled round the thrasher—work, work all the day long at the crack of the whip, but the wheat is all for the white folks. I suppose we will get a little of the straw. Times use to was when the people called a man from his retirement, and axed him to serve them, but now-a-days a feller can hold on to an office until he thinks it belongs to him. He don't wait to be called but he gits there first—ahead of everybody, and you can hear him a mumblin', 'In in, and I'll be darned if I ain't goin to stay in. I've got some personal friends, and I can get the niggers and scawlags, and you may go to the devil with your convention.'

"You see they control the scawlags by keepin' 'em in office, and scawlags control the niggers, and they all mix up lash together and call it independence. This lash party is growin, bigger and bigger, and if our people don't mind they will absorb a heap more sorebacks than Tombs. Bob never would work in a wagon with a driver behind nohow, and I have thought that maybe if I get in the rear and but it around like a goat, and once or twice in a while turn the concern over, he would be satisfied. But somehow or other I like Bob—as a man—not as a very great man—for in my opinion, one man ain't very much greater than another nohow. The principal difference is in the quantity of conceit and impudence. Time was when modesty was one of the earmarks of greatness, but that's a lost art now.

Yours, BILL ARP.

THE SAGACITY OF ANTS.

Professor Leydi, in a recent article, states that in order to ascertain whether a house he had just entered was (as he suspected) seriously infested with red ants he placed a piece of sweet cake in every room. At noon every piece was covered with ants. A cup of turpentine oil being provided, each piece was picked up with forceps, and the ants tapped into the oil. The cake was replaced, and in the evening was again found covered with ants. The same process was gone through the following two days, morning, noon, and night. The third day the number of ants had greatly diminished, and on the fourth there were none. He at first supposed the ants had all been destroyed, but in the attic he observed a few feasting on some dead house flies, which led him to suspect that the remaining ants had become suspicious of the sweet cake. He accordingly distributed through the house pieces of bacon, which were afterwards found swarming with ants. This was repeated with the same result for several days, when, in like manner with the cake, the ants ceased to visit the bacon. Pieces of cheese were next tried with the same result, but with an undoubted thinning in the number of ants. When the cheese proved no longer attractive, dead grasshoppers were supplied from the garden. These again proved too much for the ants, but after a few days' trial neither grasshoppers nor anything else attracted them; nor has the house been infested with them since.—*Boston Journal of Chemistry.*

Dr. Ganse, of St. Louis, uttered a true sentiment, when speaking to the working men, of the Sabbath, and its value to them, he said, "Don't girdle the tree that shades you."

STATE BANKS.

NEWBERN, N. C., Aug. 26, 1878.

MR. EDITOR:—From the various communications and comments which have appeared in our papers, it seems to be the universal opinion, that the only means we have of relieving the present financial distress, is the re-establishment of State Banks. It is only through them that the volume of currency can be increased, the means of borrowing money made more easy, and the rate of interest reduced. Such being the case, is it not well worth making an effort to re-establish them?

The great impediment in the way is a United States tax of 10 per cent on their circulation. This tax is unjust, and injurious to the best interests of the community. It is unjust, because it discriminates in the interest of a few, and against the interest of the masses of the people. It is unjust, because it creates monopolies which should not exist. It is unjust, because it allows the National Banks to charge 18 per cent interest, while others can only take 6 per cent. It is injurious because it prevents competition, (which competition, if allowed,) would enable money to be obtained for at least one-half the rates now charged.

In order that Congress may be induced to repeal the tax law alluded to, it is necessary to bring all the influence possible to bear when Congress again meets.

During the late session of Congress I was instrumental in getting up 40 or 50 petitions asking for the repeal of this law. The petitions were referred to the Committee on Banks. I received a number of letters from our Senators and Representatives urging me to forward more petitions, saying it was "only by them that the voice of the people could be heard." The large accumulation of business, and the early adjournment of Congress, prevented any action being taken. It is now proposed to make a united effort, and as soon as Congress assembles to pour in petitions from every section of the country. If the proper efforts are made, these petitions will contain the signatures of not less than two hundred thousand persons. There should not be less than twenty thousand from N. Carolina.

I have had a number of petitions printed, which I will cheerfully furnish to any one who will simply get signatures to them, and when Congress meets forward them to United States Senators and Representatives.

Very respectfully,
WILLIAM H. OLIVER.

AMMONIA IN THE AIR.

Dr. R. Angus Smith, who has done so much for the chemistry of the air, lately read before the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society a paper on the distribution of ammonia, in which he described the simplest method yet proposed for determining the amount of ammonia in the air. And since such ammonia may be taken as an index of the amount of decayed matter in any locality, the hygienic importance of an easy test for it is not small. The availability of the proposed test arises from the circumstance that ammonia is deposited from the air on every object exposed thereto. "If you pick up a stone in a city, and wash off the matter on its surface, you will find the water to contain ammonia. If you wash a chair or a table or anything in a room, you will find ammonia in the washing. If you wash your hands you will find the same, and your paper, your pen, your table cloth, and clothes all show ammonia, and even the glass cover to an ornament has retained some on its surface." In short ammonia sticks to everything, and can be readily washed off with pure water.

Hence Dr. Smith inferred that he might save himself much of the trouble he had been taking in laborious washing of air to determine the presence of ammonia, and gain the desired end by testing the superficial deposit of ammonia which gathers on clean substances during ordinary exposure. Accordingly he suspended small glass flasks in various parts of his laboratory and examined them daily, washing the outer surfaces with pure water, and testing at once for ammonia with the Nessler solution. Subsequently a great many observations were made by means of glasses exposed to air in door and out, where the air was sweet and where it was foul. By using glasses of definite size it was easy to determine whether the ammonia in the air was or was not in excess. In his laboratory experiments ammonia was observed when the glasses had been exposed an hour and a half.

Of the practical working of the test Dr. Smith remarks that it must not be forgotten that the ammonia may be pure or it may be connected with organic matter; and consequently this mode of inquiry is better suited as a negative test to show what is present. When ammonia is absent we may be sure that the air is not polluted by decaying matter; when it is present there is need of caution. Dr. Smith adds that he hopes to make this a ready popular test for air, a test for sewer gases, for overcrowding, for cleanliness of habitations, and even of furniture, as well as for smoke and all the sources of ammonia. Of course it must be used with consideration and the conclusions must not be drawn by an ignorant person.—*Scientific American.*

Many persons sigh for death when it seems far off, but the inclination vanishes when the boat upssets, or the locomotive runs off the track or the measles set in.

A placard in the window of a patent-medicine man in Paris reads as follows: "The public are requested not to mistake this shop for that of another quack just opposite."

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DRIVING A HEN.

When a woman has a hen to drive into a coop, she takes hold of her skirts with both hands, shakes them quietly towards the delinquent, and says "Shew, there!" The hen takes one look at the object to convince herself that it's a woman, and then stalks majestically into the coop in perfect disgust at the sex. A man doesn't do that way. He goes out doors and says: "It is singular nobody here can drive a hen but me," and picking up a stick of wood, hurls it at the offending biped, and observes: "Get in there, you thief!" The hen immediately loses her reason and dashes to the other end of the yard. The man straightway dashes after her. She comes back again with her head down, her wings out and followed by an assortment of stovewood, fruit cans and clinkers, with a much puffing and very mad man in the rear. Then she skins up under the barn, and over a fence or two, and around the house, and back again to the coop, and all the while talking as only an excited hen can talk, and all the while followed by things convenient for handling, and a man whose coat is on the saw buck, and whose hat is on the ground, and whose perspiration and profanity appear to have no limit. By this time the other hens have come out to take a hand in the debate and help dodge missiles, and then the man says every hen on the place shall be sold in the morning, and puts on his things and goes down the street, and the woman has every one of those hens housed and counted in two minutes, and the only sound heard on the place is the hammering by the oldest boy as he mends the broken pickets.—*Selected.*

These plans of driving are applicable in the cases of other things than hens. The person who goes about the business gently and calmly will seldom fail of success, while for him who resorts to the fire and thunder plan we may always look with doubts as to successful results.—*Mobile Register.*

General Lee's Advice to Officer's Wives.

I have heard General Lee relate the following incident: At a dinner party given by General Taylor shortly after his accession, General, then Capt. Lee chanced to be on the right of Mrs. Bliss at the table. They were discussing army life, the separation is entailed, and how hard it was for an officer's wife to know what to do, whether to follow her husband or stay with her mother. "Of course Capt. Lee," said Mrs. Bliss, "like all you men, you think a woman should leave all and cling to her husband." "Not so, madam," he said; "my advice is, stay as long as you can under your mother's wing. You never can have more than one mother, but a pretty woman can always supply a husband's loss." Years afterwards he was again at the right of Mrs. Bliss at a dinner party, but Col. Bliss had died in the meantime; his widow had married again and of course bore a different name; and Captain Lee had become Colonel Lee. After discussing several subjects, she laughingly said, "Colonel, do you remember a piece of advice you once gave me?" "Indeed, I do, madam. It has been in my thoughts all day, but I would have never dared to remind you of it. You followed the advice, I see."

New Article of Commerce.

A new and valuable member of the group of elastic gums is found in the sap of the bully tree, which flourishes on the banks of the Orinoco and the Amazon. It is called *balata*, and ranks between caoutchouc and gutta percha in useful qualities. It resembles gutta percha so closely in its general properties that much of it is shipped from Guiana and sold yearly for gutta percha—although it has many points of superiority. It is tasteless, gives an agreeable odor on being warmed, may be cut like gutta percha, is tough and leathery, is remarkably flexible, and far more elastic than gutta percha. It becomes soft, and may be joined piece to piece, like gutta percha, at about 120° Fahr., but requires 270° Fahr. before melting. It is completely soluble in benzole and carbon disulphide in the cold. Turpentine dissolves it with the application of heat, while it is only partially soluble in anhydrous alcohol and ether. It becomes strongly electrified by friction, and is a better insulator of heat and electricity than gutta percha. Caustic alkalis and concentrated hydrochloric acid do not attack it; but concentrated sulphuric and nitric acids attack it as they do gutta percha.—*Scientific American.*

The Population of the Earth.—The fifth publication of Belmi and Wagner's well known "Population of the Earth," makes the number of the earth's human inhabitants for the current year 1,430,145,369, an increase of fifteen millions over the estimates of last year. The increase is attributed partly to natural growth, partly to exacter knowledge due to recent censuses among the grand geographical divisions is as follows: Europe, 312,387,480; Asia, 531,000,000; Africa, 205,219,500; Australasia and Polynesia, 4,411,300; America, 86,116,000.

A man in Detroit has recently invented an apparatus for arresting and extinguishing sparks. Are the girls going to stand that?

HARD TIMES.

"H," the New York correspondent of the Raleigh Observer, in a recent paper has the following to say to those who are crying out about hard times, and there is sound philosophy and common sense in it:

"The times are hard," are they? Stop a minute and think if it is not a great deal more in our speech than in our experience. You have a fair salary? Yes. Pretty good clothes? Yes. Live, as well as usual? Yes. Pay your debts? Yes. Enjoy your work? Yes. Live peacefully with your family and neighbors? Yes. Sleep well? Yes. Are you not a disciple of the "sand-lot" orator? No. Then don't talk "hard times" longer. Nothing will help so much to the relief of a chronic discontentment as to turn the talk to "good times." A spirit of non-complaining is house, food, clothing, friends, to everybody.

Theoretical Reformers.

Speaking of the swarms of confident but ill-informed theorists who presumed to reform the workmen of the country before the Congressional Committee for investigating the "labor question," in session in this city, the *Tribe* sarcastically, yet not unjustly, remarks that "it is a curious circumstance that the men who do not own a dollar of capital, and never, except upon compulsion, do a day's work at any kind of labor, are the ones who understand better than anybody else the relations of capital and labor, and are the most competent to adjust each to the other and to the State. Curiously enough, too, the men who own capital and the men who live by labor are so ignorant of the whole subject that they cannot be permitted to arrange their own business. The capitalist cannot negotiate with the workman for the labor which makes capital productive, nor the workman treat with the capitalist for the exchange of his labor for pecuniary reward, without the interference of other men who not only do not labor nor employ labor, but who have never studied this or any other question, and have hardly reflected soberly upon its most superficial aspects. And these latter are the ones who speak with authority."

It is a pity that so many political newspapers and politicians mistake the vapors of such idle theorists for the views of workmen. Our sober-minded and practical artisans and mechanics, and their constant numerically as well as industrially the real working class, are not given to such crack-brained schemes for inaugurating the millennium by government proclamation.

Printing in Japan.

The advantages possessed by the art of printing with movable types are incontestable. For Europeans, whose alphabet is composed of a small number of letters only, nothing is more easy than to form words. But it is a different thing entirely in countries which, like China and Japan, have a particular character to express every idea every word. According to the correspondent of a journal from which we have borrowed these details, the complete collection of Japanese types comprise 5,000 characters, of which 3,000 are in constant use, and 2,000 are employed occasionally. These are arranged in a Japanese composing room on shelves like the books in a library; the compositor is thus obliged to be continually on the go while collecting his types. The great number of their characters for printing has thus far prevented the Chinese and Japanese from correspondingly electricity; the telegraph, that instrument of civilization, having remained in the hands of foreigners. It is no wonder then that the telephone has been received in Japan with the greatest favor.—*Le Journal de la Science.*

A Source of Hard Times.

Speaking of the vast and too great extent available—destruction of property by fire in this country, the *Evening* says that fires are increasing, both in numbers and destructiveness, far more rapidly than the increase of wealth and production. It is computed that from an annual loss by fire in 1865 of \$25,000,000, the annual loss, exclusive of exceptional fires such as Boston and Chicago (if they may be called "exceptional") has increased to \$100,000,000. The full significance of this statement cannot be realized unless analyzed. This loss is the irretrievable loss of human product and industry. It is the conversion of human blood, brain, and muscle, necessary to create \$100,000,000 of value, into ashes and smoke. Assuming the labor that produced this value to be worth \$2 per day, this loss is the loss of more than the combined labor of 100,000 men for one entire year. Then, too, it must be remembered that this is surplus production. It has been accumulated by producers after earning livelihoods for themselves and families, and paying their share of the cost to the government and their proportion to the burdens of society. It would require, then, the labor of 100,000 men for 20 years to replace by surplus production this annual loss. It is not only so much wealth subtracted from the resources of the country, but it is the loss of the productive power of so much capital.