

The Messenger.

State Liby
Paul

"EQUAL RIGHTS TO ALL; SPECIAL PRIVILEGES TO NONE."

Vol. 1.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., DECEMBER 2, 1887.

No. 32.

WHICH SHALL IT BE?

The majesty of the law has been vindicated and four men have been legally strangled as a warning to those who would "throttle the law."

The question still remains unanswered—which shall it be, order or anarchy.

The emphatic action repudiating anarchy and its teachings, taken at the recent session of the General Assembly, leaves no doubt as to the position of the Order of the Knights of Labor. It stands as the great conservative element of organized labor. Shall it continue to stand?

The answer will be given in the course taken by the various associations of employers formed and forming in the country.

It is useless to deny the existence of the movement having for its object the crushing out of the Knights of Labor. It is possible to crush this Order, but it is impossible to prevent organization. Destroy the Knights of Labor and another organization will take its place. And it will not be so peaceful and conservative.

This explains the attacks of the anarchists on the Order. They boldly say it is too slow and conservative for them. And the employers blindly aid the anarchists by seeking to destroy the only element of safety they may rely upon.

Pinkerton Hessians may serve for a time. Police and militia may be called to aid unjust and oppression. But it must be remembered that force breeds force. You can lead where you cannot drive. Better encourage reason, common sense and conservatism than provoke force, anarchy and bloodshed. The bayonets may begin to think, and, instead of defending, may destroy. The situation is very grave, and compels anxious thought.

Sustain and strengthen the Knights of Labor as the surest antidote for anarchy.—*Journal of United Labor.*

THE THIBODAUX AFFAIR.

The shooting of the two guards in Thibodaux, Louisiana, last week and the killing and wounding of several colored men has struck terror into the hearts of the community. Accounts from the scene of the trouble are conflicting, but all seem to agree that the two guards were shot by parties unknown, and that when the wounding of the guards became known, an armed force marched to the rear of the town where the shooting took place and began to wreak vengeance upon the colored men at whom they were incensed through the shooting of the guards. It is said positively that men were shot who had no connection whatever with the strike, and from what we can learn of the affair, reason seems to have been completely dethroned. An investigation is necessary in the interest of the law, peace and good order of the State, and the people should demand of the authorities that they investigate to the very bottom of the trouble. We have had different versions of the affair from parties who claim to have been present at the time, but as most every one appeared terror stricken, we have not published any of the statements, but will wait until the committee investigates the trouble and make their report.—*Southern Industry.*

WHAT MUST BE DONE?

"What must the producers do to save themselves from impending slavery?" asked a correspondent. They must think. A thinking people can never be enslaved; the unthinking were always slaves and always will be slaves. They must learn to depend upon themselves and investigate public questions instead of relying on others for second-hand convictions. There are certain questions which producers must settle in their own interests. They cannot settle them until they understand them. To understand them they must first study them. They must take those questions up as a child would take a new branch at school, and study them systematically and thoroughly. It will not do to depend on an occasional spasmodic effort; it must be systematic. Here are the land, money, labor and transportation problems. The people must understand these questions or suffer the terrible consequences of their ignorance. No casual or superficial investigation will suffice. These workers must search down for the bottom facts in regard thereto, regardless of existing conditions or preconceived views. The prosperity of the country absolutely depends upon the proper settlement of these questions. Do not look to any organization to solve these problems satisfactory to your interests. Do not depend upon any political party to place them upon a proper basis for you. You must settle them in your minds. When they are settled there with the majority of of the voters they will be soon settled at the polls and crystallized into statute law. Will you do this? Or will you remain ignorant on these questions? Ignorance on these questions means poverty, debt and degradation for you and possible serfdom and savagery for your children.—*Southwest.*

THE BOYCOTT'S WORK.

The trouble at the American Tube and Iron works at Youngstown, Ohio, which was caused by discharging members of the Knights of Labor, and refusing to confer with the officers of the Order or give any cause for the discharge of the members, has been settled through the instrumentality of boycott. First the business people and citizens generally refused to use the gas if it passed through the pipes made by the non-union men. The efficacy of the quiet boycott—in which it might be stated the best of the people of Youngstown were in hearty sympathy—was to bring the company to terms and force a recognition of the rights of the Knights of Labor so justly and resolutely contended. There is an agreement now between the Knights of Labor officials and the company, witnessed by a committee representing the business portion of the citizens. In effect it is that hereafter the company will recognize Knights of Labor committees, and where any member of the Order feels wronged his case will receive due consideration at the hands of the Committee of Conference and the agents of the tube works.—*Journal of United Labor.*

I heard counsel of the Pennsylvania R. R. in the Supreme Court of Pa. threaten that court with the displeasure of his clients if it decided against them, and my blood tingled with shame at the humilating spectacle.—*Thurber.*

Did it ever occur to those who have been howling so loudly for the blood of anarchists, that the foreign element from which this class is largely recruited were brought to this country to overawe and displace native workingmen who respectfully asked for a chance to live? When the capitalists were sowing that kind of seed, did they not know that it would take root? And after Congress passed a law to prevent this business, did they not do all in their power to evade its provisions.

We learn that one of our Mt. Airy friends had the misfortune to lose his pocket-book the other day while at Pilot Mountain, and, suspecting a certain person of stealing it, he at once armed himself with a warrant and started in hot pursuit. After riding his charger nearly to death, he happened to think, as he was about to overtake the supposed rogue where his money was.—*Yadkin Valley News.* This man's memory reminds us of a politician's.

It is my judgment that a man ought to court his wife every day in the year. Mind you, I don't say any other fellow's wife. If he will do that, he can make an angel out of a vixen, and seraph out of an angel. That's truth sure. Every wife is what her husband makes her.—*John Grady Hope.*

Jas. H. Johnson,

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Resp'y, JAS. H. JOHNSON.

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