

# The Messenger.

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

Vol. I.

FAYETTEVILLE, N. C., JANUARY 13, 1888.

No. 37.

## POWDERLY

### ADDRESSES THE PEOPLE OF RHODE ISLAND.

At ten minutes past eight o'clock in the evening, the reception to General Master Workman Powderly, at Music Hall, Providence, was opened by the National band on the 9th ult.

At nine o'clock Mr. Powderly was introduced by District Master Workman O'Keefe. He was received with a perfect storm of applause.

He said: "If the reception I received between four and five weeks ago was as warm and cordial as this I would not be in the condition I am to-night. The man who was admitted to speak at a meeting in behalf of the miners of Pennsylvania, the man who owned the hall and the hall was closed. I was telegraphed for, but the door would not open. I spoke in the open air. I was rrenched through; so was my audience, but they heard what I had to say. [Applause] My voice naturally cannot be in the best condition to-night. Under these adverse circumstances that have arisen I shall stand here as the champion of the principles of the Knights of Labor. I cannot say in one short hour what I would like to say, for we have scarcely one plank in that old platform upon which men cannot speak for hours, for weeks, if time permitted, and then the story of Labor's wrongs, and hopes and aspirations would be just commenced. [Applause] Every plank in the platform could serve as a text, from which any minister of God, or labor reformer of whatever kind, could preach to rich and poor alike. And remember we have a message of intelligence to each. The rich have much to learn. We must not forget them, for their position has a tendency to steel their hearts against the miseries of others, to shut their eyes and close their ears to the cries of distress that rise from the misery at their feet. They need this gospel more than any. And to-day it is being preached everywhere. We are now for the first time represented at the National capital. Our principles are taught wherever our language is spoken. Our lecturers proclaim the words of the living God, which is equal rights to all men, no matter what their creed, where they were born, or where they die! [Applause.] It will continue to spread until they reach the very thrones of the world. They tell us the organization is dwindling. Well, in some localities it is falling off, and in others it is increasing. Many swarmed into the Order not appreciating its objects and principles. Many became discouraged because they could not accomplish at once their ends. True, many good men went out with the bad. But we have no fears for the future of our policy. Over two million members have been covered with our shield, and it is safe to estimate that a million and a half of these are still actuated by the principles they held while in the Order.

The movement has assumed proportions never before known. Pick up a paper anywhere in this land, and you will find something that has been done by the Knights of Labor. You will also, what is more encouraging, that it has been done for the rights and wrongs of labor. You will find that the question of labor is very near to that economic question you have heard so much about. I am in favor of equal rights to all men, whatever their race, creed or color may be. In this work we have opposition—there was never anything accomplished in the Knights of Labor without opposition. I speak of this opposition to-night because it is due to the good men and women in the organization.

The Knights of Labor have accomplished many things in spite of this opposition. There are no degrees of labor. We are all on the same level. Your Master Workman is on the same plane with the humblest worker in the Order. There is no dictation here; there are no aristocrats, no classes—we are simply honest, laboring men, one as good as another, all working to one common end—justice. We have certain laws and certain rules. They are necessary to the success of the organization, but we found that there were men who wanted to make laws for themselves alone. Then there were men who commanded the whole assembly and talked for them. Some men said there is something better than the Knights of Labor, and for eight long years, either in front of the General Master Workman or at his back, urged him to a different course. I was asked to make a decision that there was no such being as God. I did not do it. I was asked to make a decision that our laws were the machinations of men for the government of laboring people, but I did not do it.

Mr. Powderly then turned his attention to the accusations made against him. It was said by some that the General Master Workman was dishonest. Then it he is, so must be every delegate to the General Assembly of the Order since 1878, for upon their heads should fall the consequences. They chose the same man every time. The organization is stronger than ever, in spite of the dissident elements in it, but it is safe to say that most of the dissatisfaction came from the quarters where society did not prevail. He took hold of the late speakers without gloves, and instanced times when their leader, who should have been doing good for the Order, was laid up "too full for utterance." He inferred that whiskey was the mainspring of the revolt, as intemperance was the only serious charge made against it.

He handled anarchy quite elaborately. He said its followers claimed that anarchy was a state in which men would be good enough to live without restrictive laws. He wished they were so good, but did not believe they would be in the near future. With our differences in nationalities, creeds, interests, education, prejudices, &c., it seemed the height of folly to think of such a time coming in the United States in our life time. Yet, it was not this in itself that we so deprecated, but the policy of force, the advocacy of a violent revolution, urging men to throw bombs, when they have the more potent weapon, the ballot.

Some say that anarchists are all imported. I say they are not. We are breeding them at home. The unjust conditions, the degradations and ignorance are rearing a worse race of goths and vandals in all our large cities than come from any other source.

The emigrant upon arriving here takes the word of the land agent, and after much hardship, may find his way

to the vacant land of the west. There he breaks the sod and puts in his little crop. Right by his side is the bonanza farmer with his five hundred thousand acre farm. After harvest little farmer must sell his product at big farmers terms. Bonanza farm has steam plows and most complete machinery, and only supports hired hands at planting and harvesting season. Little farmer has less complete machinery and must support a family for the whole year. The big farmer can get a rebate from railroads on shipping his wheat. Little farmer must sell at what he can get. He cannot live. He picks up his little traps and starts back for the city. There he meets his brother from the old country, just starting west. He stops him. Both re-enter the tenement, and up they go to the tenth story perhaps, so near Heaven that if they should fall they would never reach it. And there their children are brought up in ignorance and squalor and filth and vice and pollution and crime. I visited their squalid quarters while in the city of New York, also at Chicago and many other cities. I see their children on the streets. I visit their schools and find them empty. I visit their factories and find them full. These are dangers that we are struggling against.

How can a health public opinion of labor be formed unless those who labor in their calling stand firmly for the right. We say that every man is entitled to a fair share of the good things of this world, but there are those who differ somewhat from the old doctrine of the sweat of the brow, who believe that some should do all the sweating and the others eat all the bread. We hope that to each, according to his deserts, shall the returns come to men, and that and no more. We find that other men value the power of public opinion.

The public opinion we are endeavoring to create has made enemies for us. When we were weak they patted us on the back, but when we became stronger, then they said that this organization was not what they thought it was, and they have opposed us.

Mr. Powderly here referred at length to the improvements that had been made in mechanism.

Passing to the eight hour movement he said: We are yet to come down to six hours a day, when men can do all they need for their support. The lessening of the hours of labor would take all men in from the street and give every one of them something to do, and make them producers as well as consumers. We are reminded that these are only patch work reforms, these strikes and struggles, necessarily. The Knights of Labor believe in an industrial revolution. And what would that be? All this vast machinery of production that I have spoken of, which has so mightily increased the power of man, must be owned by and operated for labor. Then there will be no more conflict, no more need of patchwork remedies.

He showed how at one time the Order had 484 strikes on hand at once. He showed the foolishness of strikes in general. In speaking of the foreigners he said there was one kind of foreign influence we should guard against. It was the kind our forefathers drove from this country at the point of the bayonet a hundred years ago. Now our men of wealth go over to Europe and absorb aristocratic notions. When they

return you soon see a coat-of-arms at their front door—spring European aristocracy.

He gave an eloquent appeal for woman and temperance, and closed with a peroration on the American flag. He took his seat amid tumultuous applause. A couple of songs, and music by the band followed, and the meeting closed. An informal reception was then given him by the Knights at District headquarters, in Slade's building.—People.

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**J. R. LEE**  
REAL ESTATE AGENT  
Parties wishing to sell property should call on me. I have sold over \$9,000 worth of property in the last few months.  
Call at Messenger Office.  
Respy, J. R. LEE.

I have just received a first-class lot of

**-MOUNTAIN BEEF-**  
FROM ASHE COUNTY.  
"YOUNG, JUICY AND TENDER"  
Beef-Sausage  
[HAMB]  
BEEF AND PORK SAUSAGE.  
Don't forget that I buy for cash and will have to sell for the same.  
I thank the public for their past patronage, and beg a continuance of the same.  
Respectfully,  
W. H. TOMLINSON.

**Land Sale.**  
By virtue, and under authority of the Superior Court of Cumberland county, in a decree made at the Fall Term 1887 thereof, in the case of J. C. Heyer vs. J. H. Jones and others, I will sell the land described in a certain mortgage deed to J. C. Heyer, made by J. H. Jones and wife and W. D. Jones, to be found in Book U, No. 3, page 64, records of Cumberland county, including the storehouse and buildings thereon. The said land is on the east side of Cape Fear River, and is about one mile from the Market House in Fayetteville, N. C., and considered a splendid stand for business. Also, the Still and fixtures, and property described in said mortgage. Sale to take place Monday Jan'y 9th, 1888, on the premises at 12 o'clock m.  
Terms of sale, Cash.  
THOS. H. SUTTON,  
Commissioner.

AT THE MESSENGER JOB PRINTING OFFICE

Note Heads,	AT	Pamphlets,
LETTER]	THE	NOTES,
HEADS,	MESSENGER	RECEIPTS,
Bill Heads,	JOB	Tags,
Statements,	PRINTING	Dodgers,
Envelopes,	OFFICE	Cards,
Circulars,		Tickets.