

THE RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF LABOR.

Cardinal Gibbons in New York Journal.

I say labor contributes to the prosperity of the country, and whatever conduces to a nation's welfare is most worthy of commendation. It is not the office or occupation that dignifies the man, but it is the man that dignifies the office.

"Honor and shame from no condition rise. Act well your part—there all the honor lies."

Cincinnatus lent dignity to agriculture by working at the plow. Caius, by an infamous crime degraded his crown and imperia purple.

De Tocqueville could not pay a juster and more beautiful tribute of praise to the genius of our country than when he wrote in 1835 that every honest occupation in the United States was honorable.

The honest, industrious man is honored among us, whether he work with his hands or with his brains, because he is an indispensable factor in the nation's progress. He is the bee in the social hive; he is the benefactor of his race, because he is always producing something for the commonwealth.

Our sympathies for those in our employ, whether in the household, the mines or the factory, are wonderfully quickened by putting ourselves in their place and asking ourselves how we would wish to be treated under similar circumstances.

We should remember that they are our fellow-beings, that they have feelings like ourselves, that they are stung by a sense of injustice, repelled by an overbearing spirit and softened by kindness, and that it largely rests with us whether their hearts and homes are to be clouded with sorrow or radiant with joy.

Surely men do not amass wealth for the sole pleasure of counting their bonds and of contemplating their gold in secret. No, they acquire it in the hope that it will contribute to their comfort and happiness. Now, there is no enjoyment in life so pure and so substantial as that which springs from the reflection that others are made content and happy by their earnings.

"It dropped as the gentle rain from heaven Upon the place beneath; it is twice blessed: It blesseth him that gives, and him that takes; 'Tis mightiest in the mightiest; it becomes The throned monarch better than his crown."

While applauding the tender feelings and magnanimity of many capitalists, I am constrained to the interests of truth, humanity and religion to protest against the heartless conduct of others whose number, for the honor of our country, is, I hope, comparatively small.

No friend of his race can contemplate without painful emotions those heartless monopolists exhibiting a grasping avarice which has dried up every sentiment of sympathy and a sordid selfishness which is deaf to the cries of distress. Their sole aim is to realize large dividends without regard to the paramount claims of humanity and Christian charity. These trusts and monopolies, like the car of Juggernaut, crush every obstacle that stands in their way. They endeavor, not always, it is alleged, without success, to corrupt our national and State Legislatures and municipal councils. They are so intolerant of honest rivalry as to use unlawful means in driving from the market all competing industries. They pay their operatives to work for starving wages, especially in mining districts and factories, where protests have but a feeble echo, and are easily stifled by intimidation.

In many places the corporations are said to have the monopoly of stores of supply, where exorbitant prices are charged for the necessities of life; bills are contracted which the workmen are unable to pay; their homes are foreclosed and their forced insolvency places them entirely at the mercy of their task masters.

To such Shylocks may well be applied the words of apostle Peter, to now, ye rich men; weep and howl for your miseries which shall come upon you. You have stored up to yourselves wrath against the last days. Behold the hire of the laborer, which hath been kept back by you, crieth and the cry of them hath entered into the ears of the God of Sabbath."

How forcibly this language applies now to our own country, and how earnestly the warning should be heeded by the constitutional authorities. The supreme law of the land should be vindicated and enforced and ample protection should be afforded to legitimate competing corporations as well as to the laboring classes against unscrupulous monopolies.

But if labor organizations have rights to be vindicated and grievances to be redressed it is manifest that the same also sacred obligations to be fulfilled and dangers to guard against.

They should exercise unceasing vigilance in securing their body from the control of designing demagogues who would make it subservient to their own selfish ends, or convert it into a political engine. They should also be jealous of the reputation and good name of the rank and file of the society, as well as of its chosen leaders. For while the organization is ennobled and commands the respect of the public by the moral and civic virtues of its members, the scandalous and unworthy conduct of even a few of them is apt to bring reproach on the whole body, and to excite the distrust of the community.

Activity is the law of all intellectual and animal life. The more you live in conformity to that law, the happier will be. An active life, like the purifying rivulet is an unfailing source of gladness, health and contentment, while an idle life, like the stagnant pool breeds discontent, disease and death. No man enjoys with a keener relish the night's repose and the Sunday and holiday rest than the son of toil.

A life of patient industry is sure to be blessed with a competence, if it is not crowned with an abundant remuneration. The great majority of our leading men of wealth are indebted for their fortunes to their own untiring industry. Take an active, personal scientific interest in the business of your employer. Be as much concerned about its prosperity as if it were your own.

Foster habits of economy and self-denial. No matter how modest your income may be, always live under it. You will thus protect your liberty and business integrity, and guard yourself against the slavery and humiliation of debt, which is too often the precursor and the incentive to commercial honor.

While honestly striving to better your condition, be content with your station in life and do not yield to an inordinate desire of abandoning your present occupation for what is popularly regarded

as a more attractive avocation. Remember that while the learned professions are overcrowded there is always a demand for skilled and unskilled labor, and that it is far better to succeed in manual work than to fail in professional life.

Be not over eager to amass wealth, for they who are anxious to become rich fall into temptations and into the snares of the devil, and into many unprofitable and hurtful desires which drown men in destruction and perdition. A feverish ambition to accumulate a fortune, which may be called our national distemper, is incompatible with peace of mind.

Moderate means with a contented spirit are preferable to millions without it.

Sobriety will be an angel of tranquility and comfort to yourself and family. While this virtue should be cultivated by all men, it ought to be especially cherished by the laboring class, who are so much exposed to the opposite vice. Intemperance has brought more desolation to homes than famine or the sword, and is a more unrelenting tyrant than the grasping monopolist.

How Labor Has Been Misled

In a recent issue the Congregationalist tells an interesting story pertaining to an alleged chapter in the history of a great strike:

"A case of a labor leader has just come to our attention which illustrates one of the difficulties of workmen in finding representatives who will be true to their interests. With his constituents at home this alleged friend of labor is jealous of the rights of the wage earner and is ever his zealous champion against oppression of the capitalists. So he secures the votes of the workmen and is elected to office.

"But when he takes his seat as the representative of labor he is a different man from what his constituents expected. He still talks for the laboring masses, he denounces capitalists, but privately he contrives to be the tool of the corporations. He is mainly intent upon getting such returns for his votes as will enable him to continue in public life, without the necessity of visible employment of the risks of business.

"Another case in point is that of a great strike, whose secret history has not yet been written, but in which it seems to be the fact that one of the highest leaders of the workmen was lured by capitalists to lead the strike for the sake of forcing down the stock of the corporation in order that these foreign speculators might buy it up at a great profit. This leader engineered the strike, which was of exceptional severity, and secured the depression of the stock. The strike caused the discharge from employment of many of themselves for the supposed benefit of their entire class. As a consequence of his part in the transaction, he has been able to live for several years since the event without work, fiddling in politics and figuring as a lobbyist in the employ of persons unknown.

"Cases of other labor leaders might be mentioned who are in the movement for their personal benefit, whether it is for the sake of the notoriety or because the prominence will make them of so much more cash value for the corporations to buy off, or because they may find an entrance thereby into politics, with the sordid and criminal ways of accumulating money which inhere in the shady walks of this occupation. Usually they are uneducated men, not familiar with either money or power. The possession of a little of either or both of these turns their heads and they become false to the friends who elevated them to their responsible positions."

Hogus Friends of Labor

(From the Kansas City Times.) Another instance of the warm regard entertained for American labor by the Republican party is illustrated in the case of the Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs in the present House of Representatives, a Republican Congressman and the man who had charge of the bill raising the army of the United States to 100,000 men. He is the president of the Philippines Land Development Company, a corporation that has acquired valuable lands in the Philippine Islands. This man any day in its prospectus that the labor question there is easily solved, because there is cheap labor there that can be had at 50 to 75 cents a day in Mexican money.

AWAY

I cannot say, and I will not say That he is dead. He is just away!

With a cheery smile and a wave of the hand He has wandered into an unknown land.

And left us dreaming how very fair 't needs must be, since he lingers there.

And you—O you! who the wildest year: Or the old-time step and the glad return.

Think of him as faring on, as dear In the love of There as the love of Here;

And loyal still, as he gave the blows Of his warrior strength to his country's foes.

Mild and gentle as he was brave, When the sweetest love of his life he gave.

To simple things: Where the violet grew Pure as the eyes they were likened to.

The touch of his hands has strayed: He reverently as his lips have prayed;

When the little brown thrush that harshly chirred Was dear to him as the mocking bird;

And he smiled as much as a man in pain: Wringing honey-bee wet with rain.

Think of him still as the same, I say: He is not dead—he is just away!

—James Whitcomb Riley.

It is doubtful if anything can be done in Tennessee to awaken the voters' interest in the coming election. Interest appears to be at a remarkably low ebb in this country, and we see few signs of life in other communities.

The Central Democratic Club in this county is an example of the lethargy that is prevailing. Several meetings have been held, and with only a couple of guard present. The most strenuous efforts fail to get the Democrats on their feet, and the clubs are doing no better. A few zealous spirits attend the meetings, but the crowds come not.

—Nashville American.

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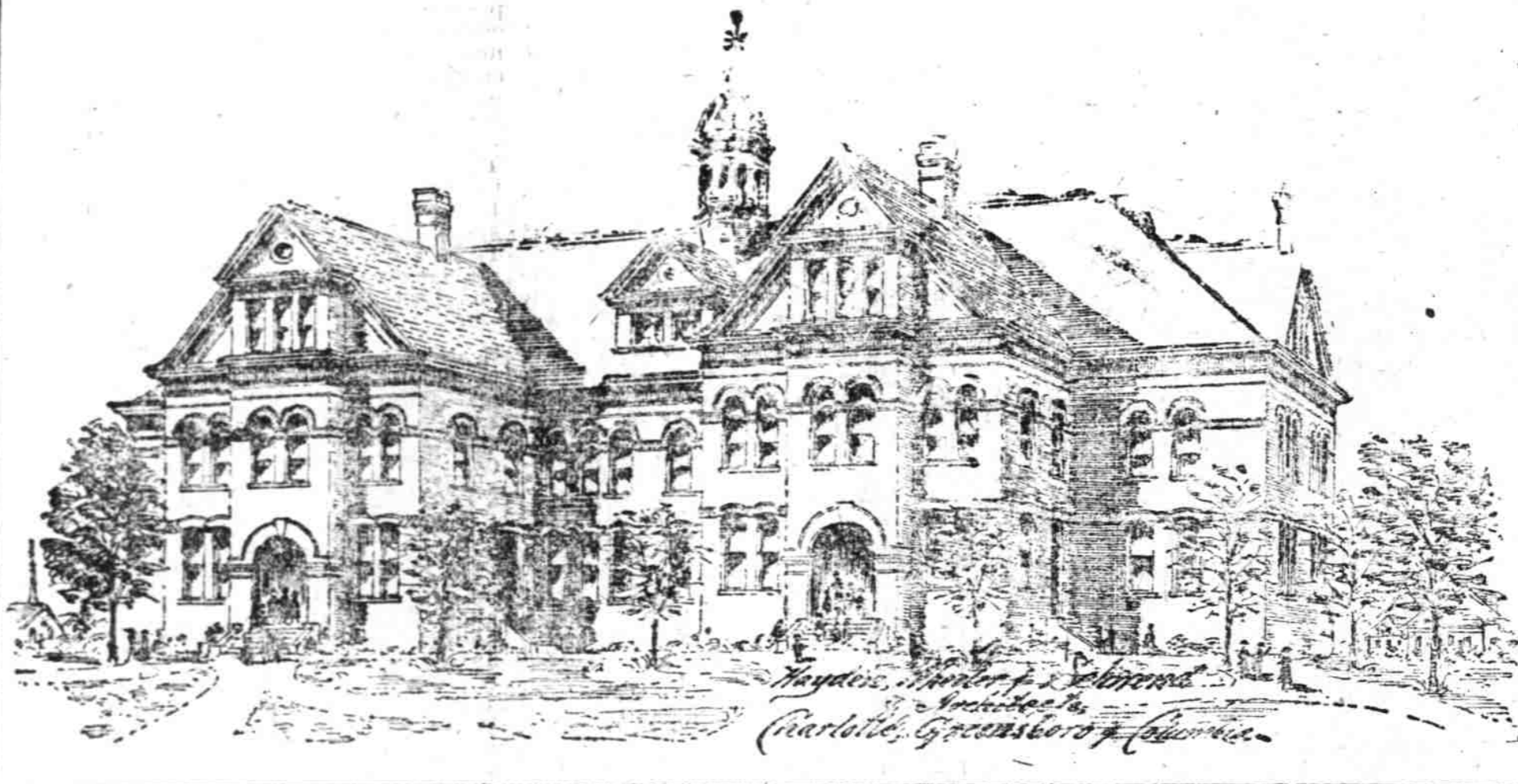
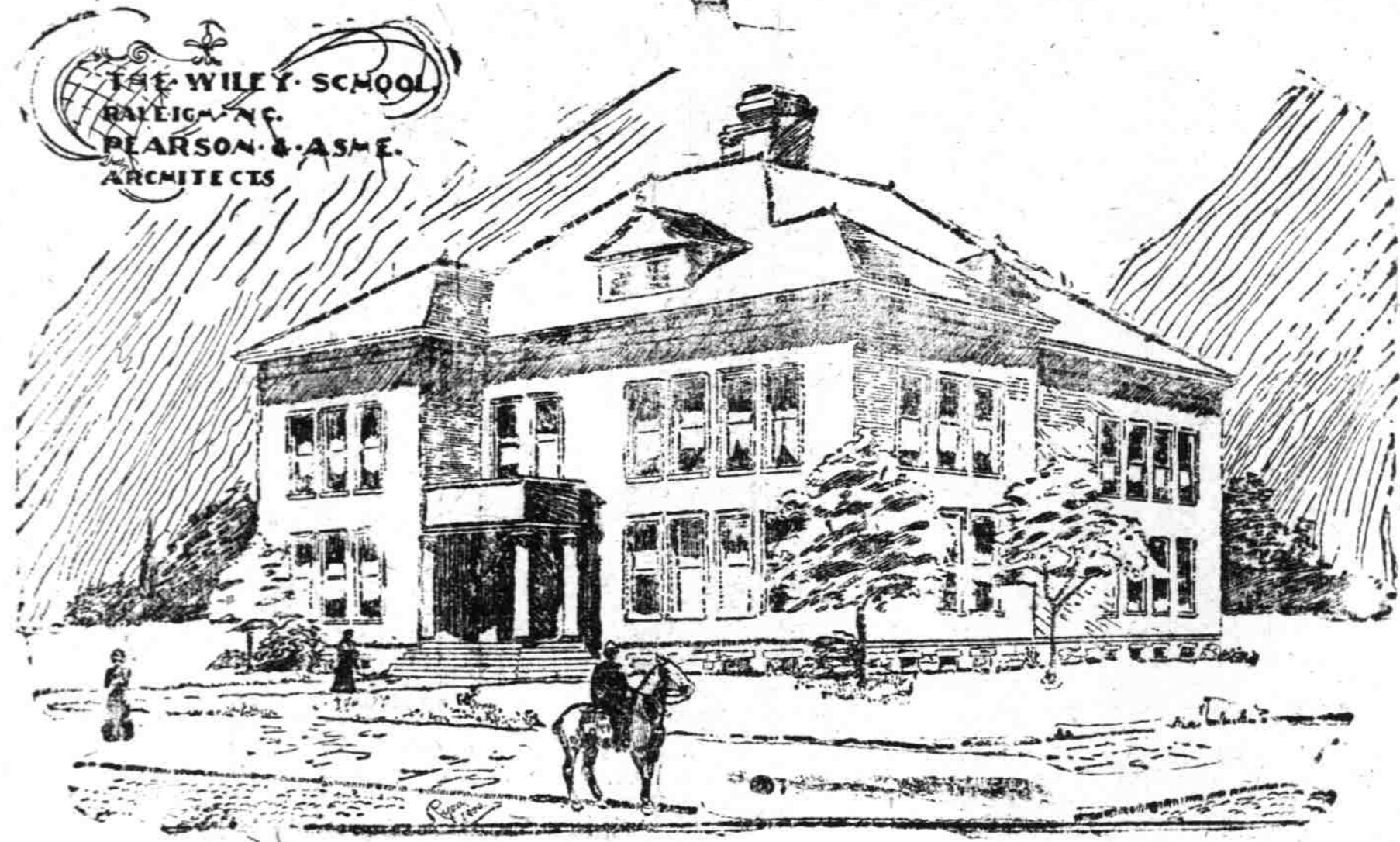
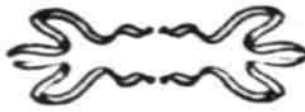
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The Reformatory

North Carolina, as well as many others of the Southern States, should have a State reformatory for youthful criminals. Our present system of taking the youthful offenders of the law and putting them in a prison side by side with the hardened criminal is but a schooling in crime, and sin against the youth who has transgressed.

There are two methods of punishment, the reformatory and the "penitentiary." The first method looks to the punishment of the criminal, while the latter looks to the reformation of the criminal. It is not difficult to decide as to which method should be used by a civilized, modern society by a "Christian State."

The one plea of those who argue against a reformatory is the poverty of the State—that a reformatory will cost more than the State can afford to expend in that direction just now.

In reply to this two points may be urged: 1. The immediate cost to the State may be more than the immediate returns, but the ultimate cost will not. If memory serves correctly, I haven't the data at hand the superintendent of the Massachusetts reformatory at Concord told me a few years since that 75 per cent. of the youths in that reformatory left there when their terms expired never to return, but with a knowledge of business and a useful trade. It may be estimated with safety that one-half of those leaving a reformatory

return to the world outside and engage successfully in some productive industry. The indirect returns to the State through these laborers and skilled workmen more than compensate the State for its original outlay even in dollars and cents.

2. But the primary and fundamental question for a State never is and never can be, "Does it pay?" Deeper than this, and more far-reaching than this, is the question, "Does it make better citizens?" This last is the question with which a right State is most deeply concerned, and has first of all to consider.

True, the State is not a charitable institution. Neither is it a money making institution. Its chief business is to make a right citizenship, to create and to furnish conditions in which an intelligent, free and, so far as possible, self-supporting, prosperous and happy citizenship may abide.

To the argument then that we are too poor and that a reformatory is too costly we have to say, that it will pay immediately and primarily in a better citizenship and ultimately and indirectly in dollars and cents.

We are glad indeed that the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of North Carolina is working so faithfully in the direction of securing a reformatory for the State. We believe their efforts will be crowned with success.

The Asheville Union presented their petition to the Press Association of North Carolina recently and every member present became a signer and the

Association selected a committee of their body to argue the matter before the next Legislature. The Legislature of this State had the matter up once before and it only lost by one vote.

We trust that the press of the State and the friends of an enlightened and Christian citizenship in the State and the friends of young offenders of the law who need to be helped to strouger manhood and not condemned to a life of crime, will bring such pressure to bear upon our next general assembly that something practical and definite will be done.

A Newspaper's Wonder

(St. Louis Post-Dispatch.)

When you open up your newspaper it may cause you to feel some wonder if you know that in all probability yours are the first hands that have ever touched its inside pages. The reason for this is that the paper is made from wood pulp. The woodman cuts down a spruce tree. It is hauled to the mill. There machinery strips off the bark, reduces the wood to pulp and makes it into paper.

At every turn cranes, derricks, chains, cogs, rollers, steel teeth and other mechanical contrivances keep the material out of human hands. The immense rolls are wound by machinery, loaded into cars and wagon by machinery, put into press-room and on presses by other machinery and finally printed and folded without having been directly touched by any human hand.

This is a mechanical marvel of today which is no doubt duplicated in other branches of industry. It is very striking in the newspaper industry, which stands in the very front rank of mechanical perfection.

A HAPPY LIFE

How happy is he born and taught, That serveth not another's will; Whose armor is his honest thought, And simple truth his utmost skill.

Who is not his masters' man, Whose soul is still In world with care Of public fame, or private pain.

Who envies none that chance doth raise, Or vice; who never understood Whose state can neither flatterers feed, Nor ruin make oppressors great.

Who hath his life from rumors freed, Whose conscience is his strongest state, Whose state can neither flatterers feed, Nor ruin make oppressors great.

Who God doth love and early pray, More of His grace than gifts to lend; And entertains the harmless day With a well-chosen book or friend.

This man is freed from servile bands, Of hope to rise, or fear to fall; Lord of himself, though not of lands; And having nothing, yet hath all. —Sir Henry Wotton