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Family Circle.

THE PLUTOCRAT.

BY HENRY M. EDMISTON.

He vows he loves the workingman,
More dearly than himself;
And to insure him happiness
Deprives him of all wealth.
For riches oft breed vices,
And will lead men into sheol,
Amidst the fumes of sulphur,
And the flames of burning coal.

He loves the toiler's blindness,
And because he will not see
That when his wealth is stolen,
He must dredge in poverty.
He loves to share the earnings
Of the needy and distressed,
And increase the hours of labor
Of the sickly and oppressed.

He admires the toiler's dullness,
And his lack of common sense,
In submitting to be plundered
By vile shams and base pretense.
He loves men as the shepherd
Loves the sheep within the fold,
Who sells the wool in springtime,
And the body when it's old.

He adores the patient toiler,
And compares him to the ox,
That plods beneath the heavy yoke,
Amongst the earth and rocks.
Yes, he loves his fellow creatures
With a love he calls sublime,
And he loves the workingman's dollar,
And he takes it all the time.

New York, January, 1900.

AN EXACT WITNESS.

A descendant of the ancient squatter who, like his predecessor, has, from earliest recollection, been living on the lands whose title is just about as genuine as the title of the average colonel, was summoned before court as a witness. The old man had heard a great deal of courts, and how it was the aim of lawyers to "ketch a feller in a lie and make fun of him," and he resolved not to allow himself to be disgraced. "What is your name," asked the lawyer.

"Which one? I've got several."
"The one that you sign?"
"I don't sign none; I can't write."
"Is your name Peggleton?"
"That's part of it."
"What's the other part?"
"You guessed so well the first time now guess again."
"The summons says that your name is Josiah Peggleton; is that correct?"
"I reckon it is."
"You have known the prisoner a long time, I understand."
"I never seed the prisoner before."
"Look out, sir, you'll perjure yourself. It is well known that you have been intimate with Jackson."
"Yes, I know Jackson very well."
"Thought you never saw him before?"
"I didn't say it."
"Yes, you did. Your exact words were, 'I never saw the prisoner before.'"
"I never did, for he wasn't a prisoner when I seed him."
"Ah, a very fine construction. See that you continue to be so particular. Did you see the quarrel between Jackson and Alrichs?"
"No, sir; never seed it."
"Look out, sir, look out! Were you present when the two men quarreled and fought?"
"I was thar."
"Thought you said you didn't see the quarrel?"
"I didn't see it. I heard it."
"You are very exact. We'll see how far your analysis will serve you. I

understand, then, that you heard the quarrel?"

"I don't know."
"Didn't you say that you heard it?"
"Yes, but I don't know what you understand."

"How far apart were they standing?"
"I didn't measure it."
"How far do you think?"
"I don't think."
"Your Honor," exclaimed the lawyer, "I wish you would impress upon this man the importance of answering my questions. The result of this case depends much upon his testimony."

"Mr. Peggleton," said the judge, "You must tell what you know about the fight in a straightforward manner."
"You're the judge, I reckon."

"Yes, I'm the judge."
"An' you want me to tell what I know about this fight in a straightforward manner? Well, the fight wasn't in a straightforward manner, for you never seed sich a scratchin' and twistin' around. The two men met, cussed each other, and fit. They fit because they cussed, but I don't know why they cussed. One knocked the other down, and then the other knock him down. Then they fit. Arter awhile the other one fell and got up and knocked him down. Then they fit. About this time the thing got sorter interestin', and I sorter wanted to jine hands myself, but I didn't. Arter awhile they stopped, and cussed while they was restin'. Then they fit again, an' both of them fell over a chunk. I could't keep out any longer. The temptation was too strong, and while they laid on the ground I gathered a pole and says, 'here's to you, boys,' and hit both of 'em at once. Then I lumped the fence an' run away, and that's all I know about the fight. Thank you for your perlite attention," and before he could be restrained he had left the court room.

WHO SHOULD MAKE THE FUTURE LAWS OF OUR COUNTRY?

BY H. E. BURNETT, RICHMOND, VA.

This question has grown to be one of vital importance. The active brain is awakened to the study of this subject of our country's future welfare.

Every true American is glad to proclaim himself a citizen of this great and glorious country, and ever ready to offer himself in her defense when the call is made "To arms!"

Well may we be proud of our country, and the highest praise be given to our forefathers, who gave to us a trust to be cherished, honored and defended by the present and future generations.

We must not stand idle; we must not be contented with what they have given us; we must not take her as a trust, merely to hold in the same condition and pass it on. Even if we would do this, it is impossible. Nothing will stand at one thing; changes must take place for better or worse, and it requires changes of government, alteration of laws, new thoughts and advanced ideas to keep pace with the rest of the world.

I venture to say that men with ambition and love of country would not care to live forever in the same channel and say to the coming generations: "Here is the country, placed in our charge by our forefathers. We have kept her as she was given to us, and you must do the same." Every man of

thought man should look to the opportunities of advancement in all walks of life. The day has come when to lag behind is to get left. If you wish to grow old prematurely, get in the habit of living the same life, day in and day out, with no variation. You find yourself becoming careless in your work, and actually doing less of it, when you should be doing more; you grow more neglectful of your personal appearance, and your family or friends note the change in the bright husband or companion of days past; you suffer forgetfulness from lack of brain exercise; in fact, you finally find yourself lazy and good-for-nothing in the prime of life, and actually wonder how the employer, who used to praise your work, can have the heart to discharge you.

Cultivate the habit of thinking upon the subjects which will raise you in the good will of your fellow-man subjects that are continually arising for settlement in the government of our country. You are a citizen, and your duty is to exercise your privilege as such, and not leave it to others. Don't go to the polls and vote merely as a force of habit this is done; often, too, by many. In so doing, you often vote without thought against your best interests. Better vote for what you want, and not get it, than vote for what you don't want, and get it.

Look at the condition of our country; read your papers every day, and you will see the effect of this negligence on your part. Read the paper when you will, and as certain as the issue is published, you will see something bearing on corruption in politics of State and Union. You have voted for what you don't want, and gotten it.

It is in the power of the laboring classes to purify politics, and if they continue to organize in the future as they have in the past, the time is not far distant when they will awake to the fact that they have a duty to perform that is national, and a new party will spring up that will throw the two old parties that have held sway and filled the pockets of a chosen few, from the power they have so long occupied jointly; yes, jointly, for the same people have benefited through the administration of the Republicans or Democrats. They are the capitalistic class, and will ever be so as long as they are in power. The policy or platform of either will never be changed to differ materially, where the interests of capital is concerned, from the other. The platforms may be arranged so as to deceive the laboring man and cause him to believe they are fighting each other, but they will simply stop and think, common sense will tell them they are one in thought under different disguises.

Look at the condition of your State and city government, and the class of men who are seeking political honors to-day. It is hard to get an honest man to run for councilman or alderman in most cities. The class that wins have fooled the people through trickery, and, after being elected, live a political life of trickery, which, sooner or later, is found out, and the people who elected them are the first to cry out, "scoundrels!"

Fellow-laborers: Put your candidate in the field; make the first requirements of your man be honesty and capability. Let your candidate be one

of your brother workmen, bound to you through love of the workingman's interest. Put him in office; he has your interest at heart; he has the banner of labor to protect, and knows the needs of the majority of the people, and not that of a chosen few.

What better way can the laboring man better himself than by placing honest and upright men in care of the laws of our country?

Let us labor, and labor together for the upbuilding of unionism.

Draw the various organizations together into one united party, and then let us do our duty as men and patriotic citizens.

Let the question at the head of this article be answered, that the laboring class of America believe in equal rights to all and special privileges to none, and in the near future they will take the leading hand in seeing that honesty shall reign in politics, and that the future laws shall be a joy to man and glory to God.

THE PROBLEMS OF LABOR.

"Once to every man and nation comes the moment to decide
In the strife 'twixt truth and falsehood for the good or evil side."

[Coast Seamen's Journal.]

There be times in the lives of nations when the services of the bravest and best—both intellectually and physically—are required for its preservation. This applies to all organizations, of whatever kind. That time seems to have arrived as regards the present and future welfare of the laboring classes of this country. It appears that a crisis is approaching, and that Labor will have to call upon its bravest and best to contend for its right to exist as a free and integral part of society. It does not require supernal faculties to be able to discern whither we are drifting. With capital strongly and firmly entrenched in the halls of legislation, with the institutions of learning bent to the will of the plutocrats, with church, school and judgment-hall under their absolute dominion, and the press shackled with a golden chain, there is no doubt of the intentions of the capitalists nor of the fate of Labor unless the latter is aroused to a recognition of its perils. The difficulty is not in misunderstanding what capital wants, but in a clear comprehension of what Labor proposes to do. There are multitudes of organizations all pretending to work for the elevation of the laboring people, some in the political field, others in the industrial field; all claiming that they are doing everything possible under present conditions of society. There is, however, an apparent lack of cohesion and co-operation between the different organized bodies of Labor, the cause therefor being hard to understand. If they are all animated with the common purpose of honestly trying to work for the elevation of the toilers, it ought certainly not to be so very difficult to agree upon a plan whereby this could be carried into effect. Capital agrees upon all points, and experiences no difficulties in combining their forces when confronted with the demands of Labor and the Labor question. Why should it not be as easy for the toilers to agree, knowing as they do that their very existence depends upon their own powers of combination? Is it possible that the pre-

tenses of Labor are false, and that the cry for liberty is but a hypocritical vaporing? The powers and energies of the Labor movement must be directed toward the unification and solidification of the organized workers. We are not pessimists, but we believe in looking at conditions as they present themselves, and that evil conditions exist none will have the hardiness to de y. The remedy may be difficult to apply, but it must be applied, a it is imperative; sacrifices must be made and old and cherished policies may have to be abandoned for the sake of the cause for which Labor contends. It should not be more difficult to agree with a friend than to be compelled to accept the degrading conditions of an enemy. The hopes for future improvement in the conditions of Labor rest largely upon the intelligence and loyalty of the whole Labor movement, rather than upon the intellectual superiority of a few. Leaders are necessary in all movements. What the Labor movement needs are more leaders of broad and comprehensive views and power to grasp and cope with present conditions, men of sterling qualities and tolerant in their ideas, who are able and willing to adapt themselves to ever-changing conditions. Labor's success rests upon its ability to agree and rally round one common standard and to wield its combined strength as a single and powerful whole.

UNIONS, WHAT WE MAKE THEM.

To speak of a union as "the union," meaning something apart from ourselves, is a misnomer. "Our union" is more to the point. It is as we make it, and it cannot rise higher than its units. But yet we have fashioned it fairly well. Our union, like any other human agency, occasionally makes mistakes, but in comparison it will show advantageously with any institution of the kind, either benevolent, religious or social. Its road has been a rocky one, but it has grown all the stronger and healthier for the knocks it has received. In its earlier days, derided by press and pulpit, persecuted by monopoly, laughed at by politicians and buffeted now by panicky gales or bayoneted again by militia, our union has marched serenely on, bringing down its tormentors, making supplicants of its enemies. In the past decade, thanks to the veterans who have gone on before, unwritten and unsung, our union has seen a mighty change. The columns of the press thrown open, searching, competing for its going; academicians, science, art, espousing its cause, the church rapping at the door for admission; popular magazines, dramatists, novelists adopting its role, courting its favor. Our union today is a determining factor in all social functions, a main artery of the pulse of trade, of commerce, of society. It raises wages, prevents reductions and checks strikes and lockouts from the mere fact that it is a union. It promotes fraternity, sociability, it fosters temperance and liberality. Above all, it is an educational force. Our union is out of sectionalism; it is the embodiment of democracy; it knows no creed, rank nor title. It scoffs at the cheap snobbery of wealth and rejects its charity; for the self-styled "sets" and "upper tens" it has a healthy contempt, and upon the tinsel and brass of their striped defenders it bestows its scorn. Our union is of the people. We glory in its achievements, and we love its principles.—Gompers.