

# THE WORD.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF REFORM.

VOL. 1.

PRINCETON, MASS., SEPTEMBER, 1872.

NO. 5

## The Word,

Favors the abolition of speculative income of woman's slavery and war government; regards all claims to property, not founded on a labour title, as morally void, and asserts the free use of land to be the inalienable privilege of every human being—one having the right to own or sell only his service impressed upon it. Not by restrictive methods, but through freedom and reciprocity, the Word seeks the extinction of interest, rent, dividends, and profit, except as they represent work done; the abolition of railway, telegraphic, banking, trade-union and other corporations charging more than actual cost for values furnished, and the repudiation of all so-called debts the principal whereof has been paid in the form of interest.

Edited by E. H. HEYWOOD, it will publish the views of Wm. B. Greene, Mrs. E. C. Stanton, Josiah Warren, John Orvis, Albert Brisbane, Wendell Phillips, John H. Noyes, S. P. Andrews, Wm. Denton, Henry Ward Beecher, F. W. Evans and other prominent exponents of industrial and social reform. Contributors, correspondents, and those from whose works extracts are made are responsible only for their own opinions; the editor must not be understood to approve or reject any views not editorial unless he says so.

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## WHAT IS GRADUATED TAX?

Editor of the Word:—

Mr. J. Warren, who thinks and writes well, says, in your July issue, of *graduated tax*, that, but for certain past experiences he should sanction and work for this beneficent measure of reform. Assuming Mr. Warren to be a fair type of the mind which should comprehend and act upon this potent element of progress, may I speak to him, as a representative of the cause of human emancipation from the growing oppression of capital?

I have been a co-laborer in this unpromising vineyard for thirty years and *graduated tax* comes home to me as the first practical step to cope with capital and render its fearful power not only nugatory, but to compel it at once to commence the upbuilding of society by simply absorbing the enormous wealth of the land among those who have produced it.

Let us get it before the people that *wealth* means *accumulated industry*, that they have helped to earn it, as have also their ancestors before them, and that those who possess it for the hour are simply *custodians*, and that when the welfare and actual existence of society demand a portion of such accumulations to be returned to them to be re-used for the general weal they must submit to having it *taxed back* into the public treasury instead of piling it up in great masses of millions and tens of millions, only to oppress and make themselves wretched by its custody and care. Teach the wealthy that it is far better to have wealth bless humanity than to debase it.

Ask the American people if when a person has acquired from two to three hundred thousand dollars of the accumulations of industry, termed wealth, if *graduated tax* should not justly step in and say hold up, and give others a chance to accumulate? And they will respond with a voice that *must be heard at the ballot box*. "Yes, that's simple justice and the good of society demands it and demands it now."

Ask them if 2,000 houses and stores owned by one family in New York and drawing an average interest of 12 per cent. per annum is not becoming a dangerous precedent. If \$75,000,000 value of railway wealth accumulated in less than half the lifetime of another citizen of New York is not alarming and demands some wise legislation like *graduated tax* to limit such acquisition? If \$60,000,000 value of the wealth of the producers of industry in the shape of merchandise, mainly cotton and woolen goods, swept into the custody of another citizen of New York in 25 years does not call loudly and sternly by the common voice of the American people for a limit to such avarice through graduated tax, and you will find that the sentiment of justice, of right, of self-protection from avarice will promptly respond "Give us graduated taxation upon this accum-

ulating wealth to limit man's cupidity and power to oppress". Give the people to understand that there is wealth enough in the world created by those who, mainly, do not enjoy or profit by it, to make all happy and banish poverty and oppression if only wisely distributed; and it is easy to see how soon graduated tax will become the law of the land.

Show the people, how they may, be profited by the *redistribution* of this enormous wealth the accumulations of centuries. If they desire to settle upon the land even of your own New England as agriculturists instead of being pushed beyond the pale of civilization tell them that graduated tax contemplates using this enormous fund to place them upon God's soil by its purchase in any locality giving them the choice of a portion of such soil individually or in associative life as they may elect.

If they are mechanics and desire co-operation in the various industries, tell them that graduated tax contemplates loaning them *capital* without interest ample to compete with the capital now used so successfully against them by employers. Tell the undeveloped mind of labor that to strike for graduated tax will strike successfully against all the wrongs he is now powerless to resist. Tell him that he will not be compelled to deduct by his eight hour opiate two tenths of the industries of the world because all his hours of industry will inure to his benefit. Then farewell strikes and clashes between employer and employed.

Tell all wavering and doubting reformers that *graduated tax* has every element of success at its command. Its enemies can be only the few very rich. Its friends should be all that numerous class of society who do not own property to the value of from two to three hundred thousand dollars. And over and above all selfish considerations it should command the influence of the wise, the just, the philanthropist, the christian, every lover of humanity, every opponent of oppression and wrong in the land. This is graduated tax.

J. H. K.

## VIEWS OF PROMINENT REFORMERS.

The following resolutions were offered by E. D. Linton in the Boston Convention, June 30:

Resolved: That the Earth, with all its spontaneous productions, is the natural inheritance of its children; and until some order is adopted which shall secure its uses to every human being alike, society cannot become free, healthful, happy nor virtuous.

Resolved: That we only repeat what is known to every grade of intelligence, that the wealth of the world is in the hands of the few, who have contributed little or nothing to its production; while the many in every age, whose labor mainly creates wealth, have been in a condition of deprivation, often of want; that the inheritance of the people is usurped,

and the fruits of their toil are wrung from their hands.

Resolved: That the so-called civilization built upon such a foundation is essentially a condition of barbarism; and that when we consider the great advancement in the application of science to the economical uses of the world at the present day, we declare it high time that the waste of facilities for the creation of universal wealth should cease, and a "true civilization" begin. That the printing press, the steam motor and the electric telegraph do not mean the bondage of labor, and should no longer be monopolized for its oppression.

Resolved: That the robbing of the people effected through the operation of an irrational monetary system, which has come down to us from the distant past, having the characteristic features of those times when the ignorance of the masses invited the rule of oppression; that if this system had been designed expressly to cheat and delude the workers, sap their substance, and paralyze their manhood, it could not more effectually have accomplished that result—a system which is the delight of stock gamblers, usurers, speculators, and all other hordes that prey upon labor.

Resolved: That the emancipation of labor is impossible under any present or past monetary system; and that therefore a radical change in the character of money is *indispensable* to the objects we have in view; *viz* A VAST INCREASE OF WEALTH, ITS EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION, AND THE ABOLITION OF POVERTY.

Resolved: That money, or medium of exchange, must be made to represent LABOR—a definite quantity and quality of labor the principle element of which is time.

Resolved: That the money taken for LABOR ought to secure to the holder of it as much labor as he or she gave for it.

Mr. I. G. Blanchard, formerly editor of the Boston *Daily Voice*, also presented the following:

Resolved: That in conducting its warfare upon a false social, political, and commercial order, a Public Press in the interest of that False Order is one of the first obstacles to be removed from the way of Labor Reform; and we call the attention of all interested in the cause of the people against the money lords of the land to this charge; that the press of the country, with rare exceptions, persistently perverts the truth, on all occasions, concerning the actions and utterances of the advocates of Labor Reform, and is to be regarded as the natural enemy of the movement.

L. K. Joslin, of Providence R. I. added this: Whereas the freedom of the land is fundamental to the rights of the people and as the greatest monopoly of land and the most extortionate rents exist in our cities;

Resolved: That the labor party should through the ballot power distribute the thousands of unused lots in our large cities to the landless people for homes, and will pay the owners for the same by the strictly constitutional and legal method of Taxation.

A penitent bachelor says, Solomon's wisdom was due to the fact that he had 700 wives, whom he consulted on all occasions.

## The Word.

PRINCETON, MASS., SEPTEMBER, 1872.

### A BAD MOVE.

Susan B. Anthony writes us:

"Will not you and your circle renew your memberships with our national society and thus help us to keep up our numbers and put cash into the treasury, necessary to do the work now waiting?"

The "work" referred to, is to help reelect Grant on the ground that the Philadelphia platform promised a "respectful consideration" of woman's grievances. We regret to say no, most emphatically, and feel not a little indignant that any one could have supposed us capable of following such a lead. So far as the National Woman's Suffrage Association has favored direct and aggressive action we have supported it most heartily; but if that organization indorses Miss Anthony's late proclamation it will cease to command the respect of disinterested co-workers.

This government is a male usurpation presuming to rule one half of the people against their consent. Every voter under it, whatever he may say or do to the contrary, is a tyrant, unless he denies its legality, and uses his ballot to overthrow it. The republican party, being in power, and having controlled the government for twelve years, are directly and criminally responsible for the continued subjection of women. Miss Anthony asks us to help these rascals retain control of a government which never ought to have existed, and of which she should seek the immediate and unconditional abolition. A "respectful consideration" indeed! Think of Sam Adams siding with Geo. III, or Garrison helping slaveholders on the ground of a "respectful consideration"! If anything could show the inability of women to vote intelligently it would be the present attitude of Lucy Stone and Susan B. Anthony. While the republican party has done nothing worthy of the support of woman suffragists, its advocacy of war, of military despotism, and the perpetual spoliation of labor should array them against it. We do not ask these ladies to adopt our ideas for they have a special work in hand. But

we have a right first to ask them not to be perpetually setting a price up on themselves and their cause; and secondly that, when they meddle with other reforms they will not always take the wrong side, as Lucy Stone persistently does.

Mrs. Stanton and Mrs. Woodhull have uttered brave words for struggling reforms of every grade. We hope their action, in this crisis, will shame the time serving servility of their weaker sisters.

Those wishing a newspaper devoted to liberty in its broadest sense should subscribe for the Boston *Investigator*, advertised in another column. It has stood in the van of reform for many years and will benefit influence all who do themselves the honor to read it. The God-can-do-no-wrong maxim has worked infinite mischief in human affairs; and it is fortunate that, at least, one newspaper brings the powers above, as well as the powers below, into court to answer for the doings on this planet.

A newspaper devoted to the interests of working men must have at least nine lives to survive the proverbial indifference of that class. To be dead is bad enough, but to be dead and not know it is an especial calamity, and the particular condition of most working people touching labor reform. The *American Workman*, advertised elsewhere, has lived several years, even in inhospitable Boston, and continues to offer labor news and ideas at a low price. Those wishing to lay up treasure for the kingdom to come should invest at once the amount of the subscription, \$2 50.

Gods. To reciprocate the compliment of having been created in the divine image man insists on creating Deity in his own human image. Though our views of the creative force called God differ, all must admit that the idea of God is more or less colored by human imperfections and desires. Thus now we have a war God and a usury God, as formerly, a proslavery God. If Deity does not favor their sins, sinners make another God who will and hire a minister to say so.

LABOR POLITICS.

The conference in New York July 30, called a convention which met in Philadelphia Aug. 22 and recommended Charles O'Conner of New York for President and Eli Saulsbury of Delaware, for Vice President, both prominent democrats, and neither in any known sense, identified with, or representative of labor reform. It was a bid for a union with the "straight" democrats who meet at Louisville Sept. 3. The administrators of the estate of David Davis, politically deceased, met at Columbus Ohio Aug. 21, and gravely ordered us to follow them to nothing and nowhere. The desertion to the enemy of Wendell Phillips and S. P. Cummings so demoralized the Massachusetts labor party, that, making no nomination for State officers, it proposes nothing of any account save the reinforcement of woman's suffrage. Three years ago with a platform that at least hinted equity, and had the honor to be denounced as favoring repudiation, we polled over 13,000 votes. Last year that vote had dwindled to 6,000, which now seems likely to vanish altogether. The "eight hour" men have controlled the policy of the labor party of this State, and run it to this result. Possibly they may now stoop to ask what is just, and consider whether an idea may not, after all, be of some service in the labor movement. But for E. M. Chamberlin, there would not now be enough left of the local or national labor party to attend its own funeral. His course has been clearly defined, direct and manly from the beginning, and worthy of a better following.

Until the National Labor Union have something better to offer than government endorsement of the interest swindle, exclusion of the Chinese, and tariff piracy, we advise them to quit politics. The labor party, as now organized, is near its end; but connected with it are many honest and able men who, if they knew their time and dared to strike would do telling service for humanity. So long as they propose to benefit one class by defrauding others, and seek no better goal than cooperation with profit thieves, or a government paper currency, at once despotic and fraudulent, happily they are destined to fail.

In another column are some rather severe criticisms upon what are deemed our severities. We gladly print them and wish our friends to continue to say what they think. We asserted that the eight hour and trades union movements, as now conducted, seek cooperation in profits which no one may honestly take; aim to reduce the hours and increase the pay of one class by increasing the hours and lessening the pay of other more destitute workers. Until these statements are disproved our position remains invulnerable.

The Crown Princess Victoria of Prussia has offered a prize of \$8,000 for the best essay on advancing the material prosperity of working women.

Correspondence.

C. H. LAUERMANN Jr. Lindsay, Prov. of Ontario Canada. Cash received, order filled by mail. Thanks.

Z. C. Whipple, Mystic Conn. Should have been glad to have attended your Peace meeting, but it was impossible.

Duncan G. Ingraham, Santa Cruz California. "Your prospectus is the most complete enunciation of the true principles of capital and labor I have seen"

Mrs. M. M. Goodale, Thorndike, Mass.: "Would like to assist you in any way possible, for I am in sympathy with your ideas as far as I understand them."

Chancey Paul, Vineland, N. J. Paper forwarded duly. Thanks.

L. M. Sherlocke, Toronto, Canada; "Your severe criticisms of laborers and capitalists will alienate both classes. If a man breaks into my house and steals my goods I am perfectly justified in breaking into his house and taking back my own. This is the position of trades unions: Because they are unable to see the whole truth can we blame them for acting on the knowledge they have obtained? Your assertion that the eight hour movement, as now conducted, is an ignoble scramble for ill gotten gain is a base libel on some of the noblest men of the age"

Stamford, Conn. "If the eight hour strikers would strike the right way they would command respect, but now they only make fools of themselves."

Ernst Besser & Brother, Buffalo, N. Y. Order filled: Bill by mail.

From J. WARREN: "As many of our friends know that I sympathize with you in many things (as I really do), I wish to say that I do not sympathize in any degree in your resolutions in your last issue, relative to the Eight hour movement, and the Massachusetts Labor Union."

John F. Nichols, Ayr Minn. a veteran reformer 73 years old, still young in the fight: "This world is my home I intend to do all the good I can in it."

At the nightly congress of white males of our community in the village store two boys, Charles Truesdell and William Melvin, recently discussed the money question as follows:—

C. T. "If a man had all the world he'd soon go through it if he could not get interest, and how would he live then?"

W. M. "How can I live when I've got no money to loan for interest?"

C. T. "Oh, you can work"

W. M. "Let that other fellow work too."

A Detroit manufacturing establishment throws in warm dinners daily to its employees.

Seek rest in motion; in growth not in death.

RECEIVED.

Third Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics of Labor of Massachusetts. H. K. Oliver Chief, George E. Mc Niel Deputy, State House, Boston.

Sophisms of the Protectionists. By M. Frederick Bastiat, Member of the Institute of France, New York: American Free Trade League.

Usury the Scourge of Nations: By James Harvey, Chatham Place, Liverpool, England. Price one penny.

Common Sense Thoughts on the Bible, For Common Sense People. By Wm. Denton. Eighteenth thousand. Price 10 cents. Also, by the same, The Deluge in the Light of Modern Science. Price 10 cents.

Cost of the Crown. By Sir Charles Dilke. Price one penny.

Resolutions of the Boston Eight Hour League. Imogen and other poems. By Wm. B. Green Jr. Boston: B. B. Russell.

Poems; Liberal, Religious, Reformatory and Miscellaneous. By C. L. James, Alma, Wisconsin.

Why I am a Spiritualist. By J. B. Angell, Red Bank, J. Y.

The Voice of Peace aims to remove the causes and abolish the customs of war. Terms, \$1 00 per year. Address J. & Z. C. Whipple, Publishers, Mystic, Conn.

A NOBLE WORKER GONE.

T. R. Kinget, M D. in, the Boston Investigator, says of the late Ira B. Davis,

The friends, as well as the cause, of Reform have lost a sincere and earnest advocate. From old Robert Owen, he, like myself, received valuable lessons in Social Reform, and side by side with that good old man, he labored in the cause of humanity.

Mr. Davis was a quiet, earnest man of clearly defined and strong convictions, who had more deeds than words for any reform. Our acquaintance was brief, but we learned enough of him to know how large a space he filled in the reform circles of New York city, and how keenly his loss will be felt by all his fellow workers for social redemption. His house, at 35 East 27th st. offered shelter to fugitives from all sorts of oppression, hospitality to opinions of every shade, and a home to which reformers were always welcome.

THE RIGHT MAN IN THE WRONG PLACE.

Frederic W. Thurlow of Newburyport is in Jail for refusing to pay a poll tax, because government bonds are not taxed. It is the old story—honest men locked up and thieves the jailers. This Mr. Thurlow should be governor of the State rather than be caged with felons. Why will not Gov. Washburn retire in favor of his superior fellow citizen?

The National Labor Union meets at Cleveland Ohio Sept. 17th.

# THE WORD.

## THE MUSIC AND THE RAIN.

When the tinkle of sweet music, and the drowsy fall of rain,  
Lulls to rest the weary spirit, making it forget its pain;  
Then we dream of golden moments, happy hours we hoped to  
spend,  
Heart to heart with those who love us, in the bosom of a  
friend.

Why cannot the pulse responsive, always to some rhythm beat,  
Of the rain of tinkling music, measuring off poetic feet?  
Why need discords rough and grating, jar upon the spirit's  
sense,  
Racking every fine nerve fibre with the throb of pain in-  
tense?

But we know the near approaching of that moment when we can  
Live our lives in perfect rapture, nature reconciled to man.  
With joy the spirit sees the coming, of the days foretold so  
long;  
When our life shall be a poem, breaking forth into a  
song.  
J. Q. SANDS.

## PHYSIOLOGY FOR WOMEN.

Women, in all classes and degrees of society, have more to do with the preservation and duration of human life, even more than men. It has been argued that, inasmuch as even the brutes know instinctively how to take care of their young, so must women be able to do the same. But the human infant is the most helpless of creatures, and nothing is more lamentable than to witness the anxieties and agonies of the young mother, as to how she should manage her first-born. In no system of education are women taught the structure and requirements of the offspring which will be committed to their charge; and certainly no error can be greater than to suppose that the senses and instincts are sufficient for teaching man as to his physical, vital and intellectual wants. The enormous loss of life among infants has struck all who have paid attention to the subject, and there can be no question that this is mainly owing to neglect, want of proper food or clothing, of cleanliness, of fresh air, and other preventable causes. But women are the wives and regulators of the domestic households. They also constitute the great mass of our domestic servants. On them depends the proper ventilation of the rooms, and especially the sleeping rooms, in which all mankind on an average spend one third of their lives. Children are too often shut up all day in crowded nurseries, and when ill, are subjected to numerous absurd remedies before medical assistance is sent for. The cleanliness of the house also depends on women, and the removal of organic matter from furniture and linen, the decomposition of which is so productive of disease. Further, the proper choice and preparation of food is en-

trusted to them—all these are physiological subjects, the ignorance of which is constantly leading to ill health, and death. Among the working classes it is too frequently the improvidence and ignorance of the women, which lead to the intemperance and brutality of the men, from which originate half the vice and crime known to our police offices and courts of justice. Women in all ranks of society should have physiology taught to them. It should be an essential subject in their primary, secondary, and higher schools. I have found them most attentive and interested in the subject, possessing, indeed, a peculiar aptitude for the study, and an instinctive feeling, whether as servants or mistresses, wives or mothers, that that science contains for them, more than any other, the elements of real and useful knowledge. Prof. BENNETT.

SIFTING. Our friends must not suppose that there is anything in the general break up of the labor party to discourage us. Events are merely sifting reformers to reveal their true character, and the labor movement will be all the stronger when noncommittal advocacy and dawdling sentimentalism are sloughed off. The labor party will reappear and triumph over all opposition.

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