

THE WORD.

A MONTHLY JOURNAL OF REFORM.

VOL. I.

PRINCETON, MASS., NOVEMBER, 1872.

NO. 7.

The Word,

For the abolition of speculative income, of woman's slavery and war government; regards all claims to property, not founded on a labor 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, trades-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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We learn that John Orvis is making good progress in organizing his co-operative store movement in Boston.

WHY NOT?

178 HIGH STREET, SHADWELL, LONDON,
September 3, 1872,

The crime that I am about to commit and what I must suffer hereafter is nothing compared to my present misery. Alone in London, not a penny or a friend to advise or lend a helping hand, tired and weary with looking for something to do, failing in every way, foot-sore and heart weary, I prefer death to the dawning of another wretched morning. I have only been in Britain nine weeks. I came as a nursery governess with a tally from America to Wick, in Scotland, where she discharged me, refusing to pay my passage back, giving me my wages, £3 10s. After my expenses to London, I found myself in this great city with only 5s. What was I to do? I sold my watch. The paltry sum I obtained for that soon went in paying for my board and in looking for a situation. Now I am destitute, every day is a misery to me. No friend, no hope, no money; what is left? Oh, God of heaven, have mercy on a poor, helpless sinner; thou knowest how I have striven against this, but fate is against me. I cannot tread the path of sin, for my dead mother will be watching me. Fatherless motherless, home I have none. Oh, for the rarity of Christian hearts. I am now mad; for days I have foreseen that this would be the end. May all who hear of my death forgive me, and may God Almighty do so, before whose bar I must soon appear. Farewell to all, to this beautiful and yet wretched world. ALICE BLANCHE OSWALD. I am twenty years of age the 14th of this month.

She threw herself from Waterloo bridge and was drowned.

After her death it was stated, by some one who evidently knew more of the facts than he cared to tell, that the above was not her real name; that she was not an American but an Australian, though under the name of Lillian Locke, she called on our vice consul, Mr. Nunn, who sent her to seek work at the Langham Hotel; and that, at all events, she probably led an adventurous life. COL. WM. B. GREENE, makes the following comments:—"This girl was under 20 years old. The mistress was, therefore, her natural guardian. The mistress could not repudiate a trust voluntarily assumed. The name of the mistress ought therefore to be known, in order that it may be noted as infamous. If this woman ever comes back to America, America ought to be made too hot to hold her. The working people have forgiven too much, and should make an example of this woman. They can do it, if she ever again shows her face this side of the Atlantic."

Who is the infamous scoundrel that originated the sentence, "It has since been discovered that the name ALICE BLANCHE OSWALD was probably an assumed one, and that the girl was not an American, but an Australian?" What is the ground for the probability? and of what consequence is it whether the girl was Australian or American, if she saw fit to hail from America as her adopted home? and of what consequence is it whether the name signed to her letter is an assumed one or the contrary? Has not a servant girl under twenty years of age, who drowns herself in a strange land, a clear right (if she wishes to spare the feelings of her friends at home) to die under an assumed name? And who is the calumnious villain that first con-

cocted the following infamous sentence: "At all events, she probably led an adventurous life?" All servant girls who leave their homes to live with strangers, lead adventurous lives. Every person who goes from land to land, striving to better his, or her, condition, is an adventurer. Every colonist that landed on Plymouth rock was an adventurer: Adam and Eve, when they left the garden of Eden, were adventurers: the twelve apostles were adventurers. Suppose the girl did apply for a situation under the assumed name of Lillian Locke: would she be the first or only perfectly honest servant girl who answered to two or more names? Is Alice Blanche Oswald the first servant-girl, or the only servant-girl, who had a genuine romance in her life, or who had a perfectly true romance—or a partially true one—to tell? Because she was a servant-girl like other servant-girls, and not Cinderella, or even Lucy Stone in disguise, are her wrongs to be counted for nothing?

The questions in point are very simple, and require to be answered. They are these. Was THE MISTRESS an American? Did this unnatural mistress turn off her nineteen year old servant maid in a foreign country, without giving her means to support herself, and buy victuals and drink while seeking another situation?

Again, did Mr. Nunn, "our Vice consul" do anything more for Alice Blanche Oswald than to recommend her to apply for a situation at the Langham Hotel, where the servant-girls are employed in turning over heavy beds, emptying slops, and scrubbing passage ways (as in other hotels), work beyond the physical capacities of most persons who are fitted to be a nursery governess? And if Mr. Nunn did no more than this, is he not more guilty than he would have been if he had hauled down the American Flag? And, if he is guilty, ought he not, in accordance with the expressed sentiment of Gen. Dix, to be "shot on the spot"? Perhaps it would do him good to be shot. This Mr. Nunn, "our vice consul", would do well to explain himself; otherwise, he may become a provocative to cursing and swearing, and to other immoral utterances. This whole apology bears the evident marks of being a base attempt of guilty parties to shield themselves by calumniating the dead victim of their own sins of omission and commission.

THE POOR GIRL'S LIFE.

Blunders lest He make,
God himself keeps dark;
Forecasting her Fate

Were beyond his art.—Angela T. Heywood.

A girl friend asked me, Did you ever think how one must feel when writing her maiden name for the last time?—Lizzie B. Stiles.

The Word.

PRINCETON, MASS., NOVEMBER, 1872.

GROPING.

The dissolution of The Labor Party, the decline of the International, and the death of the National Labor Union indicate, that many labor reformers are yet far in a maze of uncertainty, blindly feeling their way, hardly knowing what they want, or how to get it. The cause of this general failure, of the associative efforts of working men, will be found, in the shortsighted and perverse policies which have governed their action. Since we are quite likely to be wrong, criticism on what we say or do is welcomed. Our friends, on the contrary, must bear in mind that the truth, as we view it, is the kindest service we can do them; our best gift to give the labor movement sure foot-hold, in fundamental equity.

We favor a reduction of the hours of labor, but by honest means. The slave masters reduced their hours of service by virtue of the unrequited toil of negroes; Jay Cook, John Morrissey, Julia Ward Howe, George S. Boutwell and profit-thieves generally enjoy leisure by an "income" of others' earnings for which they return no just equivalent; employees, in the navy yards and arsenals, get ten hours' pay for eight hours' service, by increasing the hours and lessening the pay of all workers, outside of their privileged sinecures. There is something ineffably mean in this attempt to benefit ourselves, by imposing additional burdens on the less fortunate. To the anti-slavery struggle, as an initiative step towards the emancipation of labor, we gave some of our best years. But, not to mention their blood-stained war crimes, the republicans, and all abolitionists who support them, simply overcame evil by evil; for they have raised the rates of interest and other profits to a far greater amount than what is paid negroes in the form of wages; so that the aggregate sum of unpaid service is much larger now, than it was before 1860. Carlyle was right, in his "Iliad in a Nutshell", which asserted that the war was merely a quarrel among capitalists, as to

whether they should hold negroes as chattel slaves, or wages slaves.

Grave interests of health, morals, culture and competence demand a reduction of the hours of labor in factories. But that the case of factory operatives is not so desperate, as that of "upper-servants without wages" called wives, or of house servants, farm and other day laborers, is evident, from the fact, that kitchens and the land are deserted, by workers who better their conditions in manufacturing districts. We respect laborers who aim to reduce their hours, at their own expense; but to work less, by compelling others to work more, is no merit, but a crime. Where business pays no profit the "wage slave" is already getting as much, or more, than belongs to him, so far as his employer is concerned. Employer and employee may be defrauded by the speculative power overshadowing them both; but, in that case, they should combine to abolish speculative theft, not quarrel for shares in the plunder. Wherever business pays a profit, the profit is either filched from the producer, by unfair wages, or from the consumer by increased prices. To say that "a reduction of the hours of service must never be purchased by a reduction of pay" is a confession, at the outset, that the eight hour scheme, arbitrarily enforced, cannot be defended on its own merits. And its movers know full well that, unless coupled with a strike for higher wages, it would be voted down overwhelmingly by working men.

It was this policy of intrusion and fraud which we assigned as the cause of the death of the Labor Party in Massachusetts. Messers Seward and Mc Niel only went a little further in the bad way; for if their "heroic" medicine had been taken they would have killed the party sooner, or produced miscarriage before its birth. When the Labor Reform League Conventions appeared, in 1869, which was the inception of the later general agitation of the labor question, in New England, we could not find an eight hour man, in Boston, who would stake ten cents, on the public discussion of his hobby.

FALLEN WOMEN.

Since the moral sense of woman is generally conceded to be more intelligent, and steadfast, than man's, it is thought her entrance into politics will be the advent of renovating influences, much-needed in that murky side of life. For one holding this faith, it is unpleasant to witness individual exhibitions of weakness, and depravity, in the gentler sex, which match the rude vices of our male sovereigns. Learning nothing from having been, for years, kicked like a foot ball, from convention, to convention, prominent women have sold themselves and their cause, in open market, and frantically embraced political men and measures, that a common sense of equity, not to say of delicacy, should have taught them to shun.

Well does Mrs. Churchill say:—"There has been ill judged action and women have belittled themselves, and their cause, by offering to work for that party which would most fully indorse woman's suffrage, regardless of other principles."

Miss Dickinson and Miss Kate Stanton, erring in the opposite direction, support their ablest foe Horace Greeley. All honor to Lucy Stone, Miss Anthony and the rest for their great service to equal rights in the past. But, since they have stooped to support a government which never ought to have existed; have unconditionally indorsed a party pledged to maintain war, usury, speculation and marriage feuds; have sided against Labor, peace and social justice, we regret to feel that statesmen will have new cause to doubt the expediency of admitting such equivocal characters to the franchise; that working men, and especially working women must count them their enemies, and that reformers must regard them, as either too ignorant, or too unscrupulous to be trusted.

Boston has not only a harbor for ships, but an entrance port for spirits returning from the other side of Jordan—the *Banner of Light Circle Room*. One of the harbor masters, Theodore Parker, says Henry Ward Beecher's heart is full of truth which his lips are too cowardly to utter, and prays God to force him to speak out. Many other Reverend Triflers, who resist the strivings of the spirits, should be under concern for their sins also.

The *Workingman's Advocate*, of Chicago, is the oldest and most widely circulating labor paper in America. As the organ of the Trades-Unions it represents faithfully that phase of our movement, and also has decided opinions, on currency and land reform.

The Boston *Commonwealth*—recently enlarged and improved—in its views of Labor, Marriage and Peace, is as far wrong as Calhoun was on the slavery question. Still, as a weekly newspaper, it is almost unrivalled, for its excellence, full of sparkling heresy, and literary worth; and we hope its genial and accomplished Editor, Mr. Slack, will live long enough to become converted to our ideas. This he doubtless thinks will be a long time indeed, but he is too good a man to be able to resist truth always.

ALEXANDER TROUPE Editor of the *Saturday Evening Union*, New Haven Conn., is one of the best fighting men in the labor ranks. His paper shows intelligence, courage, and has a wide and attentive constituency of readers. He is fortunate in the friendship of Hon. James Gallagher, and other leading democrats, of that section, who favor woman's suffrage and labor reform.

We will be glad if our friends in the States will send us any items of interest. Subscribers in Canada and Europe can help us in this way. Our Asiatic co-worker, the "Heathen Chinee" we would like also to hear from.

A recent meeting of Internationals, in London, Eng., voted for the abolition of indirect taxation, of usury and standing armies.

R. F. Trevellick is among the lumbermen of Michigan. He is an eloquent speaker, and tireless worker.

A. C. Cameron, and Alexander Troupe favor the formation of an Industrial Congress.

The Boston Eight Hour League has resumed its discussions.

Lysander Spooner will soon publish his new work on Political Economy.

MRS. WOODHULL'S famous *Weekly* has reappeared. She proposes to "tell", and begins with a first-class scandal indeed. It deeply involves Messers Beecher and Tilton, and will compel those two illustrious lights to "rise to explain".

In our next we shall print a form of petitions for Free Money, and devote space to other work for the winter campaign.

Correspondence.

B. R. TUCKER, New Bedford, Mass. "I hope to do some work for the Labor Cause but first wish to study the question that I may thoroughly understand it. For this reason I send for your publications. I wish you would hold a Convention in New Bedford. The Conservatives here need a little stirring up. They have not been shocked in a long time."

JOHN GRABLE Wathena, Kansas. "The greatest evil that afflicts our country is the legalized monopoly of Public Credit, by a few bankers, and that on no reliable basis. All credit should be on a primary basis of real estate or fixed capital. If all the bank bills with their mortgages and notes were burned there would be no wealth destroyed. Yet with this fiction of credit, bank financiers manage to control, for their own special benefit, all our agricultural and manufacturing industries, with our commercial and railroad interests, and are absorbing the future heritage of our children the public domain. They made a Shylockish bargain, to have a high interest in gold, on their bonds exempted from taxation, and besides, to issue 90 cents on the dollar as a national currency; thus doubling, if not tripling their wealth, realizing from 20 to 30 per cent out of productive industry, by a legalized fiction of wealth. I propose that all people, according to their means, use their own credit, through the government, at one per cent, on a basis secured by mortgage of three dollars value to one of money issued against it."

WILKES DAVIS, Princeton, Mass. "The Grandings may beat, but they will glory in their own shame."

Geo. E. Mc NIEL, Boston. "In 'The Word' for September, under the heading 'Labor Politics' you say:—'The eight hour men have controlled the policy of the labor party of this state, and run it to this result.'"

This is a falsification of history. You know that we have been in the minority; that our protest has been unheeded, that the platforms of the party are not of our creating, that financial reform, not industrial reform, has been the cry of the leaders. You know that we were hissed at the first convention, and that we have been hated and traduced by the men who have now gone back to their vomit. We have warned, entreated and protested in vain.

We predicted that this would be the result. You know that the last convention refused our platform, and even refused to censure the old parties for neglect, and Phillips for his recreancy. In no instance have we controlled the labor party; we have acted with it, and in it, hoping, entreating and protesting.

Thanks for all criticisms on eight hour men and their movement. But let the responsibility of the failures of the labor party rest where it belongs—upon the heads of Wendell Phillips, S. P. Cummings, and their followers in the party, who have so persistently diverted public attention from the only live issue ever presented by the wage laborers; and upon the head of E. H. Heywood, and others out of the party, who scoff at the effort of the laborer for larger freedom, and practically join the enemy in his effort to keep down the insurrectionary at-

tempt of the wage slave, as the northern dough-faces, aided the cotton lord in his accursed system of chattel slavery.

Not one word for the poor oppressed factory operative, lest the Spragues the Greenes and other wealthy men of the North, take offence, and withhold their support from the propagandism of issues remote incidental, or absurd.

I write what I think, regretting that your voice and influence should be given where it must needs tell against those for whom you profess to labor. I remain, as ever, firm in the faith an eight hour man till death."

JOSIE S. TILTON, Bangor, Me.: "If to reduce the hours of labor, without a corresponding reduction of wages, would defraud consumers, by increased prices, why did you not object to freeing chattel slaves, on the ground that to pay for their services would increase prices?"

IRA STEWARD, Cambridge, Mass.: "You know that the Eight Hour men have not controlled the policy of the labor party of this state."

With the greatest difficulty we barely succeeded in gaining a voice in its deliberations. In the state of Connecticut last spring, the Labor party went into the campaign, and, without uttering one single word upon the Hours of Labor, polled 399 votes.

In New Hampshire at the last trial, they pursued the same policy, and with substantially the same result—a largely reduced vote.

It is because the hours of Labor have been, as far as possible, ignored that workingmen turn their backs upon the Labor party.

I enclose your Manchester, N. H. speech of 1867 for your edification, and if ever I find you upon a free platform, will be glad to discuss this matter further. I wish meantime that I had the evidence that you are really interested in the Labor question and that you are sincere and honest."

SAMUEL LEAVITT, N. Y. City: Thanks for abstract of your address before The Liberal Club. Will reprint extracts.

C. L. JAMES, Alma, Wis.: The books have arrived, delayed by misdirection.

MRS. E. C. STANTON, Tennyss N. J. Do you not know that what Mr. GREELEY said, in favor of secession, in 1861, was true doctrine; and that his chief fault was that he did not stand firm, and oppose the war altogether?

Mrs. Lois Waisbrooker proposes to start a new weekly paper entitled "The Present Age" at Battle Creek, Mich.

The American Labor Reform League strikes squarely for the abolition of all profits. It has active coadjutors in many of the States, and welcomes all to its platform, whether they favor, or oppose its views.

Dr. Mc Elroy of New York, being about to marry his fourth wife, some one asked his daughter who was going to perform the ceremony. "I don't know, but I presume it will be Dr. Spring. He generally marries father."

HORACE SEAVER, Editor of *The Investigator*, who thinks death the end of us, says: We have no belief in any such thing as a spirit apart from a material body. The idea is as absurd to us as to talk of hunger without a stomach, or the sense of smell without a nose. Human life depends on a human organization, and consequently an individual existence after death seems as unlikely as existence before birth. We are materialists.

REV. THOS. K. BEECHER thus illustrates his belief in the return of spirits from the other side of death.

A man who was living a moment ago is suddenly shot dead. He lies there just the same body, weighing the same that he did before. There is no sign of violence but one little hole which the bullet has made. A melodeon stands near the body, weighing precisely as much as that does. Now, he asks if the power of the individual spirit was sufficient to turn that body around, make it get up and lie down, walk, run and move in all directions, why may not the same power move the melodeon also? When the scientific men will answer us that, they may resume their abstruse guesses about more material matters, which they regard as the only ones that have an existence.

A friend writes that Lucy Stone calls *THE WORD* a Greeley paper. Mrs Stone should report correctly if at all. We do not side with Greeley, first because he is opposed to woman's emancipation; and secondly because he is even more hostile to Labor Reform—that is to the abolition of interest, rent and other forms of profit—than *The Woman's Journal*.

DYEING.

When lovely woman reaches forty,
And finds too late a streak of gray;
What change can soothe her melancholy,
And drive the silvery lines away?

The only charm her locks to color,
To hide her age from every eye;
To steal away her daughter's lover
And craze her husband, is—to dye.

A panic stricken Lord of Creation fore sees the coming obituary notice thusly: "Died, in the thirty-fifth year of his age, John Smith, husband of the Hon. Jane Smith, at her residence in Franklin, at six o'clock. Mr. Smith was a meek and quiet husband, beloved for the graces of a cultivated nature. He excelled in the domestic virtues; as a cook he was surpassed by few, as a nurse he was equalled by none."

HON. THOMAS DAVIS says: The first public speech I ever made was upon the question of reducing the hours of adult labor in factories to ten hours per day. I was then one of those who worked by the hour and by the day. It has struck me ever since and strikes me now with great force, that the manufacturers of Rhode Island and of New England do need to take that step voluntarily and from good will to those in their employ. It is not, certainly, for the interest of any state to accumulate great wealth in the hands of a few. Wealth should be so distributed that some of the blessings resulting from it may fall upon all. It is not for the well being of the community that vast fortunes should be poured into the hands of a few who have not the heart, the conscience and the virtue to distribute wisely of their means. Mere money accumulations, for which we all labor too intensely I fear, to leave us good and wise, bring no peace to our hearts no balm to our consciences.

The Voice of Peace, advertised elsewhere should be heard and heeded. War with its twin relic of barbarism, patriotism, is among the foulest blots upon our so called civilization.

A highly esteemed friend and zealous coworker, is one of the original movers in the proposed Kansas Colony advertised in another column. The old Puritans voted: "The world belongs to the Saints, and we are the Saints" Labor reformers who till the soil have a good claim to it, to that extent, and we wish our friends success. But, to be just men, they must rigidly limit the price of land, they may come in possession of, to the labor invested. In no sense can one honestly own land as such.

Wm. Denton thinks that Jesus Christ was not only a man but a boy; and like other boys, was sometimes spanked.

"Bewildered in an immense forest during the night, and having only one small torch for my guide, a stranger approaches, and thus addresses me: 'Friend, blow out thy light if thou wouldst make sure of the right path.' The forest was the world—the light my reason—the stranger was a priest."—*Diderot*.

KANSAS STEAM CULTIVATING CO.

The number of forty eight men who will make use of the Homestead Act in the Kansas Prairies and are worth at least \$400 each, will complete the Organization. If this number should not be realized within three months, we will start with less, but not under twenty-four members.

The project of this Company is to buy two of WILLIAMSON'S Road and Plough Steamers, costing \$5,500 a piece. This Steam Plough will break two acres of ground per hour with the assistance of an engineer and a fireman who tends at the same time to the ploughing; it will do the sowing, harrowing, haying and harvesting with comparative acceleration and with but little manual effort. The whole field-labor of 2,000 acres can be done by one of this kind of machines with the assistance of but a few men, as also the necessary hauling can be executed by employing it as a Road Steamer. It is supplied with a fly wheel and governor and can be used for driving stationary machines such as saw and grist mills, &c.

Millions of acres of the best of our homestead lands are granted away to railroad corporations, and the Kansas prairies offer the last chance where such an organization could find level land enough in one body to supply its members with homesteads.

The northwestern part of the State of Kansas has a most healthy climate with a wonderfully fertile soil, and with the above described facility of Steam cultivation a person, even not being a farmer, can acquire a precious homestead with the expense of four hundred dollars for the said machinery and the necessary preparations; to send out prospecting and locating committees, the boring of artesian wells and for coal, &c.

A Prospecting Committee has to be sent out and subsequently a Locating Committee. The Party will start from Boston to Kansas at the first of March, 1873.

For Circulars giving estimates of expenses and other particulars, address

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