



G. M. W.'S RETORT.

IMPUDENT CRITICS SHOULD BE EXPELLED.

Fault-Finders Anarchists—No Money Squandered—The Result of Confiding Too Much in the Capitalist Press. Timely Hint.

As usual the labor press has to rely upon the capitalistic press for information as to the doings of a "secret" labor organization, notwithstanding frequent suggestions to the interested parties to furnish reliable and correct news to the labor papers first. The following purports to be the refutation of alleged strictures made by labor papers on the doings of the General Executive Board of the Noble Order of Knights of Labor, in the matter of the purchase of the new headquarters for the Board in Philadelphia, a beautiful house which was bought after due consideration for \$45,000, and is said by the Board to be worth \$80,000. Mr. Powderly according to a New York capitalistic sheet, says:

"The charge made that 'the General Executive Board has squandered the funds of the order in a reckless purchase of a palace among capitalists and nabobs, etc.' is silly when it appears in a paper published in the interest of capital; but when a labor plays parrot and picks up such a cry and repeats it before ascertaining whether it is true or false it becomes criminal.

"Those who find the most fault with us are men of Anarchistic tendencies. They are constantly asserting that the palaces of the rich belong to the poor, and when the poor step in where capital goes out they still keep up their whine and attempt to stir up discord. Nothing craves so much distrust in a workingman's society as to charge that the funds have been misappropriated or squandered; and it was with the intention of creating dissension that the howl went up against the purchase of the headquarters. We were ordered to do it, and it was well done—it was honestly done. I ask where an editor of a paper who has published an attack on the General Executive Board for the purchase of the headquarters, belong to the order he be allowed to appoint an investigating committee to examine the Philadelphia property, and if he finds that I have made a misstatement he need not retract what he has published; if he finds that he was wrong he must retract or be expelled from the order. The assemblies to which these men belong should act promptly in the matter."

If the publication of these criticisms and refutations will open the eyes of the Executive Board and suggest to them the propriety of making the labor press acquainted with the real facts instead of trusting to the capitalist press, it will have accomplished a good purpose.

FOOLKILLER AHoy!

What Workingmen Owe to Their Bosses—Respect!—Hats Off!

A giant of fossilized intellect inhabits Montreal. He edits a "labor paper" called the *Canadian Workman*. We do not often run afoul of a copy of this paper, but when the wind blows one of them in our direction we feel like giving it the attention which it deserves. Below are a few quotations from a recent edition:

"You owe to your employer your best abilities, your whole time (during working hours)."

Yes, indeed! You owe to your employer everything—even your very existence. If your employer wills that you cease to exist, he dis-

charges you and that settles it. If you happen to be unable to get another job, you cease to exist; vulgarly speaking—starve. You cannot be too considerate in the matter of your employer's interests. Study them; recall how much you owe to him. Your food, your clothing, the privilege to get married and accumulate a family. And while you are about it, don't forget the landlord and what you owe to him for the permission to remain on the surface of the earth. The rent is not all; you must figure to retain his good will. If all the landlords should combine and refuse you a resting place, you would be compelled to go to the end of the earth and jump off. Yes, you are in debt body and soul to your employer.

"You want to improve your position, to earn more wages; therefore you must render yourself more valuable to your employer by devoting all your time and talents to his interests. Then, if he will not pay you better, someone else will. Make yourself valuable to your employer and it will pay him to increase your wages to do so."

Very good advice! Make yourself invaluable to your employer. Seek out new devices to improve his business. Make his interests your own. After you have introduced a new system and gotten it into working order, he will discharge you and hire a boy who lives with his parents to take your place at three dollars per week. But don't let little things like that, discourage you. Virtue is its own reward. The happy consciousness of having done your duty, and the prospects of a home in Heaven will compensate for any meals which you may inadvertently miss on this mundane sphere.

"Be respectful to your employer, both in his presence and in his absence; then you will win his respect and that of your fellow-workmen."

Good again! Here is a pleasing addition in the shape of poetry, to which we would respectfully direct the attention of the workmen.

TO MY EMPLOYER:
Tis for thee that I work, and for thee that I pray;
Dream of thee by night, and serve thee by day.

We think this will be about the size of the "giant of Canadian intellect." Respect your employer. Retrospect him, aspect him, inspect him, and above all, suspect him, in addition you can't bring too many "spees" to bear upon him. Up aloft there sits a foolkiller who, tradition says, descends periodically and takes off the more monumental imbeciles who mar the triumphal forward march of humanity. Do you wish to make his acquaintance? When you imbibe the idea that your employer respects you he will certainly give you a call. Respect is a good thing in its place, but it won't buy you food or clothing. It won't buy anything in fact; and the employer who pays you in respect will deduct the equivalent from your wages. Don't forget the fact that you can't wear respect, or eat respect. You can't pass a respect ticket on the railroads; nor get anything advanced on respect, at the "three balls." Give your employer anything which he is willing to pay for. Don't cater for his respect. What you want is the full and undivided product of your labor. This is Socialism.

As for the "giant of Canadian intellect"—well, the foolkiller has evidently been neglecting his business.

NATIVE ARISTOCRACY.

The carriage of an aristocrat obstructed the cross-walk at the corner of Church and Chapel streets the other day for several minutes. A crowd of pedestrians were compelled to wait while the whole family alighted, and a guardian of the law looked complacently on, raising his hat in servile submission to his patrons. The gutter is not good enough for the carriages of the elite of our good city. We would suggest that they drive up on the side-walk, or stretch a plush upholstered bridge from the door of the carriage to the step of the shop, and leave it there until they complete their purchases. Our citizens would then learn how to climb.

SAILOR'S WARNING.

TERRIBLE EXPERIENCES OF "LANDSMEN" AT SEA.

Another Form of Exploitation Not Usually Noticed—An Unorganized Industry—Cruelty to Sailors—The Law to be Appealed to.

One day last week a sailor lad called at this office and requested us to publish a warning to men who are contemplating a seaman's life rather than starve on shore for want of work. As our informant intends to have the offending parties arrested, the story must be told without exposing the names of the officers, for these people have a way of escaping the law by turning their vessel over to the keeping of another set of officers, and thus evade the police who may be ready to give them a becoming reception on their return.

Our sailor was a landsman when he shipped aboard a New Bedford whaler through the influence brought to bear on him by a New York agent. Out of work, and compelled to do something to keep from starving, he succumbed to the wiles of the villainous agent, who made him great promises, among which were that he could return from a two years' voyage with \$800 clear, and that aboard ship he would be found in good meals and clothing. But he had to say he was twenty-one years of age in order to get the position before the mast. This the young man eagerly did, for he could not see his way clear to refuse work by giving his true age—nineteen. He could not speak a word of English, and when he arrived at New Bedford with a contingent of men as green as himself, he was easily induced to sign "articles," which consigned him to a terrible experience. He was taken to a clothing store and a number of garments were thrown into a chest in his possession to the value of about forty dollars. Then he was taken aboard the vessel and ordered to change his clothes. At the same time he was given a slip of paper. Taking his chest and descending into the sailors' quarters forward, he looked at the slip of paper. The fact that it was a bill for the clothing dawned upon him, and the amount was a round hundred dollars. His first impulse was to rush out on deck and seek an explanation from the captain; but he did as the rest did and changed his clothes, donning the sailor suit "bought" a short time before.

No sooner was he dressed than all hands were ordered on deck, when to their astonishment they found themselves far out at sea. The crew consisted of Portuguese, German, Swedes, Irish and English sailors and landsmen.

What made the situation more ominous was the display of fire arms by the captain and mate. The men were entirely unarmed.

After much suffering from bad food—rotten, maggoty pork and beef—and bad treatment, eight of the crew deserted upon reaching Fayal. One of them was recaptured, placed in irons, and subjected to the grossest indignities while he was being starved into submission. And so it went till finally our informant suffered the following cruel treatment:

The mate gave an order which was not heard by the watch, and our friend was "over the bow" at the time, so that he could not have obeyed even if he had heard the order. He explained to the mate, but that individual was determined to gratify his cruel disposition, and struck the young man, knocking out his front teeth. Not content with this he grasped an iron belaying pin and prepared to strike a death blow, when the captain interfered, and with more refined cruelty ordered the young man hung up to the yard

arm by the wrists. With every lurch of the vessel he was dangled against the railing and objects on deck. For two hours was this torture endured, when he was lowered sufficiently to barely touch the deck with his toes. Soon after he fainted, and when he came to, found himself in irons below. The next morning he was called up, and for an entire week was kept on deck at hard and useless labor, with four hours rest out of each twenty-four. On reaching the next harbor he had a chance to escape, and was not slow to improve the opportunity. After various vicissitudes he reached New York, where he watches with eager eyes the shipping news for tidings of the vessel with its brutal commander and mate.

He requests the WORKMEN'S ADVOCATE to warn those who are out of work against shipping on whalers, for he declares that the testimony of most sailors is that as a rule the treatment of the men before the mast is such as should be rewarded with the most rigorous punishment at the hands of the State.

D. A. H.'S STRANGE PROCEEDING.

Taking Sides With a Railroad Corporation—Hecklerism Apparent.

The Housatonic Railroad company seems to have considerable influence with the Knights of Labor of this city, or to speak more correctly, with the District Assembly. We say *seems* because it is hardly probable that the intelligent rank and file of the Knights are interested in a contest between two capitalistic monopolies. The District Assembly, No. 144, then, advocates the sale of the people's interest in the Derby railroad to a corporation, notwithstanding the fact that Section XVIII of the platform of the order says:

"That the government shall obtain possession, by purchase, under the right of eminent domain, of all telegraphs, telephones and railroads; and that hereafter no charter or license be issued to any corporation for construction or operation of any means of transporting intelligence, passengers or freight."

Not only is it rumored that the District Assembly is itself opposing the above plank in the K. of L. platform, but it actually goes to the trouble of publishing its ridiculous and scandalous advice under the special supervision of a committee of the District. Now, if the central body of the Knights in New Haven persists in this course, it is no doubt subject to suspension by the General Assembly or its agents in accordance with law, unless these in their turn are corrupt and sail under false colors.

The New Haven Knights as a body are not corrupt, and should see to it that the men they elect to represent them in the District do not use their influence in the interest of any railroad corporation. The whole proceeding savors much of "democratic" hecklerism, and should not be tolerated by honest Knights of Labor.

THE DIFFERENCE.

The Hartford *Times* prints the following to show how unfortunate the working people in England are:

"To give a little idea of the cruel disparity of material conditions between the idle and working classes of England this condensation of a paragraph, from a speech made in London, will be sufficient:

"The ceiling of one room in the mansion of the Duke of Westminster cost £15,000; some of the chairs cost 90 guineas. The duke's income is £15,000 a week. Shoemakers work fourteen hours a day, making shoes; their own shoes let water in at one end and out at the other. Through all the ages the poor have built palaces for dukes, hovels for themselves. The duke's dogs and horses are better fed than any man who built the palace. The queen's income is £1,400 a day.

"There can be but one opinion as to the justice of this state of affairs. The differences between the pittance of the laboring poor and the \$75,000 a week of a idle duke, and \$7,000 a day for a mere figure-head to the state, is too enormously unjust to admit of its future permanency. The very nature of so great a wrong sounds its own death-knell."

The *Times* need not go to England for examples of this kind. "Free" America furnishes sufficient proof of the robbery of the working classes by the idle, with the connivance of the "State."

CHEAP NOTORIETY.

COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION OF LABOR'S FORCES.

Very Questionable Disinterestedness. Watching Apparent Trivialities. Individualistic Leaders. "Your Man"—Not "His Men."

Much has been said, and in many instances with well-based grounds for criticism, concerning the questionable disinterestedness of many of the so-called "labor leaders" of the day. It is a favorite argument among the capitalist editors, that every man who has obtained more or less of prominence or notoriety in labor circles, has entered the movement for the sole purpose of "making what he can out of it;" i. e., of utilizing the workers, by some method or other, to his own personal or pecuniary advantage.

While it is but natural that such arguments should be put forward by our opponents, and while we may confidently expect for the future that all men prominent in the labor movement will be denounced as schemers, it will nevertheless be well for the working people to have an eye to the many apparently trivial circumstances which indicate the real bent or turn of a man's mind. Upon the appearance of a new candidate for proletarian honors, the first question which we should ask ourselves, is: Has he anything to lose by his connection with a despised and persecuted cause; or has he on the contrary everything to gain by the newly acquired connection? Having mentally answered these questions to our own satisfaction we may safely rest for a moment upon our arms. But only for a moment. Future developments should be carefully watched and considered.

However, the position of "labor champion" does not furnish the opportunities for pecuniary profit to such an extent as is popularly supposed. It is only those who have sprung at a bound to sudden notoriety who are enabled to any extent to profit by the position acquired; from the more humble agitators a constant succession of sacrifices is required, by which, in many cases, the more notorious individuals benefit.

The fact that there are cases in which the traditional gullibility of the wage-workers is manipulated to subserve personal ends is deplorable, but it must nevertheless be admitted as a fact. And there are many ways in which popularity may be utilized. Among those methods of deriving something from nothing, or for nothing, may be mentioned the drawing of enormous salaries without an equivalent in services being rendered; political preferment, commercial utilization of labor's forces, and in some instances, fortunately rare, a combination of political preferment and commercial utilization. How long these conditions will continue to exist in labor circles depends entirely upon the length of time which must elapse before the laborer will begin to think for himself. When the "horny handed son of toil" arrives at the point where he will cease to shout for an alleged champion because his next door neighbor shouts for him, we may hope for some actual progress in the labor movement. Not before. When the laborer has so far advanced as to be able to determine a person or thing right or wrong, independently of surrounding circumstances or position, and oblivious of popular clamor, we may anticipate beneficial results. Before that time—nothing.

The man who wrote "honesty is the best policy" was probably the most far-seeing moral philosopher that the world has ever known.

Moreover, he was an expert judge of human nature. He who cannot be honest from principle, should be honest from motives politic. It can be depended upon to pay the largest dividend in the long run. Knaves and tricksters may obtain the open sesame to the labor circle, but, like water, they will eventually find their level and be doomed to eternal ostracism from either side.

It will be well, then, for workingmen to be constantly prepared for disappointments, for disappointments will certainly come, and many of them. Do not shout too loudly for a new hero. You may be compelled to swallow that shout. Above all be on your guard against men who refuse to be controlled by the organization which endorses them. Beware of individualist labor reformers, for they bode no good to your real interests. Remember in political movements that your candidate is *your man*, and that you are not *his men*, and see to it that you control him.

SOCIAL POLITICAL NOTES.

The Labor Party of Chicago is in the field with a full municipal ticket. Mayor Harrison ("democratic") says that the Labor Ticket means the election of a "republican" mayor this Spring. The Chicago *Knights of Labor* replies that that will all depend upon the "democrats," and probably as much upon Mr. Harrison as any one. The Labor Party is going to run a straight ticket on principles, and as the "democrats" have no principles to fight for it lies with them whether they will assist the "republican" party or make sure the election of the Labor candidate by indorsing him.

It is reported that the Nihilists attempted to kill the Czar on Sunday, it being the seventh anniversary of the killing of his father by a bomb. They failed only on a miscalculation of the time at which the bomb should be exploded. The Czar no doubt considers himself a martyr in the cause of Czarism. He has a hard row to hoe.

Thirty-six persons were killed in the breaking of the bridge on the Boston and Providence railroad, last Monday morning—many of them ladies—and about a hundred others were injured. The exigencies of private corporation railroading demand large dividends, and as these are incompatible with good wages and careful management, the people run the risk of being sacrificed on the altar of dividends.

Mayor Hewitt, of New York, "democrat" and "savior of society," appointed a certain "democratic" reformer named Bayles as president of the Health Board. He didn't know that Bayles had at one time belonged to the Knights of Labor; so when he read the papers a day or two after he had a cat-fit, if the funny man of a New York paper may be believed. Bayles says he is not a member of the Knights, and only joined to find out what the thing was like, in order to write a book about it. This explanation no doubt will prevent Hewitt's frail *corpus* from protracted horizontalization.

MERIDEN.

Next Monday evening there will be a festival in memory of the Paris Commune, at Turn Hall, under the auspices of the local Section of the Socialist Labor Party. Thirty prizes will be drawn for during the evening. Many tickets have been sold, and the affair is sure to be a success with the energetic help of the Meriden Comrades. A number of New Haven Socialists expect to be present also.

At the Opera: "I can't explain the success of the singer." Neither can I. "She sings through her nose most atrociously." "Perhaps that is the reason why every one is waving a handkerchief at her."—*Figaro*.