

wealth or leisure, not only literature, art, refinement of all kinds, and the various trades and employments which depend upon them, would cease to exist, but science and invention, so far as we can see, would come to a stand. Nay, the very ideal and the standard of living which are necessary to give birth to upward effort could hardly survive. But a man is not promoting progress or civilization who lives in idle luxury, and if to idle luxury he adds that ostentation of wealth which excites envy and bitterness in the hearts of the poor, he may consider himself a member of the most dangerous class. The dynamiter's best ally is the flaunting luxury of the millionaire. These are troublous times. The social and industrial world heaves with the action of subterranean fires, which have already burst into eruption on a terrible scale at Carthage and Paris, and on a smaller scale at many other places, some of them on this continent, as at Pittsburg and Chicago. In the imperfect and twilight state of popular education, social chimeras have power, especially when hunger and envy second the delusion. It is an age of general disintegration and perplexity. From the minds of a large number of workingmen, especially artisans, the old belief in the existing frame of society as an ordinance of Providence, to which man must submit, has departed. So has the old belief in the compensation of a future state of existence for those whose lot is hard, but who do their duty here. That the working class will no longer allow their claims to be put off to another world, but will claim their full share of enjoyment here, is a sentiment frequently expressed, which no doubt is a serious factor in the present social situation. Care for their own safety, then, as well as higher considerations, counsels the natural leaders of society to be at the post of duty. We have good reason to be grateful to our captains of industry for the services rendered by them, not only in the way of industrial and commercial organization, but of social leadership. It is lucky for us indeed that we are practically governed in part