

false ideas respecting labor—ideas which have assumed that to work for one's daily bread involves a degrading necessity; whereas, the truth is, that he who faithfully labors in his allotted sphere, thereby confers inestimable benefits on the community at large, disciplines his own life and character, fulfils the end of his being, and carries out the purposes of the great Creator. If it were true that labor is degrading and undignified, then he who labors not would be the most estimable and dignified; a state of idleness or pauperism would be more elevated than a state of industrious and honest independence; and the indolent, the incompetent, or the dishonest spoiler, should take the highest rank among men.

Manifestly absurd as such views appear when stated in plain language, false as such principles show themselves to be when pushed to their legitimate consequences, we very much question whether they do not prevail to a great extent. Lurking and hiding themselves from the light, as false principles ever do, they yet influence numbers of our fellow-men, at once misleading those who entertain them, and produce very unjust and disastrous results in the myriads of the sons of toil. Now, in opposition to these false views, we maintain the truth—we assert the Dignity of Labor—and we claim for the laboring man the right to be regarded as occupying a highly useful and elevated position in the social scale; and earnestly do we call on our fellow-workers to study their true position as laboring men, so that, instead of vainly repining at their lot, they may regard it with approbation and hope, and with that degree of honest pride which becomes their position as honest and useful members of society.

We may learn the dignity of labor from *its usefulness*. True dignity consists, in a great measure, in being useful; for, certainly, a useless being cannot be a dignified one; and he who never does anything for the benefit of himself or others, must appear a very pitiable character. He may possess wealth, and the apparent esteem of interested men;

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