

THE LABORER'S RETURN.

Four little feet
Coming down the street,
Flying along as if running a "heat";
Two happy faces beaming with joy,
One little girl and one little boy.
She with her bright eyes comes bounding along—
He with his rosy cheeks, healthy and strong,
Laughing and shouting, as onward they come
To welcome their father from work coming home.
Two little mouths are held up for a kiss,
Causing a heart-thrill, a feeling of bliss—
What joy in the world is equal to this!

Their mother keeps watch at the cottage door,
And her heart with love it is running o'er;
Well pleased, she sees looking down the street,
That her husband seems happy their children to meet,
As he raises the youngest one up in his arms
(Its face all glowing with nature's charms),
In those great round arms of his, so strong,
While they merrily chat to him coming along,
And he lists to the talk of his children twain,
Overjoyed to be home with them at evening again.
And the face of their mother beams bright with a smile,
As she welcomes her husband come back from his toil.

He enters the house and sits down in his chair,
And says, while they gather around him there,
"This is the bank where my wealth is stored,
And now has a treasure that's more adored."
Then he turns to the table and reverently says:
"All Gracious Father, to thee be the praise:
For food, and for raiment, and covering, we
Desire to be thankful, O Lord, unto Thee,
For health and each blessing we daily enjoy,
And for that peace of mind there is nought can destroy.
Accept of our thanks, Lord again and again,
And pardon our sins for thy Son's sake, Amen."

Grace ended: his wife gaily serves out the tea,
And a sweet little, blithe little woman is she;
With his girl beside him, and his boy on his knee,
No king in the world is prouder than he.
While he lists to their prattle the meal passes by,
An hour for more playing, and their bed time draws nigh.

And the four little feet
That ran down the street,
Are weary and tired now, and worn out complete.
Then their mother unbosoms them and puts them to bed,
(But not until after their prayers have been said).
In a few minutes more there comes a "wee cheep"
"Dust tuss us once more, Pa, an' we go to sleep."
He enters their room and bends down his head,
And says, while he looks at them nestlin' in bed,
"God keep you my children, all safe and all right,
Now, then, both of you kiss me," "good night, Pa,"
"dood nite."

EASTERN SKILL.

The Japanese carpenters are ingenious workmen, and their work is done with marvellous neatness. A curious feature of their houses is that they do not contain a nail, all the joints and timbers being dove-tailed together by many ingenious devices; and the whole work, even to the rafters, is as smooth as if it had been polished down with sand-paper. And the Japanese are a neat people, for they use no paint to hide any blemish of construction or ornamentation, no filigree work or plaster of Paris gawgaws, but every stick in the building is exposed. Every morning, as regularly as she cooks the breakfast, or sweeps the floor, the Japanese housewife takes a wet cloth and scours the whole interior of the dwelling, leaving to part untouched, and no stain or dirt spot to mar its clean appearance. Then the Japanese do not come into the house with muddy boots, after the style of the American sovereign, but, having covered the floor with neat matting, always remove the dirty samis before stepping upon it. The Japanese carpenter works towards him—that is, instead of shoving a plane upon the board at arm's length, he pulls it toward him; and he cuts, saws and chops in the same way. His saws are fixed in handles like a butcher's cleaver, and the teeth slant or rake toward the handle. The planes are constructed like ours; but the wooden portion is very thin and wide. The ax is fastened to the wooden end of a forked stick, like the handles of the crooked cane worn on the arm in our street; and although their tools are different from ours, yet it cannot be said they are awkward in appearance or awkwardly handled.—*New Jersey Mechanic.*

ARABIAN VIEW OF THE WIFE QUESTION.

A writer in the "Cornhill Magazine" having had an interview with an Arab prince, gives us his view on the woman question:

"English women think of themselves, and think little of their husbands; so they are very self-willed, do what they like, and will not do what their husbands like; but Arab women think much more of their husbands than of themselves; they like to please their husbands; they are obedient, they are much better than English women: a man may do with them just as he pleases. Suppose she should disobey him—what does he? He says to her, 'By Allah! I will leave you.' And if she disobeys three times, she is no longer his—no longer his wife; she must go back to her father's house. But suppose an Englishman marry a woman, and she proves to have a very bad temper and disobeys him always; a very hot tongue and scold all day and night too; lead him a deuce of a life; make him sweat very much with trouble; make him wish to kill himself—what can he do? He can do nothing; he must keep her, and must not get another woman to wife to comfort him. Ah! the Arab custom is better than the English custom; and the Arab woman are better for the men than the English women. I am sure of that."

LONDON, May 7.—It is rumored that several of the Kurile Islands in the North Pacific are to be leased to the United States. These islands, 25 in number, extend from Kamtschatka to Japan, these of the southernmost belong to Japan and the others to Russia.

ENFORCEMENT OF THE EIGHT-HOUR LAW.

(From *New Haven Saturday Evening Union*.)

Only a few weeks ago the workmen engaged on the Government buildings at Columbia, S.C., demanded that the statute making "eight hours a legal day's work," should be enforced. This was denied them by Superintendent Kingsley, as he intimated under orders from Washington, and the men refused to work, and sent a committee to Washington for the purpose of investigating the reasons why the statute was not enforced, and who were responsible for its non-enforcement. After waiting upon the Senators and Representatives from South Carolina, and making known their grievances, and calling their attention to the statute, they requested that an audience with President Grant should be obtained for them, which was done, and after presenting their case to the President, were informed that he would give it his earliest attention, the result of which was that the men resumed work, and the law is now being enforced. This action of the Government in enforcing the law, has served on other workmen in the employ of the Government (where the law has been a dead letter,) to make a demand for its enforcement, and accordingly last week the workmen employed on the New York post-office sent a committee to the Superintendent requesting him to carry out the law, the result of which was that the committee were discharged from employment and no attention paid to their request. This committee likewise went to Washington, obtained an audience with the President, and received a letter from him to the Secretary of the Treasury, stating "that all employees of the Government are entitled to the benefits of the eight hour law, so long as it stands on the statute books." The committee, on going to the Treasury Department, did not see the Secretary of the Treasury, but his assistant, Judge Richardson, who assured them that the matter should be fully investigated. We regret that the committee did not see Secretary Boutwell, who, when an attempt was made about two years ago to have the law enforced, replied to a communication of the Workmen's Union, of New York city, that the law did not apply to contract work, but only to those working directly for the Government in the navy yards, arsenals, &c. This construction of the law was not satisfactory to the delegates of the Workmen's Union, who failed to see, when the law read "work done by or on behalf of the United States Government," that it did not apply to all work. President Grant was written to, requesting him to carry out the law on the post office, but no reply was received; he was again written to with the same result, and time and again at mass demonstrations in New York city, it had been asserted that the President not only failed to carry out the law as the workmen understood it, but that he was discourteous enough to treat the communication of the representatives of fifty thousand Trades' Unionists of New York city with contempt. It is now stated that he never received those communications, and if sent, were intercepted without reaching him. From reliable authority we are informed that the President recently said that he had some doubts about legislating upon the hours of labor, but he had no doubts about its enforcement so long as it remained upon the statute book. It should be enforced just the same as any other statute. If this be true, and we have no reason to doubt it, all that is necessary for its enforcement, is to bring a knowledge of its violation to the notice of the President. It is said that this action is for the purpose of influencing votes in the coming Presidential election; we care not what the motives are, so long as the law is enforced, and the workmen make good use of the leisure time.

This law has been on the statute books since 1868, and to our personal knowledge has been openly violated. An investigation should be had, and those who are responsible for non-enforcement, should be held up to the people as unfit to hold a public office, for if they will allow themselves to be made the tool of a party or clique to violate one statute law, to suit some purpose, they can be engaged to violate other statutes to carry out the wishes of others. Give the Eight Hour system a fair trial.

STRIKES IN CINCINNATI.

An occasional correspondent of the *New Haven Union* from Cincinnati writes as follows:—

"We are now in the full enjoyment of two strikes of workmen for an advance of wages. The ball was opened by the coal shovelers and carters in the employ of our coal dealers. In times past the wages paid have been \$2 per day for eleven hours' work; the labor performed is of the hardest kind, requiring not only a considerable amount of muscle, but skill that can only be had by experience. The men have been a long time with little or nothing to do, and the immense quantities of coal that have arrived here within the past ten days, created a considerable demand for their labor, and they resolved to take advantage of it to secure an increase of wages to \$2.50 per day. They have no organization, but the strike became pretty general; meetings are held regularly, and a permanent organization combining the protective and beneficial elements, will be one of the results of the strike, even if defeated in their demand for more wages. These men do not on an average have two hundred days' work in the year, and in this city of high

prices, \$400 is but a sorry sum with which to make both ends meet, especially if a family is dependent thereon. The sympathy of the press and public is with the strikers, and a partial, if not total, success is already assured.

The other strike is among the stove and hollow-ware molders. They gave their employers a week's notice of a demand for an increase of 15 per cent. on their wages. At the end of the week they were politely informed that it would not be paid, and over three hundred molders and fifty apprentices are now walking the streets. The strike extends all through the Ohio valley from Ironton to Evansville, and perhaps seven hundred molders would be a fair estimate of those who are out; some of the foundries outside of this city have already given in and are paying the advance, and there is but little doubt that a few days will find all at work at the advance. The molders have a fine organization in this city. The headquarters of their International Union are located here, and in this affair the men have the advantage of the continual presence of their chief executive officer, whose faith in trade unions is exceeded by few, which, combined with good judgment, renders his presence invaluable. The demand is based upon the fact that a year ago, trade being very dull, money very high, the men voluntarily made a reduction in their wages of 15 per cent., and now that trade is good, a great scarcity of their manufactures, together with the fact that the employers East and West lately combined to raise the price of castings, induced the men to ask for the advance, not anticipating much resistance.

That the continual dropping of water will wear away a stone, was amply verified at the last meeting of our Common Council. For two years past a few of the leading trade unionists have vigorously fought the contract system of labor in our city work-house, but failure was the result of every effort, but failure did not mean to them surrender; they kept at it, and their first success was, as I before said, at the last meeting of Common Council. In my last letter I stated that we had hopes of securing the appointment, as one of the board of directors of the work-house, of a true and tried Labor Reformer. The appointing power is vested in the Mayor, but all his appointments must be confirmed by Common Council. At their last meeting the names of appointees were sent in, and among them did not appear the name of our friend, but in his stead that of a man with about as much interest in workmen as August Belmont. With the aid of L. McHugh, our Labor Reform member of Council, who made a powerful speech against the appointee and the system he endorsed (contracts), the few prominent men by exerting their powers, succeeded in having the appointee laid on the shelf, and the Mayor, who was present, and was allowed the privilege of the floor to defend his pet, can perhaps now appreciate the fact that 'it is a long lane that has no turn in it,' and that the workmen are in earnest, and this first victory will not take any of their power or influence among their fellows away from them."

THE MOLDERS' STRIKE.

The strike of the molders at Sargent's for an advance of ten per cent., still continues with no prospect of a speedy settlement, and from present appearances, is likely to involve a large number of men in the strike. Very little molding is being done at present in this foundry, and as work all over the country is good, and help is in demand, it is thought it will be difficult to engage any new hands. As soon as the castings on hand are finished up, the men in the grinding, finishing and other departments will be thrown out of a job as the employers state they cannot and will not pay the advance. The men on the other hand are equally determined, and claim they will not resume work, until they receive what they have asked for. What the result will be, is hard to state; but we are glad to learn that a number of the men are procuring employment elsewhere, several of whom have already left the city. They hold meetings every day at the armory of the City Guard, on Crown street, and will have a grand mass meeting of all the molders in this city at 7 1/2 o'clock this evening. The continuance of this struggle, in our opinion, is suicidal to both employer and employed, and if an honorable settlement could be had, it would be far better than the loss of money and waste of time to both parties. There appears to be no room to arbitrate, both employer and men being fully determined not to be moved. We earnestly hope that better counsels may prevail, and that an amicable understanding may be had; but if that fails, that the molders who have left Mr. Sargent, instead of remaining idle, will get to work as speedily possible. We are convinced that workmen as a class, do not receive a full share of what they produce, and our sympathy and best efforts have always been and always will be with the down-trodden and oppressed in bettering their condition. We may not agree upon the plan of doing it, believing that all the evils under which we labor could be remedied at the ballot box; but the last election demonstrates conclusively that while workmen growl and grumble at their condition during the entire year, that when election day comes, they will vote and work for men whom they have been condemning and abusing.

Labor's wrongs must be redressed through the ballot box, either through an independent organization, or by selecting from other parties

those candidates who are in favor of the measures. There is no dodging this issue, and sooner or later this question will have to be met. Give heed in time.—*New Haven Union.*

A NEW PHASE OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

Considerable of an excitement has been created in the amusement world of late by the action of certain monied managers who have combined to lower the wages of performers, that they might thus be able to reduce their own prices of admission and drive from the field their younger rivals. The following, clipped from the *Fall River Evening News*, will explain the action taken by Equestrian Union No. 2, composed principally of Lent's and Stone & Murray's circuses:

EQUESTRIAN UNION No. 2.—This attaches of the Stone & Murray circus and members of the Equestrian Union will meet at the City Hotel at 12 a.m. Tuesday April 30, to take immediate action tending to the assistance of such of our professional brethren who may have suffered a reduction of salary, and succor their needy families, also to convey to our manager, John H. Murray, Esq., our hearty approbation of his managerial course in making neither a reduction in our salaries nor the price of his admission. Per order, Henry Welby Cooke, President, Louis A. Zwiesler, Secretary.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF LOCOMOTIVE ENGINEERS.

The Locomotive Engineers, organized but a few years, have become a powerful body, extending over the United States and Canada. It is now composed of 136 local divisions, with a membership of 7,000, all under one grand international head. It publishes a monthly journal with a circulation of 10,000 copies. (The members of the S. M. O. S. please note this fact.) It avoids political and religious discussions, and everything of a sectarian character, striving to accomplish all its aims peacefully. The *Journal* has proved of the most invaluable service in extending the usefulness of the order, and the entire brotherhood wisely appreciate the fact by inducing a hearty patronage—3,000 beyond the membership. It is expected to reach 25,000 shortly. The design of the whole brotherhood is co-operative, so all have a share in the *Monthly Journal* and other profits.

Up to the present time the monthly dues and profits have been accumulating, for the purpose of establishing a "widows', orphans', and disabled members' fund." It has now nearly or quite reached \$20,000. This large sum will be profitably invested, so as to supply all benefits to needy dependents of the brotherhood from its interest or other returns. The action is wise and judicious. It will insure a successful issue to the ostensible objects of the organization. It is a praiseworthy fact, that should be imitated by all labor organizations. The brotherhood prohibits the intemperate use of intoxicating drinks.

Friendship, harmonious combination, dignity, and gentlemanly deportment, temperance in language and drink, are the pre-requisites for an inchoate B. L. E. The members should demand this of the sub-operatives, as necessary to their eligibility.—*Rising Sun, Rome, N. Y.*

THE PAINTER'S QUIETUS.

An artist in Nashua, N. H., not long ago, was doing his best at a sunset on the Rhine. A magnificent old castle occupied a prominent position in the picture, behind which, it was supposed, the glorious orb of day had just disappeared, giving the rocks, hills and dales that picturesque twilight which is so much admired by lovers of nature. As its rays fell upon the placid sheen of the Rhine, its reflection sparkled like molten silver. The artist surveyed his work in general outline, in blending and shading, laid down his pallet and brush, and was congratulating himself on the success of his masterpiece, when a countryman, who, unnoticed, had been reviewing the picture from behind, remarked, with a measured tone:

"Well, I swan, that looks nat'ral."
"Ah, indeed!" replied the artist, looking at the speaker, who certainly had not the appearance of having traveled a great distance beyond the barnyard. "Do you recognize it?"
"Recognize it? I guess I do. Been there more'n fifty times. It's just up to the edge of Leominster. That buildin' there [the castle] is Squire Jones's soap house, and this shiny stuff [the shimmering Rhine] is the soappads that comes from it."

There was an artist's studio to rent next day, and Raphael lost a talented follower, but the world in general, and Nashua in particular, found an excellent sign and carriage painter.

A LEGAL TENDER.

The other day a commercial traveller, having written half a dozen letters at his inn, at a town in the north of England, strolled across the street to the post-office, and tapping at the pane, tendered the letters, and with them as many pence.

"Can't take so much copper," was the saucy response: "must have silver."

The stranger hesitated, and down went the window. After he had promenaded for a few minutes on the flags in front of the post-office, the stranger renewed his knock at the window; when it was opened, he quietly laid down one of his letters and one of his pence. Then, re-

suming his beat, he walked in the opposite direction, and again returning, another letter and another penny were deposited at the window; he then proceeded to the farther end of the flags. On his return he once more tried the third letter and a third penny. And thus he continued to walk sootry in front of the post-office until the object of his visit was accomplished, and the authorities within were almost bursting with smothered wrath.

AMERICAN.

The announcement of the nomination of Greeley and Brown gives general satisfaction to the Conservatives and liberal Republicans throughout the States.

An old "revolutioner" says that of all the solemn hours he ever saw, was that occupied in going home one dark night from the widow Bean's, after being told by her daughter Sally that he hadn't come again.

Capt. F. M. Wishart, a prominent citizen of Robson Co., was killed by Lowery, the outlaw, on Thursday. This is one of the most brutal and cowardly murders ever committed by the band—Wishart having been decoyed to one of their haunts on pretence that they wished to make terms of surrender, and that he would not be harmed.

At the second Annual Convention of the New York American Labor Reform League, on Sunday, a long series of resolutions were adopted in favor of woman's rights, general equality, and denouncing Horace Greeley and the men who nominated him. Several addresses were made, and the Convention adjourned until Monday morning.

Representative Poland on Monday introduced an amendment to the constitution of the United States, providing that no Senator or representative shall, during the time for which he was elected, be chosen President or Vice-President; nor shall any judge of any United States Court be chosen President or Vice-President within two years of the termination of his judicial office.

A special to the *Picayune* from San Antonio, Texas, says that six waggons, 75 mules, nine men and two women, were attacked by Indians at Howard Well, above Ft. Clark. The train and all hands were captured and burned, except the women, who escaped. General Merritt sent Lieutenant Vincent with a force of cavalry in pursuit, who overtook and fought them; Lieut. Vincent was killed.

A despatch from Washington says a bill passed the Senate, providing that on and after July 1st next, tea and coffee shall be placed on the free list, and no further import duty shall be collected upon the same; and all tea and coffee which may be in public stores or bonded warehouses on the said July 1st, shall be subject to no duty upon entry thereof for consumption. All tea and coffee remaining in said stores on said July 1st, on which duties shall have been paid, shall be entitled to refund of duties paid.

When fearless females resort to the whohide to protect their good and bad names, they should estimate carefully the music and spirit of the person whom they propose to chastise. A dashing young widow of Louisville attacked an apothecary in his don the other day, and commenced to lash him for making too free with her name, when the man of pills and powders retaliated with such effect that he routed the widow and put her to ignominious flight. The *ecclat* produced was not of the kind anticipated. The chances should be carefully weighed before an enterprise of this kind is entered on.

THE LONGEST BRIDGE IN THE WORLD.—The Tensas and Mobile bridge, or bridges, on the Mobile and Montgomery Railroad, extends from Tensas Station, on the Mobile and Montgomery road, to the city of Mobile, a distance of fifteen miles, crossing both Mobile and Tensas rivers, including ten draws, one for each of the navigable channels into which the rivers are divided. The bridge itself is constructed of wood, but its piers or supports are iron cylinders, which rest on a solid surface of wooden piles driven down evenly with the bottom of the stream, and the mud of the intervening morassess. It has been three years in course of construction, at a cost of about \$1,500,000; and now that it has been successfully completed, it is, perhaps, the longest structure on the globe.

The revolutionary army changed its base on the 1st instant, having abandoned its camp on the river six miles above, and swung around to San Fernando road behind and about fifteen miles distant from the city. It is supposed this movement has been made to head off General Cavallos with a Government force, who is said to be approaching from that direction. The country now occupied by revolutionists affords a chief source of supplies heretofore reaching this city from the Mexican side, and is the richest part of the State of Tamaulipas in cattle and horses, of which the revolutionists are said to be greatly in need. From their present position they could advance from Victoria, the capital of the State of Tampico, and at the same time keep up a practical siege of Matamoros, and cut off communication with the interior at any moment. The object of General Trevino in changing his base is purely conjectural, but it does not indicate an immediate attack on Matamoros. General Cavallos received scouts to-day informing him that General O. Chas had entered Monterey with six hundred Government cavalry, and holds the place.