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A MIASMA OF IMMORALITY.

It is said when a superior race and an inferior race come in contact with each other that the inferior race adopts without effort all the vices and with difficulty, if at all, is prevailed on to accept the virtues of the superior race. Not only that, but the superior race is usually degraded as much by this contact as the inferior is elevated. If this is true, it is an additional reason for shutting out the Chinese and Japanese. It is a notorious fact that the moral status of the Chinese especially, is very low. They seem to be, from accounts given by those who have the best opportunities to study them, utterly destitute of any moral sense. A Chinaman is a sort of solidified immoral miasma that sends out its exhalations of corrupting effluvia contaminating all that come in contact with it. The subtle character of this degrading and demoralizing influence is such that like the germs of leprosy, the victim is completely permeated by it before he knows it. They are the most notorious liars on earth. The average Chinaman does not really know the moral distinction between truth and falsehood. He would just as soon lie as not; other things being equal, he would rather prefer a lie to the truth. The Chinese are especially unfit for the young to come in contact with. The immoral atmosphere by which they are surrounded and of which they are the center, like the atmosphere impregnated with the subtle fumes of their cursed opium, is so slyly seductive that the inexperienced boy or girl, especially the latter, is inextricably enmeshed in their spider's web of Chinese immorality before the victim is aware of its danger.

The only two things possible for Americans to gain by contact with those squirming yellow reptiles, is their centuries of inherited vile diseases with which nearly, if not all, of them are infected and their worse than beastly immorality. Shut and lock the door against the Asiatic heathen and throw the key away.

CONGRESS IN SESSION.

Congress convened last Monday. There is a large amount of important business that ought to be transacted. Two of the most important items are the re-enactment of the Chinese exclusion law and the Nicaragua ship canal bill. Both of these are of vital importance, especially to the Pacific

coast, and both will be opposed by corporate wealth. The former by the Oriental steamship companies and those corporations that want cheap labor; and the latter by the transcontinental railway corporations, who, if the ship canal succeeds, cannot haul the produce of the Pacific states to the East and charge all it is worth for hauling it. Then there is the Philippine problem, but that seems to be a dicker from start to finish, so we need not hope to have anything done to settle that much-vexed question. There are numerous other matters that ought to be attended to, and they probably will be, unless there are too many votes in the lobby.

The people as a rule may not know it, but there are three instead of two houses of congress through which a bill must pass before it is ready for the president's signature. They are the senate, the house of representatives and the lobby, and the latter usually controls both the others, or at least one of them. So the bill that has the lobby against it stands a mighty poor chance of running the gauntlet and coming out at the other end without being so disfigured that its father would not recognize it, if it comes out at all.

The working people want to concentrate their power on the Chinese exclusion law. If it is not re-enacted, there will be turned loose upon this country a flood of evils compared with which the contents of Pandora's box was child's play.

BE TRUE TO YOUR PRINCIPLES.

There are union men and union men. Some of them, we are sorry to say, are a good deal like some Christians, who are wrapped up in their religion on Sunday while in church, but they doff it as a superfluous garment for week-day use. It is the same way with some union men, not many, we are glad to say. They are the staunch supporters of organized labor while in the union meeting, but they leave their unionism in the hall when they go out. We know of some who are members of unions who employ Chinese to do their laundry work, who patronize Jap restaurants just because they are a few cents cheaper than the charges of white people.

This kind of unionism is of no earthly account, and has the effect of subjecting the union to the derision of outsiders. Be consistent. If you are the friend of organized labor, stand up for it through thick and thin; but whatever else you do, for conscience' sake, don't patronize these creatures that are shipped to this country like cattle in the steerage of vessels at so much a head. Patronize your own people and allow them to make an honest living.

A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT.

There are some judges on the federal bench who either from ignorance or corruption, it does not matter which, are not fit to hold court in a county cross-roads justice tribunal. The latest specimen of this kind is a man who presides over the United States circuit court at Little Rock, and his latest important ruling is an order that street-car employees in Little Rock shall not wear union badges. This "judge" probably holds his position as a reward for political services, or else he had a pull with some trust that had an ax to grind. The merest tyro in law with an ounce of common sense knows that there is no law that will justify such an order.

This "judge" is probably like a country justice in Illinois, when a justice's jurisdiction did not exceed \$100. A case came up for trial before him, and after hearing the evidence he gave the plaintiff a judgment for \$125.

"But, your honor can't render a judgment for \$125," said the defendant's attorney.

"The h—ll I can't! Haven't I just done it?"

A WARNING VOICE.

Governor Pingre, of Michigan, says that the trusts and monopolies will make us a nation of slaves. We hope that Governor Pingre is a false prophet, though we must confess that the trend of matters at present is decidedly in the direction to which he points. It may be that the evil will become so bad as to destroy itself. If not, the only remedy is with the working people, the middle classes of the country. The outlook at present is certainly not very encouraging. Almost every week we hear of some gigantic trust being formed that is intended to control some necessary of life. The last one that we have noticed is the rice trust, with \$15,000,000, and the Vandebilt's at its back. Thus one by one the necessities of life are swallowed up by these greedy monopolies, until at the present rate it won't be long till the people will have to ask permission of these cormorants to live. They would corral the air we breathe, the light of the sun that warms us, the water that we drink if they could; they have to a great extent got control of the earth, and only Omniscience knows where it will stop. Every legislature of every state ought to be memorialized to pass the most stringent laws possible against these enemies of the people's liberty, and the member who does not vote for such laws should be relegated to the private walks of life.

There is no use in trying to evade the question or to shirk the responsibility. The issue is upon us, and the monster must be throttled either by us or by posterity, and the sooner it is done the easier it will be to do it. In another decade it will have assumed proportions so gigantic and power so irresistible that nothing less than a revolution will dethrone it. It should be destroyed now. This is the accepted time.

HOW TO MAKE CONVERTS.

If every member of every union in the city would constitute himself a committee of one to bring in the application of a candidate at every meeting of the union, how long would it be till nearly every union in town would have to hire a larger hall? Or how long would it be till an outsider would feel like committing suicide or getting out of town? There is nothing like persistent personal effort in this as in everything else. Don't begin by upbraiding a man, calling him a "scab" and telling him to get off the earth. But go to him in a brotherly way, show him his error in a spirit of kindness, explain to him the benefits and advantages of belonging to a union, as compared with those, if there are any, of being on the outside, and four cases out of five you will find him tractable and reasonable and willing to do anything that he is convinced will better his condition.

Let every member of every union take this advice to himself personally and act on it, and it won't be many months till a "scab" can't be found in Portland with a search warrant.

UNIONISM ADVANCING.

Our exchanges report that unionism is gaining ground all over the country; that the number of unions is increasing, and that the membership of those already in existence is growing. The people are waking up. They realize that they have slept too long, that it will require a harder struggle to enjoy their just share of the proceeds of their labor than if they had begun sooner. But it is not too late. Everything portends a simultaneous movement all along the line of organized labor. The working people have only tasted the sweets of unionism. They are longing for a full draught. They know what it is, that it is good for them and theirs, and they will never rest till they are in the full enjoyment of the proceeds of their toil.

Buy union goods, from union people, in union hours.

Thanksgiving day has come and gone, and we all have something to be thankful for. Some have more than others, and it often looks to the superficial observer that those who deserve the least have the most for which to be grateful. But appearances are often deceitful. The poor man who could barely raise money enough to buy a turkey for his Thanksgiving dinner, which he ate with a clear conscience and a good appetite had more true thankfulness in his heart than the bloated multi-millionaire, with his seared and troubled conscience, his ruined stomach and all his money. How much would he have given for the healthful stomach and hearty appetite of the hard-working man? Ask John D. Rockefeller.

But the turkey! That's the fellow that had the least to be thankful for. If turkeys could mourn, how many coops in Oregon would be hung with crepe for a departed relative? But a kind-hearted Nature has so constituted the turkey that he can't mourn for the dead, and those that were sacrificed on the altar of man's voracity did not know what hurt them. A block, a hatchet and a blow and all was over.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

A Western newspaper figures it out that the increase of wages in the hard-coal region of Pennsylvania amounts to \$4,200,000 a year, while the increase in the price of coal, due to the advance of 50 cents a ton, further enriches the barons to the extent of \$27,000,000. So the coal barons are nearly \$23,000,000 in pocket at the end of the game. Who was the strike for, and who against?—Exchange.

If this is true, and it doubtless is, what protection have the people against such a monopoly as this? These coal barons say in acts if not in words, "If we can't get our coal mined for nothing, if your laws compel us to pay the miners for their work, why, we will simply raise the price of coal enough to make up what we lose by an increase of wages, and we will assess punitive damages against you to the amount of \$23,000,000 or \$3,000,000 more than McKinley paid for the Philippine islands." This neat little sum will enable the barons to live on the fat of the land for some time, besides it will teach the people that if they in any way interfere with these extortioners, not to say robbers, why, they must pay for the privilege.

We can talk and write about it all we please; but the coal baron, with his pockets bulging out with other people's money, will snap his fingers and ask, "What are you going to do about it?" "Boss" Tweed asked that question once, when he thought he had New York City under his thumb. He found out later on, when he woke up one morning and discovered that he was surrounded by the four walls of Ludlow-street jail. Tweed confined his robberies to New York City. These coal barons rob everybody. If the day of miracles was not past, we might hope that some fine morning they might be as much surprised as was "Boss" Tweed when he found himself in Ludlow-street jail.

The rice trust will have one redeeming feature. It will make the Chinese pay more for their staple article of food. Now if somebody would corner all the fish in the oceans and rivers so that the price of that article of food would advance, there might be some show of starving the yellow heathen out; but who would corner the rat market?

You can hear the democrats softly saying: The chinch bug eats the farmer's grain, the bee moth spoils his honey; the bedbug fills him up with pain, but the humbug scoops his money. The lightning bug can't thunder much, the bedbug has no fame, the goldbug has no argument, but he gets there just the same.