THE ENTERPRISE.

OREGON CITY, OREGON, SEPT. 5, 1873.

IN SEPTEMBER.

Feathery clouds are few and fair,
Thistledown is on the air;
Rippling sunshine on the lake,
Wild grapes scent the sunny brake;
Dizzy songs the crickets sing,
Wild bees wander murmuring;
Butterflies float in a dream,
Over all the swallows gleam;
Here and yonder, high and low,
Golden-rod and sun-flowers glow;
Here and there a maple flushes,
Sumach reddens, woodbine flushes;
Purple asters bloom and thrive,
I am glad to be alive!

—From the Aldine.

The Dangers of Cheap Labor.

From the Catholic Sentinel.

Political economists of every grade are beginning to cry aloud about the necessity for "cheap labor" when they little dream they are, by such a course, sapping the financial foundation of our State. Let us put this theory of cheap labor into practice and see how far the community is benefited thereby. In all great political affairs we should so frame our actions as to achieve "the greatest good for the greatest number," thus, in looking at this labor question we must divest ourselves of all selfish feelings and look at the matter from a national stand-point.

There are many things to be taken in consideration besides this idea of "cheap labor." There are "side issues," such as living rates of interest, rents, taxes, cost of living, and multifarious other matters that enter into the solution of this problem. And all these must be equalized before you cut down the laborer's wages, or else you work an injury to him. For instance, why charge a man working for two dollars a day in Oregon, one per cent. a month interest for money, and twenty dollars a month rent, when he can get better wages East and these accommodations at *half* the above rates? The question is not merely one of dollars and cents, but it is of such importance that it affects every enterprise and industry in the country. Suppose every laborer's position in this city was filled by Chinamen, let us ask ourselves these questions:

How many more churches would be built in Portland? How many more streets would be improved in our city? How many more school houses would be erected? How much more taxes would be collected? How many more newspapers would be published? How many more charitable institution would be founded? and finally, would not our book merchants, music dealers, and merchant's generally have to close their stores for want of customers?

Is it not clear then that the employment of Chinese labor in any position where white labor can be procured, is detrimental to the best interests of the country, damaging it morally, politically and financially. We may employ ten thousand Chinamen in every department of labor, and this city would not be benefited thereby to the extent of one more church, school or dwelling house.

These are questions of vital importance, not only to employers, but to every citizen who desires to see Portland prosper. It may appear a very small matter to us if we employ a Chinamen to perform for fifty cents the labor a white man would charge a dollar But when we consider that in so doing we are virtually keeping out of the State the white man with his family, whose labor would develop the resources of the country, whose family would add another household to the community, whose presence would increase our congregations, and whose children would help to swell the number attending our schools. Then, indeed, we begin to see the evil that we perpetrate against our own best interests and the prosperity of the entire community.

Let us look around Portland and what do we behold? Two hundred houses formerly occupied by mechanics and laborers to rent; real estate depreciated; a stringent money market; groups of five or ten laborers calmly looking on whilst fifteen or twenty Chinamen perform the work they ought to have. We find perhaps a hundred Chinese laundries, whose labor deprives a hundred honest willing women of work as a means of sustaining their out-of-work husbands and their little children. These are a few of the "blessings" of "cheap labor."

Let us suppose that we import one thousand Chinese males to Portland, and their wages is one dollar per day. We employ them at various avocations, such as cooks, wood-sawyers, scavengers, graders, laundrymen, cigar makers, shoemakers, butchers, match-makers, and a number of other useful employments at which white labor could be employed. Their earnings average $30,000 a month. Of this amount they do not expend to exceed fifty cents a day, and the residue of their wages ($15,000 a month) is sent to China or hoarded up to take with them eventually. Thus we lose to the community the circulation of $180,000 a year, one cent of which never finds its way here again.

Now let us look upon the other side of this picture. Suppose, then, we have one thousand white laborers come into our midst, and we employ them at two dollars per day. We gain an addition to our population of at least twenty-five hundred people at once, (as it is reasonable to suppose at least five hundred of the laborers would be married, and their families would average four to each), and the product of their industry would go towards swelling our Federal, State, county and city finances, besides giving an impetus to trade that it could never gain from any similar number of Mongolians. These white laborers, also, would rent houses, purchase real estate, develop the industries of the country, and add materially to their general wealth. Of the $60,000 paid monthly to them fully $45,000 would be spent for board and clothing in our midst, and the greater portion of the residue would be expended for physicians' bills, educational purposes, taxes, church donations, recreations, charities or the purchase of homes for mechanics. Thus we would retain nearly every dollar of the $720,000 a year paid to white labor in circulation in our midst with Chinese labor we lose fully $180,000 per year which is absorbed by them.

Nor is this the only loss to Portland through the introduction of Chinese labor, as we can learn from the following comparisons:

WHITE LABOR—TWO DOLLARS A DAY.

A prosperous country,
Money plenty,
Mechanics employed,
Schools flourishing,
Churches well attended,
City lots in demand,
No vacant houses,
Merchants prosperous,
Finances easy.

CHINESE LABOR—ONE DOLLAR A DAY.

Hard times,
Mechanics idle,
Empty school houses,
Churches for sale,
City lots a dead investment,
Two hundred houses to rent,
No sale for merchandise,
No emigration,
Country financially bankrupt.

Besides all this it is a ruinous policy to grind the laborer down so that he can barely live, as through impoverishing the laborer you impoverish the country.

How can churches be built and supported? how can schools be erected and carried on? how can the towns be built up with stores and houses, if the white laborer cannot procure more than a subsistence? We must not elevate the Chinese race at the expense of our fellow whites. If we do, we are guilty of political suicide.

People write about "filling up the country with a population sufficiently dense to develop its resources," but how are we to induce white people here to compete with Chinese labor? Already many mechanics and laborers have left our city; many more are preparing to follow. Our merchants will next begin to scatter, and with them goes the wealth of the city. We will then find factories and other industries laying idle for the want of consumers, without which no country can grow, and the evils of Chinese labor will become apparent to our capitalists when it has crushed them with financial ruin.

Portland is not the largest city that has fallen to decay through the selfishness and impolitic ideas of its prominent capitalists.

Parental Cruelty.

THE FOOTLESS CHILD THAT WAS BEATEN AND STABBED FOR NOT WALKING UPRIGHT.

[From the New York Sun.]

One day recently a respectably dressed man carried a well-grown child, muffled up and apparently sick, into French's Hotel. He placed the child on the stairs and began to talk to it in a very unkind, rough way. The attention of the guests was attracted and they gathered around.

"You are able to walk up stairs by yourself," the man said, "and I will not carry you."

"Oh, oh," the child sobbed, "do carry me up; please, pa, do. You know ever sinc I was run over by the car and lost both my feet I can't walk up stairs alone."

"That's all stuff," the man answered; "get up at once, or I'll make you."

The poor child began to sob worse than before, and the brutal man gave it a severe thump over the side of the head. The child moaned piteously. The indignation of the by-standers was excited, and one of them said to the man, "Is that yours?"

"What's that to you?" the man answered; "I won't tell you!"

"He's—my—father," the child sobbed, "and—he—killed—my—mother—just—as—he's—a-going—to—kill—me."

The man doubled his fist and made as though he was about to give the child a savage blow. One of the bystanders interfered and said; "Say, if you don't stop this I'll call a policeman. I never saw such a brutal father in all my life.

The man began to fumble in his pockets, and the child cried out. "Take care he's got a knife. He's agoing to stick you."

Sure enough, the man produced a knife and opened it. The crowd slipped out one by one, except two.

"Bring an officer," one of them cried to a friend.

"If I am arrested," the man said, "it shall be for something," and thereupon he plunged the knife into the body of the child. The child shrieked, "I'm murdered, I'm murdered," and a crowd rushed to the spot. The man quietly raised the child in his arms, and removing his hat, said, "Gentlemen, this is a wooden child. I'm a ventriloquist, any little offering you may be pleased to make will be very acceptable."

A certain clergyman of Vermont, a few years since, visited New York, and was invited to fill a city pulpit. He never had the pleasure of listening to a church organ, and was unacquainted with the style of hiring a few to do the singing. Giving out his first hymn, the organist played a fancy prelude, and in the highest style of the art rendered the hymn. Addressing the throne of grace in a manner that stamped him as a man of intellect and power, he coolly reopened the hymn book and said: "The audience will join me in singing the good old Methodist him, and those persons running that bag of wind in the gallery will please not interrupt.

JOSH BILLINGS ON HENS.—The best time tew set a hen iz when the hen iz reddy. I kan't tell what the best breed iz, but the Shanghi iz the meenest. It kosts as much tew bord 1 az it duz a stage hoss, and you mout as well undertaik tew fat a fanning mill by running oats thru it.

There ain't no profit in keeping a hen for his eggs if he lays less than 1 a da.

Hens are very long lived, if tha don't kontract the throte disease.

I kan't tell eggzactly how tew pick out a good hen, but az a general thing, the long eared ones, I kno are the leest apt tew scratch up the garden.

SORROW.—At whatever sign of genuine sorrow no one but a brute can mock. Sorrow is not more a chastener of the true soul than it is an inspirer of reverence. There is a measure of grief that is spiritual, elevating, purifying, divine. Most humanizing and divine is that immortal picture of Niobe. The tears of a mother over her dead babe—her first born—or the sadness of whatever heart is bereaved—these are sacred symbols of the divine that stamp and hallow our brotherhood—our humanity.

A great many people seem to miss their vocations because their bodies do not happen to fit their souls. This is one of the advantages of middle age; people have got used to their bodies and to their faults; they know how to use them.—*Miss Thackery.*

When one learns that the United States contains 14,000 drug stores, each of them dispensing on an average a score of prescriptions a day, the only wonder is that so many people die natural deaths.

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☞Repairing done on short notice, and thankful for past patronage.

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I am selling very low for
CASH IN HAND.

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HAVE JUST RECEIVED A LARGE stock of
SPRING AND SUMMER GOODS,
which they offer
CHEAPER THAN THE CHEAPEST!

We would say come and convince yourself before purchasing elsewhere. Our stock consists in part of
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Dry Goods, Clothing,
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Furnishing Goods,
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Doors, Windows,
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All kinds of Produce taken in exchange for Goods!

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Wool Wanted
For which we pay the Highest Prices.
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Takes this method of informing his old patrons, and as many new ones as may be pleased to call, that he is now prepared, with ample room, good materials, and the very best of mechanics, to build anew, reconstruct, make, paint, iron and turn out all complete, any sort of a vehicle from a common Cart to a Concord Coach. Try me.
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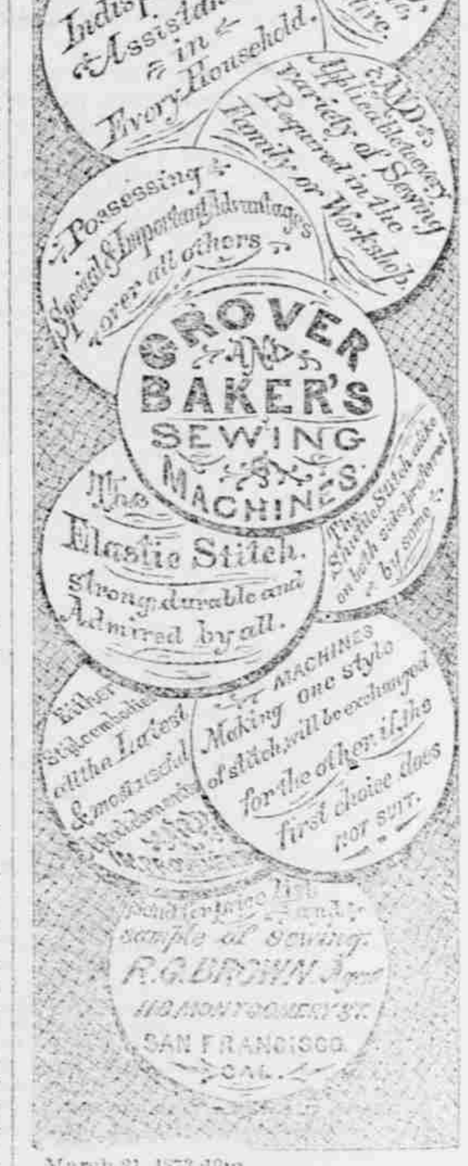

March 21, 1873 :10m

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Oregon City, Jan. 1, 1872-tf.

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Prices Reasonable.
He will also run a hack to and from the
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