LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE

VIEWS OF READERS OF THE SUN ON CURRENT TOPICS.

The Labor Crisis—Call for a Great Demonstration.

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: Thousands and tens of thousands of our industrious and hardy workingmen are now out of employment, and, if things go on as they have been during the past few weeks, it is more than probable that the number of unemployed will be quadrupled within a month. The great problem of the day is how to provide employment for the unemployed. How shall this be solved? We know that at the best of times the condition of the working classes—even in this republic—is not enviable. In thousands of cases the laborer has to sell himself on pain of starvation. Men must have food, and to procure it they must have employment of some kind. Employers are aware of this, and take advantage of it. Thousands of educated men are at the present time working as clerks, in what are termed respectable establishments in this city, for $5 and $10 per week, because they have seemingly no alternative but to starve. Of course starvation wages and slavery are preferable to starvation. Nine-tenths of society are laborers, bound hand and foot in wretchedness, and the remaining one-tenth is burdened with an accumulating wealth which it hardly knows how to put to profitable use. Such being the case in times of ordinary prosperity, what must we expect when thousands have been thrown out of employment? A severe winter is before us. Provisions are dearer and rents are high. The weight of every burden, whether in peace or war, falls on the workingman. The cry of "Bread" will soon ring forth from young and old. Shall it go forth that men and women died of hunger or suffered from starvation in the Empire City of this mighty Western republic? Will our unemployed citizens starve or go thieves? These are questions for the weal by and the State representatives to seriously consider. The object of all government should be the happiness of the people, and any government which fails to carry out that object is unworthy of public confidence and cannot be regarded as wise, just, liberal, or useful.

The Working Men's Central Council are, to their credit be it said, using every legitimate means to bring about the desired consummation. I hope they will urge all the friends of fair play and humanity to organize a monster demonstration of all the trades and other bodies in this city to march in public procession, and to show by their conduct and mottoes that they want not work and that they will not starve. The British Government, which is not based on universal suffrage like ours, has been forced to withdraw objectionable acts of Parliament, and again, through the medium of public demonstrations. Let the great demonstration ever held in New York be organized, and let it be seen what effect it will have upon our wealthy employers and rulers. Whatever influence and ability I possess I will gladly place at the disposal of the Workingmen's Central Council for this grand purpose. American citizens will not stand starving in the streets, but will try have the legislature to seek relief for them. Our industrious classes and wealthy employers for the unemployed, increase of wages, and hours of labor.

J. P. DONNELL, 3 Whitehall street.

NEW YORK, Nov. 25, 1873.

Sailing Around the Earth—Tom Bascum Defended.

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: I noticed in your paper of the 17th inst. that Prof. Slenshi endeavors to refute Mr. Thos. Bascum's ingenious and scientific idea of making an aerial voyage to Europe by anchoring his balloon and allowing the earth in its diurnal revolution to bring Europe under the aeronaut. The Professor calls the theory "absurd," and indulges in an assumption of scientific knowledge which, I am constrained to say, lacks the modesty of learning. He says: "The air that envelops the world revolves with it," &c. Now I would like him to prove his assertion, for I take nothing on any one's bare "say so." We know, or rather, in the absence of positive proof, believe that the earth revolves from west to east; and this night, under the Professor's theory, to cause always, if the air revolves with us, a dead calm; but we have as a fixed fact east winds and west winds, and like wise other kinds of winds, resulting doubtless from the constant efforts of designing Providence to circumvent man.

Now, it is evident that Mr. Bascum does not intend to use those particular winds in his voyage; but, if the wind should be ahead when the time for his departure arrives, he can easily obviate the difficulty by allowing the rope to be long enough to wind with the rope around the orbit of the earth—our time and England this time to the energy, rising comes, and, as a consequence, of portable rail or power around the globe in the quickest and most expeditious way. What Mr. Bascum relies on is the fact that the atmosphere, which surrounds the earth, he proposes to inflate rarer into space an iron tube or some other metal in quantity of sufficient specific gravity, by the power of the recently discovered Bascum Gas, and thus cause the earth to carry the balloon to the fixed body. This, I have no doubt, is what Mr. Bascum intends.

Go, at other parts, ye of ill to find abundant number of office and unbelievers, such as Prof. Slenshi; and I should not wait Mr. Bascum's brilliant and original project of aerial navigation who will do it, and I am sure, if proved to be practicable, it will not be the first time that we have had to be proud of our countrymen, but, of course, I am not personally as I tender Mr. Bascum well wishes would be worst of this West and certain country? Among how would the world ever have been blessed with such benefactors as Grant and the truly good Beecher, Richard Smith, and the Prof. Slenshi? Of the earth, earthy, all the ages have been cumbered with such shines as the great Slenshi's wicked partners; but the glory of the truly good, the great, the strong, outweighs and overshadows the lesser of the earth, earthy. Let the thoughts of a thousand fold more wicked than they, be.

P. S.—The SUN, which shines for all, will discuss, tomorrow, the evil consequences of Prof. Slenshi's, and Mr. Bascum's, and to insure a good steady transportation. Respectfully, BERTIE LOOP.

A Word for Engineers.

To the Editor of The Sun.

SIR: I ask for space in your paper on a subject that is of vital importance to the travelling community, to say nothing of the lives of those who have charge of steam boilers. Explosions and the means of avoiding them are always of public interest, on the subject there is almost universal verdict of the public is "Carelessness of the engineer," "Low water," "Heated plates," &c. I would ask all who profess an opinion if never occurred to them that boiling or explosions are even possible with plenty of water, ordinary working pressure, and all apparently as it should be at the moment previous to bursting. I believe it possible, and because all discussions of the kind by the working men question of "the engine" or "carelessness" are, I believe, wrong. Now, I do not say that the bursting of boilers not by steam, and that it is not a fact, I propose to give a reason for the opinion from plain principles and logical deduction, and I do so in the hope that the ordinary boiler maker may be induced to take up the subject and discuss it, and, if I am wrong, to show me the error. I do not claim to be a boiler maker, but I do claim to be a practical engineer, and have had charge of boilers for 15 years. The theory I have formed is that it does. We now consider a boiler, and a good boiler under gradually increasing steam pressure, the steam are being in the space not filled by the water or plates exposed to the action of the fire. If the supply of water be cut off, or for now the fire, if the supply be so restricted as not to keep the water up to its level, the plates will be left exposed to the action of the fire, and, if the supply