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FRIDAY EVENING, DEC. 22, 1871.

We are pleased to find that Congress is initiating legislation to secure a thorough inquiry into the great question that agitates the popular mind—the relation which capital bears to labor.

So long as this question is allowed to remain a stalking-horse for discontent, and a catch-word for cheap popularity, it will be misrepresented, and consequently misunderstood by the ignorant, even if well intentioned man, whose possessions are small as compared with the possessions of others who are his fellow-citizens.

It is therefore necessary for the well-being of the country, that the investigation and discussion of this momentous question should be thorough and practical, conducted by men such as Mr. Hoar, who possess the elements of Republican statesmanship, and whose conclusions, when given to the country, will command respect.

We are fully convinced of the truth—that nothing human is perfect—and therefore do not imagine that investigation will show our labor system, in its relation to capital, is without grave imperfections, some of which may prove legitimately under the purview of Congressional legislation; but we are ready to assert, that when comparison is made between the condition of our operative class and their fellow-workmen in Europe, the remarks of Mr. Bingham (in Congress, Dec. 20) on the subject, will be justified in all their breadth and spirit.

Mr. Bingham said that among intelligent Americans no information was needed, but he thought well of the inquiry, to allay the discontent of those who had come to our shores from foreign countries. He said that the laboring men, who had developed the country, and been the architects of their own fortunes, would laugh at the puny efforts to prove that American legislation was the cause of their poverty.

The American laborer to-day occupies a position of social opportunity and political power which is the envy of his fellows in European countries; and he has shown, through the years which have elapsed since the formation of our free government, that he has intelligence to embrace his social opportunities and exercise his political power; and that he needs neither instruction nor guidance from visionary or vicious enthusiasts, be they foreigner or native masculine women or feminine men.

The exhibition—a la Commune—which was made in New York the other day, is a fair index of the character of any movement under the auspices of these would-be reformers.

The Woodhull and Claflin, in carriages, waving red flags! Are these the stuff that leaders of American workmen are made of?

The motto—"Our religion is to do good"—they have shown too often, that they do good as a duty, not as a religion, but in accordance with the teachings of a religion, instilled into their minds by pious, God-fearing mothers. The other motto—"And they had all things in common"—this old cry which rang the tocsin of murder, debauch, destruction in Paris, and every other place where the dreadful delusion has found mad believers.

Do American citizens, who are intelligent and honest as our laborers are, think what is the true import of these apparently harmless words?

"To do good is our religion"—was the devil's whisper which led to defecation of a prostitute as the "Goddess of Reason," and under the malign influence of the spirit which caused her defecation, the fires of hell blazed upon earth.

And how aptly the saying—"the devil can quote scripture"—is illustrated in the text motto—"and they had all things in common."

We have written record—and the record is true, that the devil quoted scripture, correctly and plausibly, to one who was profane against temptation and deception; and His reply—"Get thee behind me Satan," will be the sober, earnest utterances of every true American workman, when such texts of scripture are blazoned on the banners of those who believe all revealed religion is a cunning lie, and the Bible a mocking fable.

ly applied for every discovered wrong; and the disguise stripped from the pretenders who are seeking to ride into notoriety, upon the well known deep seated popular sympathy with every thing affecting favorably the interests of the American laborer.

Forty-second Congress—2d Session

THURSDAY, Dec. 21.

SENATE. Mr. Sumner introduced his proposed amendment to the constitution, making the President ineligible for the second term.

Mr. Sumner offered a resolution directing the Committee on Investigation to inquire whether any money has been paid on account of any asserted lease to the United States of the Bay of Samana, and if so what amount; who are such parties, and what were the inducements to them to pay said money, and had they any assurances of the money being returned by the United States, with power to send for persons and papers.

Mr. Thurman offered a resolution and amendment to his seat as Senator from Alabama Mr. George Goldthwaite.

The morning hour expiring the resolution went over.

Mr. Clayton asked for the reading of a paragraph from the Washington Chronicle of this morning, to the effect that efforts were being made to expel Senator Clayton on account of his giving a certificate of election, while Governor of Arkansas, to Edwards as a member of the House, when Bales, his competitor, had a large majority, and that the subject was now before the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Clayton asked Mr. Trumbull, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to state what foundation there was for this statement.

Mr. Trumbull said the Judiciary Committee had not had the case of Senator Clayton before them, and this was the first time he had heard of this matter.

Mr. Clayton said that he desired to say nothing further on the subject.

The general amnesty bill was then proceeded with, and the question taken on the amendment of Mr. Morton, that the bill shall not be construed to validate the election of any one as Senator or Representative to any office in the United States, who was ineligible at the time of such election, when it was rejected.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. Sumner to add his supplementary civil rights bill.

Mr. Thurman made the point of order that the amendment could not be entertained, because, if it stood by itself, a majority vote would pass it, whereas this measure required a two-thirds vote.

Mr. Trumbull made a further point of order. He said that these amnesty bills did not require the assent of the President, although the custom had been to present them for his signature, but the bill of Mr. Sumner would only be valid with the signature of the President.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. The House met in Committee of the Whole, Mr. Moore in the chair. About fifty members present.

Mr. Harris addressed the House upon the concurrent resolution of March 2, 1867, directing United States officers not to make payments to any person who was engaged in or sympathized with the late rebellion.

Mr. Sheldon addressed the House upon the subject of the Mississippi levee, arguing that the commerce of the river tended to the prosperity of the nation, and therefore should receive the support of the nation.

Mr. Ritchie spoke of the rapid strides making by the Republican party to overthrow the rights of local self-government.

Mr. Blair argued in favor of general amnesty.

Mr. Parker replied to the remarks of Mr. Blair, and said of all the men of Missouri, whether Democrat or Republican, there were but two who would attempt to defend, or to use the mildest terms, apologize for the slavery which existed before 1861, and that man was the one who had just spoken.

Mr. Burdett said that it seemed to him that every member from Missouri should repudiate the idea advanced by their colleague (Mr. Blair).

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