

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING. TERMS—Three Dollars per annum, payable in advance, or Four Dollars payable at the end of the year.

ADVERTISEMENTS inserted at the usual rates. The following report is so interesting, and so melancholy, and details an evil so difficult of remedy, that long as it is, we think it our duty to republish it.

Philadelphia, March 25, 1829. The subscribers, a committee appointed by the town meeting of the citizens of the city and county of Philadelphia, on the 21st ult., to ascertain whether those who are able and willing to work, can in general procure employment; what is the effect upon the comfort, happiness, and morals of the females who depend on their work for a support; of the low rate of wages paid to that class of society; to what extent the sufferings of the poor are attributable to those low wages; and what is the effect of benevolent or assistant societies on the industry of the laboring poor; beg leave to report:

That they have attended to the duties confided to them with a due sense of their importance, not merely to the comfort, happiness, and morals, of that distressed, interesting, and numerous portion of our population, whose case was particularly referred to them, but to the character of the community at large, which is deeply involved in the question of the justice done to that class, and the care and attention bestowed on their welfare.

That they are convinced, from a careful examination of the subject, that the wages paid to operatives who work in their own apartments; to spinners; to weavers; to makers of printed books; and in many cases to those who take in washing, are utterly inadequate to their support, even if fully employed, particularly if they have children unable to aid them in their industry, as is often the case; whereas, the work is so precarious that they are often unemployed, sometimes for a whole week together, and very frequently one or two days in each week. In many cases, no small portion of their time is spent in seeking and waiting for work, and in taking it home when done.

That, in the different branches above specified, industrious and expert women, unincumbered with families, and with steady employment, cannot average more than a dollar and a quarter per week; that their room rent is generally fifty cents, sometimes sixty two and a half cents; and that probably costs about a quarter dollar per week, on an average through the year. Thus, in the case of increasing employment, (a case that rarely occurs,) there remains but about half a dollar per week, or twenty six dollars per annum, for food and clothing; and supposing only eight weeks in the year unemployed through sickness, want of work, or attention to children, (and this is but a moderate calculation,) the amount of food and clothing would be reduced to the most miserable pittance of sixteen dollars per annum.

That it is a most lamentable fact, that among the women thus "ground to the earth" by such inadequate wages, are to be found members of our churches, with small children, who, by the untimely death of their husbands, and those reverses of fortune to which human affairs are liable, have been gradually reduced from a state of comfort and affluence to penury, and thrown upon the world with no other dependence than their own industry to support themselves and their offspring.

That although it is freely admitted that great distress and poverty arise from the habits of dissipation and intemperance of some husbands, and their shameful neglect to make that provision for their wives and children which they are bound to do by the laws of God and man, (and which it is deeply to be regretted, the laws do not duly enforce,) yet we feel satisfied that those deplorable and pernicious habits do not produce half the wretchedness to which meritorious females are subjected in this city, of which the greater portion arises from the other source which we have stated, and which places before this class the alternative of begging, applying to the overseers of the poor, stealing, or starving. We might add another, but we forbear.

That the scenes of distress and suffering which we have witnessed in our various visits to the dwellings of women who depend on their labor for support, resulting from inadequate wages, are of the most afflicting kind, and can scarcely be believed but by those by whom they have been beheld. We have found cases of women whose husbands have been for weeks disabled by accidents, or by sickness produced by working on canals surrounded by pestiferous miasma, who have had to support their husband and three or four children by spinning at 20 cents per hundred skeins, by washing and rough drying, at 20 or 25 cents per dozen, or by making shirts and pantaloons at 1 1/2 cents each.

That it is a great error to suppose, as is too frequently supposed, that every person in this community, able and willing to work, can procure employment; as there are many persons of both sexes, more particularly of the female sex, who are at all times partially, and frequently wholly, unemployed, though anxious to procure employment. There is almost always a great deficiency of employment for females, which is the chief reason why their wages are so disproportioned to those of males.

The committee then proceed to state that an evil which is somewhat prevalent, viz. that benevolent societies produce illeness and dissipation, is without foundation; inasmuch as their disbursements are chiefly for work done by poor women, and for food and clothing furnished to orphaned and destitute children. They continue their report by stating: That numerous proofs of the industry of the class which depend for support upon their labor, and of the injustice of the denunciations levelled against them, might be produced, but we shall confine ourselves to two, one as regards modes, the other as respects females. The first is the thousands of men who eagerly seek for labor on canals, often in pestiferous situations, without, standing them on the ground; the second, the fact, that from 1800 to 1826 women have weekly received three, four, six, eight, or ten gallons of pure gold waiting for labor at the Providence factory, and being refused work on the ground that they could not procure more than enough to employ themselves two, three, or four days in a week. These two facts alone ought to settle this question beyond the power of cavil or appeal.

For evils of the magnitude and inveteracy of those under which the women suffer, who depend on their labor for support, it is difficult to devise a remedy. A complete remedy is perhaps impracticable. They may however, and we hope will be mitigated. The mitigation must wholly depend on the humanity and sense of justice of those by whom they are employed, who for the honor of human nature, it is to be supposed, have not been aware of the fact, that the wages they have been paying were inadequate to the purchase of food, clothing, and lodging; and who, now that the real state of the case is made manifest, will probably, as they certainly ought, increase those wages. Although the great and increasing competition in trade, renders it necessary to use rigid economy in the expense of producing articles for market, it can never palliate, far less justify, the oppression of the ill-fated people engaged in the production, by whose labors large fortunes are made, and their employers enabled to live in ease and opulence.

It is peculiarly incumbent on those wealthy ladies, who employ seamstresses or washerwomen, and who ought to feel sympathy for the sufferings of their sex, to give them such wages as will not only yield them a present support, but enable them to make provision for times of sickness or scarcity of employment. It is painful to state, but regard for truth obliges us to state, that in this respect sufficient attention is not generally paid to the sacred rule of "doing unto others as we would have others do unto us." A moderate degree of attention to this rule, would annihilate a great portion of the distress of many hundreds of suffering females.

One important means of mitigating the distress of this class, would be, to increase as far as possible the diversity of female employments, by which that competition which has produced the pernicious reduction of wages should be diminished. The committee hope they will be pardoned for touching on a subject analogous to the object of their appointment, although not embraced in its terms. It is to recommend to the most serious consideration of the benevolent class of their fellow citizens, the establishment of a society for bettering the condition of the poor, by encouraging habits of order, regularity, and cleanliness in their persons and apartments; by instructing them in the most economical modes of cooking their food; by inducing them to send their children to school, and when arrived at a proper age, to bind them apprentices to useful trades, and to lodge the little surplus of their earnings, when they have any surplus, in the saving fund; by enabling them to purchase fuel and other necessaries at reasonable rates; in a word, by inculcating on them those principles and that kind of conduct, which are calculated to elevate them in their own estimation, and in that of society at large. Societies of this description have produced the most salutary effects on the comfort and morals of the poor in various parts of Great Britain.

And while the committee press on the humane and wealthy part of the community, the propriety of aiding in a greater degree than heretofore, (by their own exertions and through the various benevolent societies that exist among us, and whose funds are at present greatly reduced,) to alleviate the distresses of the numerous widows and orphans, and the really deserving poor and helpless of every description, they would likewise suggest to housekeepers and heads of families the propriety of seeking out, and employing in the situation of domestics, in their several families, destitute females, who, by the frowns of fortune, have been reduced to distress. Hundreds of this description are to be found within the precincts of the city and liberties, who, if properly encouraged, would be grateful for the means of employment thus afforded them, and who might profit by the precept and example set before them in the houses of respectable citizens. Perhaps there are few ties, in common life, more binding than those that are found to exist between a benevolent master and mistress, and a faithful female servant who has grown up under their own eye, and under their care and protection, and that of their descendants.

All of which is respectfully submitted. Matthew Carey, Robert Smith, Joseph Watson, Charles M. Dupuy, Benjamin Tucker, M. M. Call, George Emerick, Committee.

What a picture of civilized society is here! What a lesson for the legislator and the economist! When we exult in the prosperity and applaud the political institutions of our country, chastened by our exultation and qualified our praise! Let us pause before we congratulate ourselves on what is done, let us examine what remains to do. The following letter appeared in the United States Gazette of the 27th April, and evinces, at the least, much goodness of heart in the writer. The editor of the Gazette, in calling his readers attention to it, remarks: "This is the age of noble exertions. The spirit that is abroad must work out permanent and extensive good; lessening in an eminent degree the amount of present ills, and correcting those errors in the opinions and practices of society that would work out future evils." May the anticipation be justified!

Extract of a letter from an intelligent and respectable lady of New Jersey, to the writer of the Essays on the Public Charities of Philadelphia: "Now, indeed, you are on the right road; this is the true political economy of which we have all been so long in search, and on which such volumes have been written. This is the true philosopher's stone, from which pure gold will spring. I have all along been persuaded that men never had a

right understanding of the nature of the difficulties which surround their attempts at reformation. They never discovered where the pressure lay. In consequence of this ignorance, hospitals, prisons, treadmills, and houses of refuge have been multiplied, and charity after charity has sprung up, palliative. Give woman bread, clothing, and shelter enough for her children, and your prisons will be turned into workshops, and your houses of refuge will be converted into schools.

Whatever of waste and violence appears in the females of the lower classes, certain it is that these vices are not the besetting sin of the poor. Poor women are always frugal and industrious; I have observed them very narrowly, and I can with confidence say, that they are far more industrious and moral than men of their own class. Of ten families, each one only able to afford one room as a shelter, eight of the women shall be frugal, industrious, and orderly, exhibiting the strongest solicitude for the welfare of their children, while six of the men shall be worse than even encumbrances to their wives; so that, according to my estimate—and Mrs. C. will agree with me—the difference between the two sexes is as eight to four. I do not know whether in country towns, or even in the country itself, the disproportion be not more glaring. Two things produce this inferiority in the male poor. The most obvious one is the utter idleness in which they spend their evenings, particularly the long evenings in winter, and the rainy and waste days; and the other is the disrespect in which they are brought up to show to women. A drunken, lazy, selfish man of this class will always feel that he is master, let his wife be ever so much superior; and, inferior as he thinks her, he exacts as much of her as if she were his equal. Many men, rich as well as poor, have this same base sentiment with respect to women. I have heard many sensible humane men reason in this way, when contending for higher wages for men: "That men are obliged to labor out of doors in hot suns and in storms, subjected to all the evils that vicissitude of weather creates." This is all very true, but still they live longer, and are not subject to so many petty diseases as women are. And farther, "that men cannot labor in the evening, as they are exhausted with the hard labor of the day." In summer this excuse may appear plausible; but is not this the case too with women? Is it not as great labor to stand at a wash tub and ironing table all day, and then sew and attend to household duties in the evenings?—to whitewash, clean paint, and scrub, and, worse than all, to sit from six in the morning until nine in the night at her needle, with maybe three or four children around her? This woman, thus described, goes to bed as weary as her husband, but altho' she may and does feel equal fatigue, is her sleep as sound as his? I can answer the men, that very few women, having young children, know what a good night's rest is. It is to this cause that we must look for the haggard and broken looks of so many females of the poorer classes. But to return to the main point of my argument, seeing that women labor equally with the men—that their life is of no longer duration—showing an equality of suffering—that their necessities are as great (for I will not allow that the clothing of a poor woman, properly clad, is less cost than a man's) and that they are fifty per cent more moral and industrious than the men—they are fully entitled to an equality of wages. It is only in Cochin China, that the wages of women are equal to the men's; but there the women do all the hard labor. No rule, you know, can be laid down as a guide unless it work both ways; one prominent reason assigned for the disproportion of men's wages is "that they have families to support." Has not a woman, a widow, a family to support; and if she labors two-thirds of twenty-four hours, is she not entitled to as much as will support herself and her children? You have struck out a new path, and will soon get at the root of the evil. I do not know a greater service that you can render the country, than to raise the price of female labor. The very moment a woman has in her power to feed and educate her children, that moment crime will lessen in the world."

That our readers imagine not that the sufferings and oppressions of the laboring classes are confined to Philadelphia, or even to any of our great cities, I have copied for them from the pages of the Mechanic's Free Press, the following communication: To the Editors of the Mechanic's Free Press. Gentlemen—As your paper appears to have for its object the diffusion of a knowledge of the real situation in which the laboring classes of the community of this great nation are placed, and whereunto the existing state of arrangements have a tendency relative to these classes, it may be in accordance with it to record the present situation of some of these in the factories in the neighborhood of Baltimore. I extract from my note book, on a pedestrian tour to Virginia, the following: "Having spent the afternoon in perambulating the neighborhood of this interesting place, which from the number of cotton and other factories in its immediate vicinity, filled with machinery and a vast throng of people all busily employed, impresses the mind with the idea that here is the fountain from which flows an immeasurable stream of wealth to fertilize the community, and gladden the hearts of this free and happily situated people. Having examined the rapid progress making in clearing away all obstacles for the construction of the rail road on the southern bank of the river, where the workmen occasionally amuse themselves by tossing high in the air rocks weighing many hundreds of pounds, I returned to the town, where, it being Saturday evening, some of the people from the neighboring establishments seemed to have called for the purpose of hearing and relating the news of the place. And from these I heard the following relations: 'That at the union factory the work people had for some days past turned out against an order from the president of the company for a general reduction of wages, of from twelve and a half to fifty per cent. from the previous prices given, and that the work people should be locked in from daylight till the time of quitting labor at night, with the exceptions of twenty-five minutes each, to be allowed to go to, and for eating, and returning from breakfast and dinner. These oppressions caused twelve out of thirteen mulespinners to leave, and seek employment, as they said, in less despotically conducted places. A number of hands employed in the carding and weaving room, likewise promptly quitted their work; as also some of the machinists, though their wages were not altered, rather than they would submit to be incarcerated in a prison house, like convicts, six days out of seven of the week. Among those who are obliged to submit to and comply with the mandate of this relentless ruler (of a free people) are a number of females, and the children of widows, who have been induced locate here for the purpose of getting work and subsistence for their families; and whose previously scanty pittance being thus abridged, will heap additional misery on their already heavily oppressed shoulders. I could not ascertain whether the business of the factory having been unprofitable was the cause of the reduction of the price of labor, but one thing struck me, that that could hardly be the case, since in the machine making department there was an unusual briskness of demand. Although the people could not tell me whether the Union Factory's operations had been productive to the stockholders during the present year just ended: they said that the Powhatan Factory, whose year ended about the last of December, 1828, had made a clear gain during that year of \$30,000. Twenty thousand dollars of which they had appropriated to purchase additional machinery, and thirty thousand was divided among the stockholders. This factory works fifty power looms. "It was stated that the Savage Factory, in consequence with its name, has been for some time passed, by the lock-up system being rigidly enforced, converted into a prison house or bastle, where if any person without wishes to speak with one within, by making application to the storkeeper, admittance is granted into a lobby, on the ground floor, and a messenger sent for the person wanted; or the message is carried, and an answer brought if the case admits it; or, as is often practised by poor women on the spot, when they want to ask a question of one within, they knock at an outer door, give the name of the person wanted, who is sent for, when they may be allowed a brief communication through the window.

It was stated to be the intention of the rest of the factories in the neighborhood to follow this example, and thereby demonstrate to some thousands of people the additions, that the present system of monopolized manufacturing labor-saving machinery is likely to add to the liberties of the working people of this boasted free country. "About 25 or 30 years ago the effects of this lock-up system was well illustrated by a large factory in Manchester, (England,) taking fire, while the manager was absent with the key in his pocket, and the people at work; numbers of whom threw themselves from the lofty windows; some into the adjacent dam, others were smashed to pieces by the fall upon the stones, while many were crushed to death under the fallen fiery rains. Comment is from me unnecessary; only I may observe, that first appearances are sometimes liable to deceive, unless cautious inquiries are instituted. SCRUTATOR.

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sioner, &c. &c.—his death, and funeral obsequies. The memoir is full and lucid, occupying 132 pages of the week, the remaining 393 pages contain a great variety of documents, illustrative of the principal events in the life of Clinton.—N. Y. Morning Courier.

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"The principles of legislation now laid down, seem to us to have an important bearing on two great questions, which have already agitated the country, and which we fear, bode no good to the Union. We refer to the restrictive system and to internal improvement. "The first, which proposes to protect certain branches of domestic industry, seems to us singularly wanting in that simplicity and impartiality, which, as I have said, should characterize our legislation. It cannot be understood by the mass of the people, and it will certainly divide them.—In the first place, the restrictive system involves a Constitutional difficulty. We of this region, indeed, generally concede to Congress the right of limiting trade in general, or of annihilating particular branches of it, for the encouragement of domestic industry; but the argument for a narrower construction of the Constitution is certainly specious, and certainly strong enough to give to those on whom a tariff may press heavily the consciousness of being wronged. In the next place, the general question of the expediency of restriction must be allowed by its advocates to be a difficult one. The growing light of the age certainly seem to oppose it, and the statements and reasonings by which it is defended, even if founded, in truth, are yet so intricate and open to objection, that vast numbers even of the enlightened cannot be satisfied of their validity. But supposing restriction to be admitted the question as to its extent, as to the kinds of industry which shall be protected, as to the branches of trade which shall be sacrificed, this question is the most perplexing which can be offered to popular discussion, and cannot fail to awaken cupidity, jealousy and hatred. From the nature of the case, the protection must be unequally extended, nor can any wisdom balance the losses to which different States will be exposed. A restrictive tariff is necessarily a source of discord. To some portions of the country it must be an evil, nor will they suffer patiently. Disadvantages imposed by nature, communities will bear, but not those which are brought on them by legislation. We have indeed various objections to the whole system of protection. We believe it to be deceptive throughout. We also oppose it, on the ground that our country in adopting it, abandons its true and honorable position. To this country, above all others, belong, as its primary duty and interest, the support of liberal principles. It has nothing in its institutions congenial with the maxims of barbarous ages, with the narrow, monopolizing, restrictive legislation of antiquated despotisms. Freedom in all its forms, is our life, strength, prosperity; and every system at war with it, however speciously maintained, is a contradiction to our characters, and, wanting harmony with our spirit, must take something, however silently, from the energy of the institutions which hold us together.

As citizens of the world, we grieve that this country should help to prolong prejudices, which even monarchy is outlawing; should, in imitation of meddling despotisms, undertake to direct the industry and capital of the citizen, and especially should lose

er, where, it being Saturday evening, some of the people from the neighboring establishments seemed to have called for the purpose of hearing and relating the news of the place. And from these I heard the following relations: "That at the union factory the work people had for some days past turned out against an order from the president of the company for a general reduction of wages, of from twelve and a half to fifty per cent. from the previous prices given, and that the work people should be locked in from daylight till the time of quitting labor at night, with the exceptions of twenty-five minutes each, to be allowed to go to, and for eating, and returning from breakfast and dinner. These oppressions caused twelve out of thirteen mulespinners to leave, and seek employment, as they said, in less despotically conducted places. A number of hands employed in the carding and weaving room, likewise promptly quitted their work; as also some of the machinists, though their wages were not altered, rather than they would submit to be incarcerated in a prison house, like convicts, six days out of seven of the week. Among those who are obliged to submit to and comply with the mandate of this relentless ruler (of a free people) are a number of females, and the children of widows, who have been induced locate here for the purpose of getting work and subsistence for their families; and whose previously scanty pittance being thus abridged, will heap additional misery on their already heavily oppressed shoulders. I could not ascertain whether the business of the factory having been unprofitable was the cause of the reduction of the price of labor, but one thing struck me, that that could hardly be the case, since in the machine making department there was an unusual briskness of demand. Although the people could not tell me whether the Union Factory's operations had been productive to the stockholders during the present year just ended: they said that the Powhatan Factory, whose year ended about the last of December, 1828, had made a clear gain during that year of \$30,000. Twenty thousand dollars of which they had appropriated to purchase additional machinery, and thirty thousand was divided among the stockholders. This factory works fifty power looms. "It was stated that the Savage Factory, in consequence with its name, has been for some time passed, by the lock-up system being rigidly enforced, converted into a prison house or bastle, where if any person without wishes to speak with one within, by making application to the storkeeper, admittance is granted into a lobby, on the ground floor, and a messenger sent for the person wanted; or the message is carried, and an answer brought if the case admits it; or, as is often practised by poor women on the spot, when they want to ask a question of one within, they knock at an outer door, give the name of the person wanted, who is sent for, when they may be allowed a brief communication through the window.

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sioner, &c. &c.—his death, and funeral obsequies. The memoir is full and lucid, occupying 132 pages of the week, the remaining 393 pages contain a great variety of documents, illustrative of the principal events in the life of Clinton.—N. Y. Morning Courier.

"THE TARIFF. A letter has been addressed to the editors of the New York Evening Post, from Boston on the 4th instant, containing the following statements: "That the effects of the "American System" now begin to unfold themselves; that so great has been the investment of capital and labour in manufactures, that all are injured by the competition, and by that want of skill which attends so great a rush into a new business, without experience or economy; that there have been numerous failures in New England; that there are not five factories there whose stock would sell at par, and average of cotton would not exceed 30 or 40 cents, and of woollens much less.—This is an unpleasant picture, if it be an accurate one; but we cannot vouch for the accuracy of the statements. Connected in part with the subject of the tariff is an article which has just appeared at Boston, in the 32d No. of the "Christian Examiner." It is commended in the highest terms by the Boston Commercial Gazette, and the New York Evening Post, both of them Anti-Tariff papers,—and from the allusion in these papers, we should suppose the article to come from the pen of Mr. Channing, one of the most highly-gifted writers in New England, or in the United States. His reputation abroad is pre-eminently high.—Be the author who he may, he is certainly very impressive, if we may judge from the specimens we have seen—and the interest of his theme is calculated to call forth all his powers. It is upon the subject of the Union of these States; taking his text from the recent correspondence between Mr. Adams and several federal citizens of Massachusetts. He touches upon the course and character of the Federal Party—the conduct and standing of the Supreme Court of the United States. He dwells emphatically upon the mishief which would arise from the dissolution of our confederated government. He depicts in glowing colors the benefits which result from this union—and points out the great rules which are necessary for preserving and perpetuating our system. He comes at length to the following views, which we lay before our readers, and which will give them a specimen of the whole article. They come in as a very appropriate Appendix to the copious extracts we have just made from the Edinburgh Review, and apology for the People of America:—[Richmond Compiler.

"The principles of legislation now laid down, seem to us to have an important bearing on two great questions, which have already agitated the country, and which we fear, bode no good to the Union. We refer to the restrictive system and to internal improvement. "The first, which proposes to protect certain branches of domestic industry, seems to us singularly wanting in that simplicity and impartiality, which, as I have said, should characterize our legislation. It cannot be understood by the mass of the people, and it will certainly divide them.—In the first place, the restrictive system involves a Constitutional difficulty. We of this region, indeed, generally concede to Congress the right of limiting trade in general, or of annihilating particular branches of it, for the encouragement of domestic industry; but the argument for a narrower construction of the Constitution is certainly specious, and certainly strong enough to give to those on whom a tariff may press heavily the consciousness of being wronged. In the next place, the general question of the expediency of restriction must be allowed by its advocates to be a difficult one. The growing light of the age certainly seem to oppose it, and the statements and reasonings by which it is defended, even if founded, in truth, are yet so intricate and open to objection, that vast numbers even of the enlightened cannot be satisfied of their validity. But supposing restriction to be admitted the question as to its extent, as to the kinds of industry which shall be protected, as to the branches of trade which shall be sacrificed, this question is the most perplexing which can be offered to popular discussion, and cannot fail to awaken cupidity, jealousy and hatred. From the nature of the case, the protection must be unequally extended, nor can any wisdom balance the losses to which different States will be exposed. A restrictive tariff is necessarily a source of discord. To some portions of the country it must be an evil, nor will they suffer patiently. Disadvantages imposed by nature, communities will bear, but not those which are brought on them by legislation. We have indeed various objections to the whole system of protection. We believe it to be deceptive throughout. We also oppose it, on the ground that our country in adopting it, abandons its true and honorable position. To this country, above all others, belong, as its primary duty and interest, the support of liberal principles. It has nothing in its institutions congenial with the maxims of barbarous ages, with the narrow, monopolizing, restrictive legislation of antiquated despotisms. Freedom in all its forms, is our life, strength, prosperity; and every system at war with it, however speciously maintained, is a contradiction to our characters, and, wanting harmony with our spirit, must take something, however silently, from the energy of the institutions which hold us together.

As citizens of the world, we grieve that this country should help to prolong prejudices, which even monarchy is outlawing; should, in imitation of meddling despotisms, undertake to direct the industry and capital of the citizen, and especially should lose