

Cedar Rapids, Iowa. June 15 1894

Judge A. J. Terrence.

I was much pleased with your attitude in the last "Expositor notes", you have struck the foe in your handling of the cry of "wage slaves". It is the cry of childishness or impotency, not the sentiment of men, who are, or ought to be, persons. If there are abuses, and beyond doubt there are, the workmen are as much responsible as any other class. Abuses, in a government like ours, must always arise from neglect. It is not necessary for a man or community to commit any special act of folly or crime, to insure evil results. Oh yes, all that is needed to invite and assure ruin, is to just sit still, and the rest will come doubt not, "a little more sleep, a little more rest, and folding of the hands, so shall thy poverty be assured and thy want come as an armed man". That is what is the matter with the "wage slaves" if the working man chooses that title. Whether slave or free man, he alone is to determine. There can be small doubt but that the mine owner, and the mill owner, having tasted the luxury of power will be very loth to relinquish it. It is human nature to cling to that which one has fairly won, by "your bow and your spear" mankind is just as naturally selfish, as the grass is green or water inclined to find its level. What then? Why then it behoves the workingman, who has equal privileges as a governing factor, to check this selfish tendency, when it threatens their interests, and to stay it. Thus far, and no farther, is plainly in the

hands of the working man, All of the industries of this country, if wisely controlled, are in the direct line of help to the laboring classes. A person born into this world, without other means of support than that afforded by their two hands, must use such capital as nature has endowed them with, unless some opportunity is given, whereby they can use their hands to fairly good effect, this would be a sorry lot indeed. But, granted, an opening where a reasonable wage can be assured, and the world is theirs. Of course there is always danger from man's selfishness and greed, when a man by luck or shrewdness, makes riches, his sympathies are too often deadened to all other interests. Burns says all too truly, "If self the weaving balance, shakae 'tis seldom right adjusted". And yet it is in the power of working men to qualify all this, not by strikes and brute violence, not by making themselves a thousand fold more evil and obnoxious than their employers, are represented to be, as they undoubtedly do, when a scorn ^{of men} attacks one defenceless man for the crime of trying to earn bread, Not in that way, but by wisely training themselves for citizen ship, ah; for statesmen if you please. To the laboring class, this govt is precisely what the fawn is to its owner. It will yield just what is sown, and if not sown at all, if neglected, it will yet yield a crop, but not one of value. The fawn is the husbandman's friend, properly treated, the government under which we live is beyond all, the friend of the poor man properly guided, but susceptible of abuses, which will may prove, as utterly futile any effort to establish a "govt. of the people, by the people, for the people"

Respectfully yours
David Page