

## the voice of industry

1845.05.29

“What! Those Workingmen Publishing a Paper? - Yes, friends, as strange as it may seem, “*Those ignorant Workingmen* have come to the singular conclusion, to do some of their own thinking, reading, and talking. We have lived long upon the dear bought teachings of those who measure cut their knowledge according to our goal, and as this is getting rather scarce we think duty demands, that we should stir up our ideas, and see what things we have stowed up rusting away, which may be of some little value to ourselves and a portion of the community. Will you allow it?”

1846.05.29

### INTRODUCTION

Friends & Brothers:

Through the changing course of human events we appear before you with our humble sheet, the VOICE OF INDUSTRY, published by an Association of Workingmen of our rapidly growing village. The character of paper and the course it will pursue in the arena of modern publications are comprehensively embodied in its head; which together with the fact that it has been brought into existence and will be supported exclusively by those who “earn their bread by the sweat of their brow,” (and not only their own but other’s) renders it necessary to go into a minute and prolix delineation of our intended field of action or proscribed bounds. In fact we have very little sympathy with the wholesale system of slavish pledging, which is carried on to so great an extent at the present day by a large portion of our political sectarian, and party presses; the influence of which is making dupes of the mass, keeps them ignorant of their true natures and interests, and fills the community with dogmatical errors and contracted tenets - while the leaders and advocates of these various sects and parties are as jealous of their preservation as the

apple of their eye - growing out of a long train of bigoted, “hereditary results, a vicious education, ambitious aspirancy, love of social aristocracy, or that dearest god of the age, “yellow gold”.

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1845.09.18

**The Newspapers.** - What a singular medley a newspaper is. In one column you will find a labored and swelling eulogy on departed greatness apparently written with tears and inspired by sorrow; in the next appears the history of the crops; anon occurs a meager witticism; next come a circus puff, or recommendation of ice cream, and then follow the deaths and marriages. All tastes (and no tastes at all) must be consulted. Sorrow and fun, business and nonsense, must all find a place in the folio of our pages or people will “stop the paper.”

1845.08.14

*For the Voice of Industry*

Mr. Editor: As I have been invited to furnish something for the readers of your pleasant and useful “Voice,” I thought it might interest them to learn that Lowell is onward.

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It requires some moral courage to speak and set independently in Lowell, as those who have made the experiment, know full well. Those who possess a firm adherence to the good and true, whether approved or censured will not be turned aside by contumely or abuse in any form. Such are some of the friends of reform in Lowell.

There are many, *very many* here, who are prepared to allow others to think and act for them; and themselves be only the machines to give expression to the will and opinions of others.

If there is a state of servitude more servile than slavery itself, it is that to which I have alluded. A man who in addition to being a servant *physically* will be one *mentally*; has descended a

little lower than any man could possibly descend who has a decent amount of self-respect.

We feel very much the need of a periodical here devoted to our cause. We are determined to speak here more clearly with your “Voice” in the future, and see if we cannot awaken a more general interest.

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We wish you much success in your efforts to be useful, and remain,

Yours in the cause of humanity,

- *Oliver*

*Lowell, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 1845.*

184512.11

### Our Sheet.

With the present No. closes the first, semi-volume of the *Voice of Industry*, and with no ordinary emotions of gratitude and satisfaction we arrive this period in the existence of our humble advocate of the people’s rights, and Industry’s just reward. In the history of modern publications, the instances are rare, considering the free and independent character of our sheet, of such universal favor and sympathy as our efforts have met with, among the friends of the laborer, and the abolition of all the degrading forms of servitude, which are producing false distinctions, crime and misery in society.

All classes have looked upon us with solitude and anxiety - the enemies of christian and philosophical progression, have watched the career of our investigating Voice with the deepest suspicion, and have not failed to use their *peculiar* means to stifle its influence and destroy its usefulness, either by open denunciation, and sanctimonious cants. But notwithstanding the many obstacles in the path of the *reformer*; our cause has been onward and upward, and we are gradually gaining ground upon the errors and inveteracies of the community, and *Man*, his true interests, and the great object and end of his existence, are fast being revealed by the genial rays from the great fountain of light and

life, which begin to beam in upon the darkness and superstition of the world, chasing away the traditional dogmas and relics of barbarism which have preyed upon the rights of mankind; and like angels of destruction, cast a blight and gloom over the face of the Earth, and confusion, religious doubt and mysticism upon the minds of the race.

The friends to our cause have viewed our little newspaper among the raging waves of oppression, discord and strife, with fear and trembling; lest she should meet the same unhappy fate of many who have set sail before us, and found themselves wrecked by opposing winds and waves, upon the shore of disappointment. But thanks to Heaven, our *industrious* bark is still riding upon the tide, safe and sound, with her sails well spread and the noble banner of *Reform* floating in the breezes. The strong hearted workingmen and women of Massachusetts have *strengthened* her timbers and added weight to her anchor, and we firmly believe with the faithful assistants at the helm, we shall be able to survive the roughest seas of commercial *anarchy* and harbor safely in the port of Industrial union.

It may safely be said by the way of encouragement, that the Voice of Industry is permanently established, and we earnestly call upon all friendly to the great Labor Reform which is agitating almost the entire civilized world, to use their influence in circulating this paper among the working people of New England, thereby sending a word of hope and encouragement to many who are living in slavish despondency.

Our friends in various sections of the country, will accept our warmest thanks for their efforts on our behalf, and we trust they will not leave the field until we can talk of our *ten and fifteen thousand* subscribers, from the honest operatives and workingmen of the land.

Breathereen we enter upon the next six months with high anticipations,

and are another period of like duration shall roll round, we feel fully assured that you will make great progress in the philanthropic cause in which we are engaged, and that the great plan of "union" now before the American working people will be adopted as the basis of an industrial reform that will *restore* to *Man*, "self-government, to Labor its true dignity and just rewards, and to humanity the Heavenly impress, of which sin and oppression has robbed it.

1847.03.12

#### Editorial Notices of the Voice of Industry

At the present juncture of affairs we have thought the following, among a multitude of notices our humble but devoted sheet has received from our brethren of the Press, might not be devoid of interest to our realities and friends, which we insert indiscriminately. – The following is from that *infallible* sheet The Lowell Courier, which is a *conspicuous* article from a *conspicuous* paper edited by a *conspicuous* man, and is entitled to a *conspicuous* place in our list.

The VOICE OF INDUSTRY appears this week with a new head, and printed very much better than usual. Miss Mehitable Enstman has become one of the editors. If she will use her influence to keep the paper free from the scurrility and black guardianism which have characterized it ever since its establishment in this city, we think she will succeed. In such case, the paper has our good wishes for its prosperity.

– Lowell Courier

In contrast with the preceding, are the following *manly* remarks from the *manly* pen of Horace Greely of the New York Tribune, a man and a paper above our praise. To say that we differ in some respects, is but to acknowledge that we belong to the human species, subject to human errors and frailties, but when those differences arise from *honest* minds, laboring for *honest* purposes, they will ever be entertained by the true hearted friend to society with charity

and respect. We shall endeavor to be "belligerent in spirit" only with wrong and at peace only with right.

"Hearts may agree, though heads differ."

1845.11.14

**Let it be remembered.** – That this paper is upon a firm and permanent basis a large number of responsible individuals, being personally obligated for its regular issue. Therefore, we trust our friends will not deny sending in their names for one years subscription, together with the \$1,00 for the same!

[date]

☞The VOICE OF INDUSTRY at Lowell, organ of the "New England Labor Reform League," has passed under the Editorial charge of W.M.F. YOUNG and MISS M. EASTMAN, and still will be published weekly at \$1.25 per annum or five copies for \$5 in advance. It is among the most able and earnest advocates of a Reform in the Hours and Conditions of Labor and at the same time a staunch champion of Land Reform, Temperance, Peace and general Morality. It is a little too belligerent in spirit, and especially inclined to war on Corporations and on Capital, though its conductors realize in their cooler moments that the evils they would conquer do not inhere to any class, but in false principles pervading all. The "Voice", although widely taken, is poorly supported, and makes an earnest appeal for more subscribers and better pay. If the Hard-handed Many are not unfaithful to themselves it will receive it.

– N.Y. Tribune.

VOICE OF INDUSTRY. – This paper, the publication of which was suspended of which was suspended a short time since, has been revived. It now makes its appearance in a new dress, and looks neat as a pin. It is under the editorial charge of Mr. W.F. Young, who makes a far better paper than his predecessor. As the organ of the "Industrial Reform League," we commend it to the attention of those who feel an interest in the welfare of the laboring classes.

– Manchester Messenger.

VOICE OF INDUSTRY. – We are glad to learn that this spirited advocate of the Rights of Labor, is placed upon a footing which will secure its continuance at least for one year. – It has done a brave work in contending for better organization of industry, and we trust it will never weary or languish in spreading light before the people. We notice that some of our contemporaries are disposed to read a lesson of good manners to the ‘Voice’; but its sins, if any, are rather offenses of taste than of temper, and should be pardoned to the excitement produced by the advocacy of a noble but neglected cause. At any rate, our political organs are not quite immaculate enough in this respect, to authorize them to throw stones at the “Voice.”

– The Harbinger.

This impure “*taste*” may be the effects of the crab-apples which present society compels her children to feed upon.

THE VOICE OF INDUSTRY. – This valuable weekly paper is the organ of the New England Labor Reform League. It is a faithful exponent of the wrongs and suffering of the factory workers, devoted to the elevation and improvement of the industrial classes, and the final and permanent emancipation of labor from its present suicidal, competing and depressive tendencies. It has to hear up against the tremendous power and influence of the organized and corporation wealth of New England. The difficulties it has to contend with are therefore immense, and requires for its assistance and support, the contributions and assistance of the friends of Humanity throughout the Union.

The devoted and self-sacrificing labors of W.F. Young, commend the paper to the support of the toiling masses in the east, especially those engaged in the factories. Now is the time to subscribe for its support and continuance. An interesting discussion is going on in its column between a Speculator and an Operative. – [Pittsburgh Dispatch

VOICE OF INDUSTRY. – This spirited and independent advocate in the cause of progressive improvement of the laboring classes, printed at Lowell, which has for some time past been published by the New England Labor Reform League has been transferred to WM. F. YOUNG and Miss M. Eastman, who will continue its publication. Mr. Young has been one of the former editors of this paper, and has done good service, in the cause of the toiling millions. The paper appears also with a new head, illustrative of the principles which it advocates. – [Ohio State Tribune

To the Northanston Democrat, Young America and Harbinger who copied our Prospectus, in part or entire, we feel especially indebted. Also to the Chronotype Farnier & Ledger, who have added a word of encouragement and hope.

Our best endeavors shall be, to prove ourselves worthy of the numerous favors we have revived by our fidelity to the universal cause of human good.

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1846.05.08

#### **To Business People.**

A few advertisements will be inserted in this paper at reasonable prices, and, as it has the largest permanent circulation of any journal in the city, those having anything *valuable* to offer to the public, will do well to make it a medium. As our readers are generally of the sensible class, *humbuggery* will not find it a very profitable source to gain publicity.

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[date]

“**Newspaper Profits.** – A subscriber in Ohio writes, requiring the discontinuance of his paper which he parts from with regret. – He says, “My receipt comes up to this date, so I shall cheat you out of one number.” This is certainly cool. A man who is so sensible he is cheating might easily have relieved himself by inclosing a half dime in his letter, to repair the damage. Another subscriber in the State of New York, sends a dollar bill to square up the Levitt and Alden and adds, “The twenty cents additional is not easily

sent in a letter: perhaps you will dispense with that?” Now we do not admit that twenty cents cannot be easily sent in a letter; and as to dispensing with it, we ask our friend how many persons he deals with (except newspaper publishers) whom he would venture to ask a dispense with twenty per cent of their just dues on settlement.”

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1846.06.19

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Numerous papers, like the “Awl,” the “Offering,” the “Operative,” the “Laborer,” “Social Reformer,” “Mechanic,” &c., were thrown to the breeze – each looking upon the question of Industrial Reform from a different stand-point, and proposing the greatest variety of remedies. All saw the evils to which we were exposed, and agreed upon the necessity of Reform. These various papers lived longer than they had the means of support, accomplished their mission, and ceased to be.

A new paper, the “VOICE OF INDUSTRY,” has taken their place, and thus far it has been as universal as its name, combining the good that was evolved by all the others. It has trumpeted the cry of oppression and outrage that has come up from all classes of sufferers, in city, village and country. It has been the mouth-piece of labor everywhere, in the east and the west, the north and the south, on the sea and on the land.

From time to time, in the progress of the movement, new principles of Reform have been announced, and new remedies proposed. An efficient lien law, to give mechanics a hold upon their productions till they have been paid for their labor; the limitation of the hours of toil on all public works and in privileged monopolies, to *ten*; the guarantee of the right to labor – or, in other words, the freedom of the public lands to actual settlers; the inalienable homestead, despite of mortgages and bills of credit; the limitation of landed monopoly in the States; the right to the use of machinery, and to an equal share in the inheritance of the past; the Protective Union among different

classes of laborers, by which they dispense with the sharks of commerce, establish a direct exchange of commodities between the different branches of industry, and guarantee to each other at the same time support in misfortune, sickness until old age.

These are some of the principles and measures that have been suggested, at different times and generally incorporated in the theoretical and practical creed of the Industrial Reformers. And it is for the application of these remedies to the life, to government and society that we are now laboring.

A paper whose object should be more limited in its views than this, would not be the "Voice of Industry." Or, in other words, the Organ of the laboring classes *must* be the exponent of the broadest principles, the defender of the largest liberty, and the advocate of the widest philanthropy. It must be a FREE PAPER; *free* as the ocean waves, and the mountain winds; *free* as human thought, benevolent as the christian love, and faithful as the sternest conscience.

While, therefore, it will be the main object of the Voice of Industry, to give expression to such principles, and to propose such remedies as have been referred to above, it will be free, as it ever has been, to advance any new thought which this prophetic age may reveal, and echo the voice of Constructive Reform, by whomsoever spoken.

It will endeavor to remove the causes of evil, rather than quarrel with their effects. It will not, therefore, deal in low personalities, in private abuse, in condemnation of individuals, nor in indiscriminate warfare upon classes. Its words may sometimes sound harsh - they may appear severe, even; but it shall be the harshness of truth, and the severity of love. Our work is indeed no child's play, no scheme of idle amusement, no game of human selfishness. We are in earnest. In the holy name of God, in the deepest spirit of christian sacrifice, having

measured well our words, and counted well the cost of our enterprise, do we utter the cry for Reform.

With this feeling, we throw ourselves upon the progressive spirit of the age, upon the stream of human destiny, and replying for aid, upon the strength of the Omnipotent Father, we give ourselves to the work before us. Our *position*, therefore, cannot be defined - it is not definable, it is constantly changing; we are in motion, "excelsior" forever.

We can only pledge the friends of industrial reform, the assurance of our devotion to their cause, and of our best efforts for its success.

We are happy in being able to assure our readers, that Mr. Young, the former editor of the "Voice," will continue his contributions in the paper; and that Miss Bagley, Juliana, Mary, and other able writers will continue their favors as heretofore, as our rich columns this week will testify.

Other correspondents, are also solicited to give us their best thoughts upon the enterprise in which we are engaged.

Hoping that the "Voice of Industry" will be as loud and clear as ever, that it may continue to repeat the cry of the oppressed, to echo the wail of poverty and wrong, and to herald the glorious future, when labor shall be redeemed from its lowly estate, honored and rewarded in proportion to its merits, and freedom, wealth, education and social happiness be universal.

(I am), &c.  
JOHN ALLEN.