The Pittsburgh Gazette.

FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 1867.

THE TRADES UNION.

At a meeting of this body, held in this city, a day or two ago, Mr. Armstrong offered a resolution which was unanimously adopted, declaring, in substance, that the GAZETTE does not "pay a fair day's wages for a fair day's work." If the resolution had stated that the GAZETTE did not belong to the "Union," and had rested there, it would have set forth the simple truth, but, in going farther, it proclaimed a naked *falsehood*. The GAZETTE has uniformly paid the "Union" rates to all its journeymen, and this fact is well known by members of the craft throughout the city.

Shortly after the GAZETTE passed into the hands of its present proprietors, they were invited to join the "Union." It so happened that two female compositors—widows of soldiers—were employed by us at the time. Understanding, from long experience, something of the spirit and aims of Trade Unions, we caused inquiry to be made as to what we would be required to do concerning these two work women, in case we joined. The information we got was that "they would be allowed to remain *for the present*." The inference we drew was that we would be permitted to give them work until we became amenable to the "Union," and would then be compelled to dismiss them. We still think this was the only admissible inference. As we have not much faith in strong men who deny weak women the right to earn bread for themselves and their little ones, except over the wash-tub, we did not go in.

The writer hereof is by trade a printer. He served an apprentice-ship of seven years, under old fashioned articles of indenture, according to a habit unfortunately disused. When his time was out, he worked as a journeyman. For a good many years he has been an employer. Since he became of lawful age, to this year of grace, he has not felt the need of a guardian, either in the form of an individual or an association, to help him sell his own labor or buy that of others. Had he felt conscious he needed such help he would have made application to Court and had one duly appointed. He never had any difficulty, as a workman, in selling his skill and industry, and, so far, has never exchanged an unpleasant word with a man whom he employed. So long as he and the men he bargained with are at agreement, he holds it to be an unwarrantable impertinence for any body else to interfere.

The first year he worked as a journeyman he was invited to join a Typographical Society, which he did not do. He made money by refusing. The Society was preparing for a strike, and wanted to get control of all the workmen. It did not concern the members thereof whether they bankrupted the master-printers or not. They made their demand and it was refused. A strike followed. The employers thought they might as well lose by doing nothing, or as near it as might be, as by prosecuting business. After a time most of the unmarried journeymen went elsewhere to seek work. The married ones held out until their moneys were exhausted, and then resumed work at the old rates. We worked away, all the while, made fair wages, preserved self-respect, had the good-will of employers, which afterwards proved valuable, and at the end of the year were much better off than the strikers. Tnat recipe is a good one, and we ask nothing for it.

For two months thousands of skilled workmen have been idle in this city and neighborhood. It accords with reason to infer that the proprietors are not suffering the mills to stand idle, deteriorating for want of use, if they could go on without still greater loss, at the old schedule of wages. All these employers are workpeople in the same absolute sense as the men they hire, and do not get off with eight hours a day, well put in, unless they are luckier than we are. In a broad and just consideration of the Labor Question their interests ought to be regarded as well as those of other industrial classes. These thousands of strikers have lost what they could have earned in sixty days. One-sixth is a large part of a full year. The aggregate loss rises to a prodigious sum. If they now manage to obtain the wages they demand for the residue of the twelve months, they will not be as well off as they would have been had they gone on at the wages offered. This is a plain way of looking at the case, but it is practical, and often leads to beneficial consequences. Ordinarily, it is the long pull and the steady pull that conducts to pecuniary competency. Strikes keep more money out of workmen's pockets, than they ever put in.

If, in passing along the street, we should observe citizens chaffering with a huckster and differing with him about the price of family commodities, we should not feel we had a mission to reconcile them. We might, indeed, recall the words of that spocryphal writer who says, "as a nail sticketh fast between the stones of a wall, so sticketh fraud between the buyer and seller." But we should not feel it was our place to determine which was getting the better of the other. So, in the bitch between the mill-owners and the workmen, we should have held our peace had not the "Union" meddled with our business, and not by telling the truth, but by telling a falsehood. The GAZETTE pays without grumbling the highest market price for the labor it has need of, and expects to abide by that policy. It preaches the protection of Domestic Industry—the employers and employed alike—and practices what it preaches.

Having been provoked to say so much, we elect to say more. Two or three years ago, the coming May, the Miner's Union of Luzerne county, resolved to strike for higher wages, though competent workmen among them were clearing from eight to ten dollars a day. They did not include the helpers, or common laborers, whom they were paying only two dollars a day. A considerable number of boatmen and packet boatowners enticed into the strike, which lasted full ninety days. Owing to the high wages they had previously received the miners were enabled to hold out, but the helpers and boatmen were soon in more serious trouble than they ever experienced from "the oppression of capitalists." They roamed over the adjoining districts, seeking employment of farmers on almost any condition. By reason of a short supply, coal went in New York and elsewhere, to prices exceedingly hard upon poor people, who did not get the half of ten or eight dollars a day. Not a few were driven to their wit's end to keep from freezing. At last the miners in idle terms for themselves and resumed work, but they did not raise the wages of their helpers, and the railroad and canal men who followed their instigations they "left out in the cold," most miserably, even if it was midsummer. They had to accept the loss of one-fourth of the year. To the boatmen, who could count only on the season of navigation for considerable gains, the revolt was particularly severe, though it was bad enough for all sorts of work-people not ranked as "skilled." The loss was not inflicted on them by the proprietors, but by the "Union," who sought their own welfare on the principle that "the devil may take the hindmost."

We have witnessed not a few strikes conducted in the same way, without meaning to imply that the one here is of that description. We were trying to mind our own business till the "Union" "pitched into us," and we have not had time since to look after its affairs. We shall try not to have time to devote to that investigation. But we cannot help remarking that the true doctrine is that all Labor is to be Protected—the lower sorts as well as the higher—the workmen and the owners. When the "Union" take that ground we still be counted in; Till then we shall be counted out.

PAUPERS AND PAUPERISM.

One of the most difficult of social problems is pauperism. As yet no nation has squarely confronted it with the honest intention of reaching a definite solution. Philanthropists have been deeply affected by its sorrowful aspects, and made bountiful efforts to mitigate its evils, which efforts not striking deep enough, or striking in the wrong direction, have often aggravated, in the long run, the evils they were designed to cure. Advanced thinkers, here and there, have pondered the problem, and made valuable suggestions, which, as yet, lack completeness, but which will ultimately be rounded out, and consolidated into laws. Some small boat is dated into laws. Some small boat is, primarily religious, with an admixture, less or more, of secular elements, have devised schemes that have operated well, and serve as indices to point the road on which larger results of like character are to be obtained.

The Quakers are notable in this respect. Seldom does one of their number become a pauper; never unless by flagrant and persistent vice he has forfeited his standing as a member of the sect. The art of the Quakers does not consist in doling out temporary relief, or in making permanent provision for unfortunates, but in teaching the poor to help themselves, and in furnishing facilities to that end. The strength of a State lies in the strength of its people. Every pauper is so much abstracted from the total productive energy. He is more. He is so much dead weight, clogging the enterprise of the whole.

On an equality, in this particular, with the Quakers are the Jews. Under the ancient Mosaic theocracy, there were several enactments of eminent wisdom touching the treatment of the decayed and destitute. After the Dispersion, the savage and inhuman manner in which they were treated, alike by heathen and christian nations, fostered in the Jews a disposition to be mutually helpful. The precepts of their creed, and the force of their surroundings, conspired for the establishment by them of an excellent policy.

The larger christian denominations take no thorough and systematic oversight of their indigent members. The flippant sneer is not fully warranted that they are so greatly concerned to save souls, they have no interest in saving bodies; but there is enough in their neglect of the temporal well-being of their poor to give that sneer a keen edge. When child-faulty was young and unpopular, when Jew and Roman both condemned it as dangerous heresy; when devout High Priests like Caiphas, and mighty Emperors of mistere and blameless lives; like Marcus Aurelius and Julian, were eager to crush it out; the christians had "all things in common." Perhaps the delusion that prevailed among them touching the near approach of the end of all sublunary things, increased this tendency. But the wealth of all was the wealth of each. A sense of common peril gave a wonderful exemplification of the spirit of those Divine precepts of the Gospel, inculcating the broadest charity to the destitute and afflicted. But the condition they were in was extraordinary, and the feelings induced by it abnormal; and so not adapted to serve as a model or an inducement.

What is needed is a system by which individuals shall be kept off from the lists of paupers, by stimulous applied to their industry through self-respect. Such rescues are more gains to the individuals themselves, than to the tax payers. How such a system shall be adjusted and operated is the mystery. In the march of an army, the weak will fall out by the way and perish. As the generations flow along the incapables, the ignorant, the vicious, are submerged and overwhelmed, and then float as drift wood.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON, as reported by General HALPINE holds these opinions:

"No party as yet—and possibly no party for some years—will openly hoist the banner of Repudiation. But a majority of those who shaped the legislation of this last Congress must know—unless they deceive themselves, or are too ignorant to appreciate their own acts—that we are drifting in that direction, and that it is by their votes we have been swung out into the downward stream. Doubtless, some of them would either be, or affect to feel, horrified if to-day branded as Repudiationists—just as, in the infancy of the Freesoil agitation, it was considered a bitter slander if the 'Freesoiler' should be styled an 'Abolitionist.' There are steps in everything, and the term of reproach to-day will be worn as a feather in the cap some years from now, unless the true conservative wisdom of the country can be awakened, &c., &c."

While this representation does great injustice to the last Congress, there is more plausibility in it than in most of the averments which proceed from the President. The last Congress, and particularly the House of Representatives, was reckless in appropriating moneys. Cooler men than the President were alarmed at the want of reflection with which millions upon millions were voted for objects that either could be delayed or ought not to be provided for at all by the government. It is to be hoped that while the present Congress hold the President to accountability for undermining the public credit, they will take heed that by their votes they do not contribute more to that end than any loose or heated talk in which he may indulge.

The Connellsville Railroad bill was yesterday defeated in the House at Harrisburg. This makes an end of the matter for this session.

DANIEL E. NEVIN has been nominated for Assessor of the Twenty-third district.

THE Ohio, at Cincinnati, has over fifty feet of water in the channel.

GENERAL NEWS.

—Very fine leather is now manufactured at San Antonia, Texas.

—Only sixty-seven thousand persons in the whole country returned an income of over five thousand dollars per annum.

—A chambermaid named Mary Dugan, took poison to hide her indiscretion and died in a New York station house, Thursday.

—The Governor of Illinois has signed the bill making eight hours a legal day's work in the State, in the absence of contracts to the contrary. It goes into effect immediately.

—There are, perhaps, more Americans in Europe to-day than there has been at any period since the organization of the Government, and the number now thus absent will without doubt be very largely increased during the year.

—It is announced that a new daily paper is to be started in New Orleans, to be called the *Republican*. Ex-Governor Michael Hahn is to have charge of it, which is a sufficient pledge that it will be on the right side in politics.

WANT SUPPLIED.

London Ale, Bottled Ales, London Porter, Brown stout. To get genuine imported London Ale, Porter or Brown Stout, has been almost impossible. Many bottled p. fessed standing that impose. Now comes more suitable for weakly dispensation. The want has at length been supplied. A large assortment of the most favorite brands, Barclay & Perkins' London Brown Stout, Ales & Co's Pale Ale, Campbell's Scotch Ale, etc., just received at P. PHILKEMNO'S Bottling STORE, No. 4 Market street, and supplied by the case or single bottle, at the lowest rates. Also, a complete stock of the finest liquors for medicinal purposes, and Chamberlin's sparkling Ale, the best article in use. Remember the place.

JOSEPH FLEMING'S
DRUG AND PATENT MEDICINE DEPOT,
No. 84 Market street.

GRAY HAIR, BALDNESS, DANDRUFF.—ANY PERSON WHO WISHES FOR HAIR, COLOR RESTORER, Our Inventor, Hair Dressing, London Physicians, Hair Cutting, London Fair and Hair Dressing, London Recommended it, Hair Cutting, London Recommended it, Hair Cutting, London Recommended it, Hair Cutting