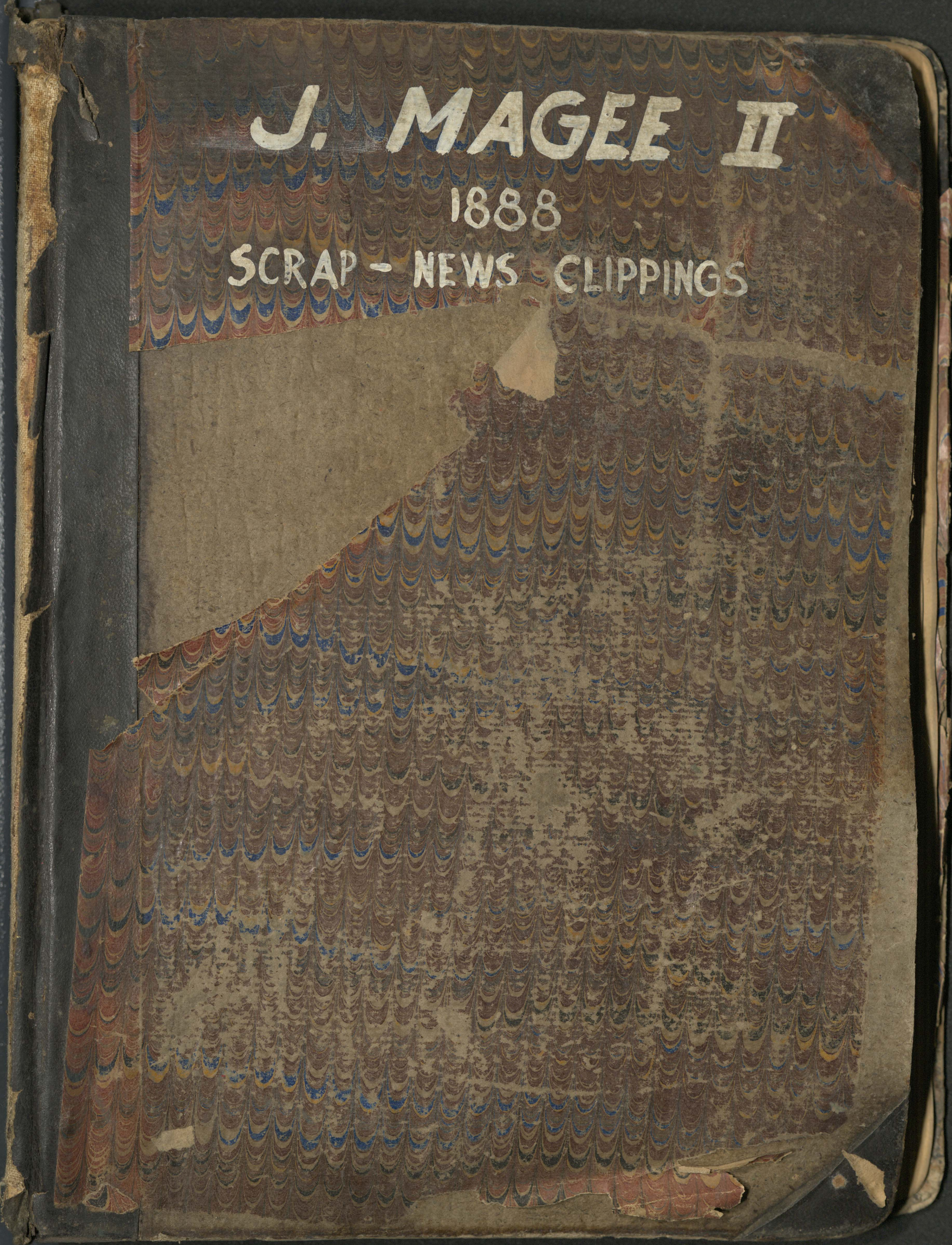
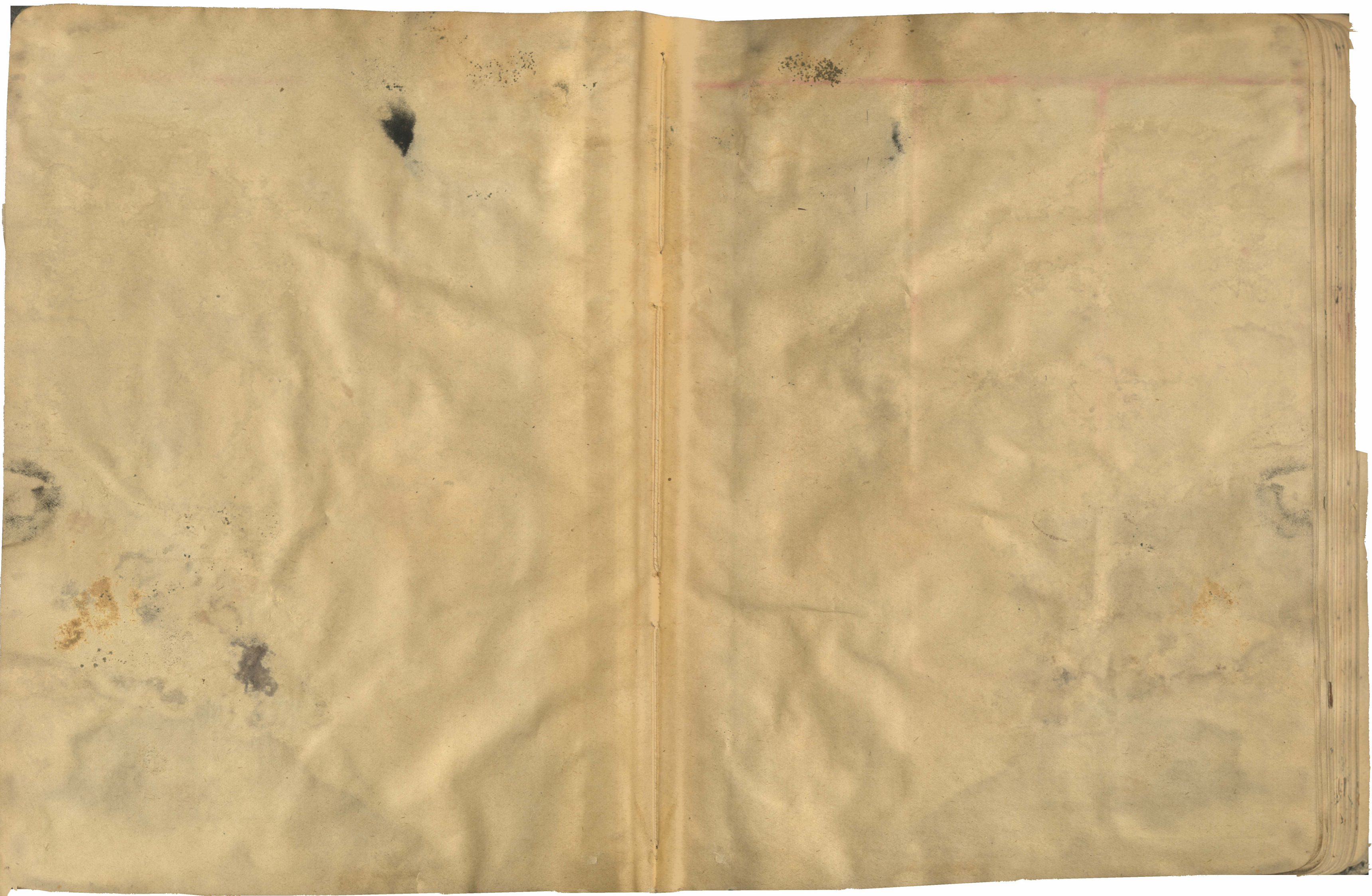


**J. MAGEE II**  
1888  
SCRAP - NEWS CLIPPINGS









All that is required of Congress is to pass a law based upon good, sound business policy and upon justice to all parties. First of all, a business man must understand that his books are kept for the benefit of his creditors and not merely for his own convenience, and they should be kept so as to make every transaction plain. But note in cases of failures how badly tangled up the accounts often are, and even an expert is compelled to guess at entries. If a man is conducting a strictly cash business, it is nobody's business whether he keeps his account with chalk upon a door or "in his head." He has no creditors and it does not matter. But we all know that three-quarters of the business transactions are on credit, and so the proper keeping of accounts is a sine qua non.

A man who does not take "account of stock" at stated intervals, and who is making money but does not know how, has no right to be in business and should be weeded out. And if this state of affairs can be proven to exist it should be prima facie evidence that the man is unworthy of having credit.

But these are small matters compared to the system of "preferences," to lay it down as a fundamental law that a man cannot give what he has not got. A man who is insolvent has no moral title to the property, nor should he have any legal title. The moment a man's assets and liabilities are equal, that moment the property belongs not to him but to his creditors. It is their money he is using, not his own. All creditors should be placed upon the same footing and all share alike in the proceeds. As the case now stands, however, the debtor can smile on A and pay him rooc. on the dollar. To do this he takes enough from B and the other creditors to make up the full sum of A's claim. If there be justice or fairness in this we certainly cannot see it.

In any law that is passed another matter should be provided for. The law itself would be shorn of much of its usefulness if it did not specify a certain time within which the transferring of title to any property without a fair and reasonable consideration should be taken as an evidence of fraud. This is certainly reasonable. A man should not have the temptation to fail after making his wife or some relative wealthy at the expense of the creditors. As

the case now stands in some states a debtor a week before his failure, "for and in consideration of \$1 and the natural love and affection, etc.," can transfer thousands of dollars and the law take no cognizance of the fact.

Many other points will have to be provided for, such as giving false statements of the condition of one's business, carrying on the books as assets bills receivable and accounts not worth a penny, etc. Every business man knows just what is needed, and if Congress will only take the troubles to listen there will be no difficulty in framing a bill "fair alike to creditor and debtor." That is all that is wanted.

Philadelphia, February 7.

INDUSTRY TO OPERATION.

A SOLUTION OF THE LABOR PROBLEM—THE FACTORS AT THE ACME STAN-CARPET MILLS OF THIS CITY.

[FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT.]  
EDITOR:—It goes without saying that the labor question is one of the principal questions before the people to-day. It has risen from being merely a local issue to the dignity of a national problem. It matters little whether we be directly interested in the question or not. From the minister in his pulpit to the laborer who listens to him, all classes and professions are to be benefited by the satisfactory solution of the problem, or injured by the continuing discontent among the laboring classes.

It is the question before the people. Even so weighty a matter as the tariff has to be discussed in the light as to what labor will think of it, and Congress does not consider it beneath its dignity to appoint a special committee to investigate a certain widely extended strike. Our papers teem with the doings of labor conventions, strikes, and kindred subjects. Legislatures are petitioned to pass laws favoring working classes, and when legislators are found antagonistic to its work, a labor party will quickly find means to coerce them.

As fresh complications arise attesting the extent of the trouble, thinking men are wondering what will be the outcome, and are looking for remedies which will suppress, not only the symptoms, but will go right to the root of the trouble and cure the disease. Every student of history knows that a discontented laboring class is a standing menace to a government.

**Employer and Employee Not Antagonistic.**  
In considering each from the other's standpoint, both employer and employee make the mistake of basing their deductions on the assumption that there is something inherently antagonistic between them; and yet any one who thinks for a moment will realize that the one is equally essential to the success and permanence of the other. It is all folly to talk of capital being able to go to the mineral of labor and of living afterwards, and it is just as pure nonsense to talk of labor being independent of the capital. Community of interests is the key stone of solid success, and the more each of the two classes, artificially pitted against the other, realizes and acts upon this truth, the quicker will come the solution of the labor question.

**Failure of Legislation on the Subject.**  
The agitation of the subject has done much good. The daylight of reason and justice has been let shine on such questions as the "store order system," "working men's scrip," false weights and measures, and criminal dockages and fines. These have been swept away. A little has been done, but the main subject is still before the people. Legislatures may pass laws establishing State boards of arbitration, but if either or both sides refuse to arbitrate, what is to be done?

The law can't compel a laborer to work for a certain sum per diem any more than it can compel an employer to pay so much for a certain amount of labor. All the laws of the land will not decide the question. The more Legislatures fool with the subject the more complicated the question becomes.

The question will be decided in the court of self-interest. If you can convince a man, and especially an American, that it is to his interest to do a certain thing and that it will pay, you have made him a worker for the accomplishment of that project. And labor and capital should realize that it pays for them to work in harmony with each other.

**The Right of Labor to Share Increased Values.**  
All values are made by a combination of labor and capital. The latter acknowledges that a certain proportion of this increase is due the laborer, and that proportion is paid in the shape of wages. But has not the workman a right to more than what merely provides food and clothing, fuel and shelter for himself and family? His employer obtains that for his own work, and yet gets something besides. The workman's labor is absolutely essential to make the money of his employer of any value, and it seems reasonable, therefore, to the former that he should

be allowed to share in the increased values along with the one who provides the capital, and many employers concede this right, and yet, for lack of a practicable plan, do not care to put their belief into a practical scheme. This is a practical question. "We are accustomed to reduce everything down to dollars and cents, from the cost of converting a heathen to the value of a yard of carpet, an employer wants to know practically "will it pay him" before he adopts any plan for giving his employees more than their daily wage. It isn't enough to demonstrate by theory that it is just what is needed. He wants to know what effect it will have on his balance sheet, for that is the business thermometer.

**Dividing Profits.**  
Some have advocated the plan of giving a certain proportion of the increase in lieu of any fixed wage. It is by no means new. Hundreds of years ago we find that agriculture was carried on under this system. In our own country this system prevails among the New England fishermen. A certain percentage of the catch is given to the owners of the vessel; another to the officers, and the balance to the men. If the catch is large, so will be each man's proportionate share, and if small, correspondingly so. But here we are met with a serious obstacle to the adoption of such a plan. Labor cannot afford to wait for any long length of time for its reward. A certain proportion of the increase must be guaranteed them beforehand, and be paid them at regular, stated periods, in order that the common necessities of life may be bought. It would be simply impossible in the large mills and manufacturing establishments of our city and country for the employees to wait until the balance-sheet of the season had been taken off before obtaining any share. In all our calculations we will have to consider this as an ever-present factor—the necessity of giving labor a certain portion of the increase of values at stated times, independent of the balance-sheet.

**Sharing Profits.**  
At a later period the sharing of profits, after paying fixed wages, was tried, and the experiment is still being tried with varying success.

In 1842 Edward Jean LeClare, the Parisian house painter, tried the system and declared it to be a success.  
The Paris and Orleans Railroad, since 1844, has worked under this system. In England the experiment has been tried. A. and H. C. Briggs, coal miners of Yorkshire, in 1855, allotted a certain bonus to their employees yearly, besides allowing them to subscribe for a certain proportion of the stock of the company. Things boomed along, the bonus in 1873 amounting to \$71,280. In 1874 trade was bad and a reduction of wages was found necessary. Forgetting the profits and the good wages they had been receiving in the previous years, the men struck at the dictation of a miners' union, and the proprietors gave up the experiment in disgust.

Our own country furnishes some examples. A. S. Cameron & Co., machinery manufacturers, of New York city, from 1867-1877, divided 10 per cent. of their profits among their employees, and reported the experiment successful. Brewster & Co., carriage builders, of the same city, in 1871 tried the system, and continued it for three years. At the end of that time the men joined the eight-hour movement and went on a strike, forfeiting a dividend of \$11,000, which would have been divided among them a month later. The Peace Dale Manufacturing Company, of Peace Dale, R. I., have divided profits among the employees from 1873. It is now a success, although at first disappointing in results to its projectors. The most extensive experiment in the country is the great flouring mills of Pillsbury & Company, Minneapolis. Here it has been a pronounced success, although all the employees do not share in the division.

**The Experiment in Philadelphia.**  
Our own investigations (Acme Carpet Mills) on the subject resulted in failure. Before adopting the system we thought that the decrease in waste and the betterment of the work would more than compensate for the dividend. Our plan, as explained to the employees, was as follows: Wages for a member of the firm and payment of all expenses and interest charges. Then 6 per cent. was

to be paid upon the capital invested. The profits remaining were to be divided in the proportion of the wages earned to the capital invested. The part given to labor was to be divided among the employees in the proportion of what each had earned. All we asked of them was that they would agree to work for a certain fixed wage for six months, without regard to what might be paid in other factories. To this they depured. They were willing to accept everything from us, but when we asked a guarantee that we would have no trouble about the labor question for six months, it seemed to alter the case. However, they finally agreed to it. They were told that we were doing the thing, not as a charitable movement, but as a good business plan, and that it would depend upon themselves whether the system would be permanent. We tried to impress upon their minds the necessity for carefulness, and that every pound of yarn wasted, or every yard of carpet spoiled, was just so much out of their own pockets.

At the close of the season we found that labor was entitled to four per cent., and we found also that our experiment was a failure. Instead of our waste account being decreased, it was increased, and the product turned out was no better, if as good, as under the old method. There wasn't a single redeeming feature, and we felt, when the dividend was paid, that as a Christmas present to our employees it was in good order, but as something earned it was not.

**The Causes of Failure.**  
In investigating the causes which led to the failure we learned many things. When spoken to about the advantages of the system the employees would say, "Oh yes, we think it is a good thing, we have nothing to lose by it," and whether consciously or not that feeling biased their actions. It made them less careful. They had all to gain by its success; but nothing (except relatively) to lose by its failure.

This is the weak point of profit sharing, pure and simple. It destroys that which is most vital in business. We can lay it down as the foundation principle of all right action—the realization that we are responsible for our actions. Men must have ever before them the responsibility of their work. They must have something to lose by the failure of the project. But this feeling of responsibility is not shared by the employees who have all to gain and nothing to lose. Under the circumstances they do not know what it is to work with the sword of failure above them, and consequently the incentives which every business man has are not theirs. Again, profit-sharing is virtually admitting employees into partnership, and such a partnership, as we have stated above, where they share in the gains but leave the capitalist to foot the losses, if any. It does not require any great amount of reasoning for business men and the employees themselves to see the absurdity of such an arrangement.

For these reasons we consider the plan a poor one. It will not do away with the trouble.

**A More Rational Plan—Co-operation.**  
A third plan has been suggested and it is the most feasible one. Not merely that, but it rests upon a good common-sense business basis—this is the plan of co-operation. If all the movements for the betterment of the working classes are investigated, it will be found that those have been most successful in which the workmen have contributed something to the capital stock other than their labor and good feeling. A good illustration is the Rochelle system of co-operative stores.

By this method, the laborer has something absolutely to lose by the failure of his work. He considers himself no longer a mere machine, but an integral part of the business. The business is his to the extent of the amount of money he has invested, and his actions will be all with a view to the betterment of the business, so that he may profit by its success.

In considering the whole subject, we keep in view the following deductions:  
1. A copartnership between capital and labor is essential to the elevation of the working classes.  
2. That the workman by right, not by charity, is entitled to share in the profits accruing in any business.

3. That in an industrial copartnership there is no such class as the working class, for all are workers alike.

4. That in order for the copartnership to be a success each party must give a real guarantee of good faith to the other.

5. In an industrial copartnership the combination of capital and labor is obtained, and that upon a fair and just basis. Taking these as the basis for our argument we find that in the system of profit sharing labor guarantees nothing to capital. A manufacturer may be assured of the employees' intention to continue to work under a certain arrangement for a period of time, and yet the history of many labor movements proves that this word-of-mouth agreement amounts to nothing, and the employer may be left at an hour's notice. Each must pledge to the other the intention to do the best.

It will elevate the workman for him to be a "money partner," it will give him business training and reliance. Things will appear in a different light to him when he is working for himself. With the realization that he has something to lose, as well as to gain, he will learn how to economize and to manage. This is a day of "trust" and "great corporations." Concentration of effort and means seems to be the great thing to be desired, and what more reasonable than for labor and capital to combine the work and little money of the one with the great money and work of the other. This, we think, would in a great measure do away with the friction now so great between the two classes.

JAMES MAGEE.

Among the many important questions considered at the meeting of the National Board of Trade in Washington the other week none was more important than that of the great need of a uniform bankruptcy law. There were no party distinctions on that question both Democrats

Republican alike urged the necessity for a good law, "fair alike to creditor and debtor."

There is no question about the duty of Congress in the matter. Our legislators will wax eloquent over something which revives old war memories; weeks will be frittered away over some trivial matter which ought never to have been dignified by a debate; but when boards of trade and other representative bodies of business men petition Congress to pass a law which is necessary to the sure growth of interstate commerce the "servants of the people are dumb." Every session the matter is brought up, only to be relegated to the tender mercies of a committee, by whom it is smothered.

If there were only something in the passing of such a law which would enthrone the "workers" and make the "bosses" "whoop it up," there would be no need for business men bothering their heads about the matter. The "practical politicians" would see to it that the bill became a law.

As affairs now are the want of a stringent yet just law is a bribe to commercial dishonesty. It is calculated to make thieves of men, and, as is often the case, the honest and the innocent have to suffer. It should be made one of the hardest things for a man to fail. The laws should be so framed that men must not recklessly get into difficulties, and when these become "unpleasant" shuffle off the business coil by making an assignment. Instead of being one of the hardest things to do it is one of the easiest for a man "to fail." Nor is this the worst. By the iniquitous laws in some states, and by the absence of any laws in others, by a system of transferring of property to relations and friends, and by making "preferred creditors," a debtor may rob his creditor of every penny due him.

Let any man take the time to read over the laws passed by the various states upon this subject and he will certainly be surprised. A more complicated mess of permissive laws will scarcely be found on any other subject. It seems to have been the prevailing opinion that the debtor was the abused person. While we certainly pity the unfortunate debtor, we cannot forget that the creditor has rights which the law is bound to consider.

Any one who has attended a creditors' meeting can realize how completely a debtor holds the reins. Whenever he gets through with securing his relatives, transferring his house and other valuable property to his wife, making several friends of his preferred creditors for the full amount of their claims, he will then magnanimously offer his other creditors 25 per cent of their claims in one, two and three years' unsecured notes without interest.



# LEDGER AND TRANSCRIPT

Philadelphia, Saturday, June 16, 1888.

## CONVICT LABOR.

### ITS EFFECTS ON WAGES OF FREE LABOR AND ON THE CONVICT HIMSELF CONSIDERED.

Some time ago a meeting was held in the Academy of Music to protest against the evils of contract convict labor. Among the speakers of the evening were those whose position as manufacturers and as clear-headed business men gave weight to whatever they might say on any economic question, and yet we cannot help but think that the importance of the subject has been rather over estimated.

The audience on the above evening seemed to be in sympathy with the views of the speakers, and the protest of the evening has been emphasized, and put into tangible shape by the introduction into the House of Representatives, by Mr. J. J. O'Neill, of Missouri, Chairman of the Committee of Labor, of a bill "to confine the sale of goods, wares and merchandise, manufactured by convict labor, to the State in which they are produced."

As with every other subject worth considering, the best way to take up this question is to leave aside as much as possible theories and to confine ourselves to facts, as illustrated by what has already been done by convicts, and its injury, if any, to free labor.

#### Statistics and Figures.

It may surprise some to know the insignificance of the figures representing the number of the convicts, and of the amounts representing the value of their productions, when compared with those of free labor.

It was stated by a speaker at the Academy meeting that there are at present about 300,000 persons in the prisons of the country. Taking for our authority the figures given in the second annual report of the U. S. Commissioner of Labor on convict labor, we find that the total number of convicts of both sexes and in all classes of prisons to be 64,349, and of these but 45,277 are employed at some productive labor, the balance being either on the sick list or else engaged in duties connected with the prisons.

This number, compared with the number of free laborers, is but one in 300. Again, the same speaker said that the value of the products of convict labor amounted to the enormous sum of \$72,000,000. If the United States reports are correct, this certainly must be an error; \$23,753,999 13 is the amount with which the item of prison labor is to be charged, and this is but 54-100 of one per cent. of the value of the productions of free labor.

Taking for the basis of our comparison the products of the whole country, it will be seen that the subject would hardly be worth considering were it not for the fact that, in certain localities and in certain trades, the competition of prison labor is undoubtedly felt, and it is because certain trades do suffer in a certain degree that importance is given to the whole subject.

#### Looking the Subject in the Face.

The agitation is not a new one by any means. For the last 20 years every year the subject has been presented to one or more of the States, and commissioners have been appointed by the various State Legislatures to investigate the whole question and to recommend proper measures for abating the trouble. Nor have the complaints come only from the working men. Manufacturers and others have added their voices to the demand for the best legislation on the subject.

In considering the subject, as we have before stated, we must look squarely at both sides. It were foolish to listen to the clamor of some labor organizations to keep the convicts in idleness and so do away with their competition. It would certainly give that result, but the cure would be worse than the malady.

Equally impracticable and unwise are the demands made, not alone by the working classes, but also by some business men, that work such as the treadmill, or digging ditches, or making roads, should be given the convict to do. Those who advocate those measures forget that when convicts are employed upon roads or in great public works competition is brought home to that class of workmen who can least stand it, viz.—the unskilled laborers. The skilled artisan has not much to fear from the competition of the convict. If he be a master of his trade he will find work at remunerative wages. He has his skill and knowledge to sell, as well as the labor of his hands; while the unskilled workmen, the laborers (so-called), have nothing to sell but their bare physical labor, and it is more unfair to bring them into competition with convict labor, because they are least able to bear it.

Before considering the subject further let us see what contract convict labor is, for, in the opinion of many labor organizations, it is the contract work which produces the injury.

#### Systems of Convict Labor.

There are four systems of employing convicts in the prisons throughout the country.

First is the lease system. This is simply slavery, a relic of barbarism. By it the State or county leases out its convicts to the highest bidder. The successful bidder has complete control of the men for the specified time, gets all the work out of them he can, and in return pays what he has agreed to the State or county and clothes and feeds the men. The reader may recollect that a few weeks ago accounts were published in the papers of the barbarous treatment practiced upon prisoners in the South who had been let out on the lease system. This method prevails almost entirely in the South, and is simply a disgrace to any State which tolerates it. The old and young offenders, the weak and the strong, are herded together, driven to their work often under the lash, and compelled to labor like cattle.

Second—The public account system. By this method the State or county becomes a manufacturer in active competition with other manufacturers for the market. The State or county buys the machinery and the raw material and sells at market rates, and all the profit, if any, goes directly to the State. This is the beau ideal system of many, and in theory it certainly is very attractive and plausible; but so long as human nature is as it is this system will be a failure. In the first place, as every thinker knows, one of the greatest evils of the day is the baneful effects of "politics" upon every thing. Were the State to become the manufacturer, it would only be creating more offices for the "men who run the primaries" and for those "who are able to carry the ward." Besides, the State does not offer inducements sufficient to induce successful business men to leave their own private enterprises to manage a State institution. And again, a man might be most successful as a manufacturer, and yet, in all probability, be a complete failure as a warden of a prison.

Third—The piece price system. This is a modification of the contract system. The State finds a man who agrees to furnish material in a certain state, to be worked up in a certain way, and for this he agrees to pay the State or county a certain price per piece.

Fourth—The contract system. This is the method which it is claimed does the most harm. The State, under this method, retains control of the prisoners, makes all needful regulations for their government and for the betterment of their characters. Then, to the highest bidder, it gives the use of the convict's time, under the regulations made. The State is not a manufacturer, and has nothing to do with finding a market for the goods. Politics has nothing to do with the management of the work. The temptation to use the places of management as bribes for partisan service is done away with. It has faults. No advocate of the system claims that it is perfect. Far from it. But it is certainly the more reasonable, business-like, and, therefore, practicable plan that has been proposed. The assertion that prison contractors grow wealthy more quickly and more easily than competitors using free labor are not borne out by the facts. The commercial agencies every now and then announce the failure of a contractor of prison labor.

Australians, 179 218 (1w.) 39  
Gentlemen of England, 250  
Jones, 61 and 31, not out; Brown, 3 and 119; Mc  
Donnell, 41  
Turner, 6 w. for 161 runs; Ferris, 4 w. for 131 runs

#### TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

But little interest was taken in the tournament at Wissahickon yesterday and but few spectators were present. The first prize in mixed doubles was won by Miss Wright and Mr. Clark and the second by Miss Robinson and Mr. Johnson.

Miss Robinson won the second prize in ladies' singles, Misses Robinson and War were alike fortunate in ladies' doubles while Messrs. Remak and Hood took second place in men's doubles. The summary follows:

- Ladies' Singles.**  
SECOND PRIZE.  
Miss Robinson beat Mrs. Harris, 6-1, 6-3.
- SECOND ROUND.**  
Miss Robinson beat Miss Wright, 6-1.
- Mixed Doubles.**  
FINALS.  
Miss Wright and Mr. Clark beat Miss Robinson and Mr. Johnson, 6-5, 6-4, 6-3.
- SECOND PRIZE.**  
Miss Robinson and Mr. Johnson beat Mr. Townsend and Mr. Cowpethwalt, 4-1.
- Men's Doubles.**  
SECOND PRIZE.  
Remak and Hood beat Johnson and Johnson, 1-6, 6-3, 6-5.
- Ladies' Doubles.**  
SECOND PRIZE.  
Miss Robinson and Miss Ward beat Miss Hansell and Miss Knight, 6-5, 5-6, 6-4.

#### FAVORABLE TO ATHLETICS.

#### Report of the Harvard Faculty Committee on College Sports.

Boston, June 15.—The report of the Harvard faculty, appointed to investigate the question of college athletics and their results, was accepted by the faculty Tuesday and by the Board of Overseers Wednesday. The report is a most exhaustive one, containing a history of Harvard athletics, and tables showing the comparative rank of students engaged in athletic sports. As a whole the report is favorable to athletics and favors leaving the management of them largely in the hands of the students. The faculty, in conformity with the recommendations of the Board of Overseers, has decided to increase the present Athletic Committee by adding three undergraduates. These will be chosen by the presidents of the three upper classes and representatives of the various athletic organizations of the university.

#### BASE BALL NOTES.

- John Reilly is quite ill and confined to bed with an inflammation of the throat and a high fever.
- Minneapolis vainly offered \$2000 for Pitcher Staley's release. Cleveland, Kansas City and other clubs have been after the rising youngster, but Von der Ahe needs him for the Browns and will not sell.
- Esterbrook is dissatisfied with Indianapolis, and would like to play in Washington.
- Hecker was so badly hurt at St. Louis Wednesday that it may be some time before he can pitch again. In consequence you see, Stratton, who was sent home on a vacati

#### DIUINING GOSSEL.

THE PREPARATIONS AT BALTIMORE FOR THE ANNUAL L. A. W. MEET NEXT WEEK.

The Baltimore members of the League of American Wheelmen have worked hard and long in their efforts to prepare a programme that would prove delectable to the large number of wheelmen from all parts of the country who will visit Baltimore, most of them for the first time, on June 18th, 19th, 20th. It will be the first time that Baltimore has been selected, and, judging by all that has been done thus far, the trip will repay every one who will undertake it, for the arrangements have been of the most complete and extended character. Many

## COUNTY

Congress-at-Large—John M. Palmer.  
Congress,  
James Magee,  
Representatives,  
John F. Fox  
David S. Clunn  
District Attorney—Franklin Swayne.  
Clerk, Court Dyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions of the Peace,  
Theodore Baggett.  
Coroner—Alonzo C. Rembaugh.

## STATE.

Governor,  
Charles S. Wolfe.  
Lieutenant-Governor,  
Abraham A. Barker.  
Auditor General,  
Charles L. Hawley.  
Secretary of Internal Affairs,  
John N. Emery.

RY XMAS to James Magee the Second, the  
trious man in Pennsylvania.

*Charles S. Wolfe*



Christian Advocate, Apr 18, 1899 -  
A CITY MISSIONARY SOCIETY REQUIRED

BY JAMES MAGEE.

Methodism has reason to be proud of her accomplishments in certain directions. Her great Church Extension and Missionary Societies are models after which other Churches do well to pattern; but this success and organization in certain directions only renders her ineffectivity in others more prominent.

There is one branch of church work which has not received the attention it should. Judging it by its importance to the body politic, and the Church, it ought to be one of the best equipped of church work. We refer to City Missionary work; one of the most difficult of problems of municipal government is how to take care of the poor and vicious. Self-interest compel legislators to pass laws for the betterment of their condition. The day has gone past when Murray Hill can say that the happenings at "Five Points" are of no interest to it. The general safety demands that not more than a certain number of persons shall occupy a given space, or so with any other beneficent law. In this work the Church has a great duty to perform. The responsibility has been laid upon it by the Master, and of its hands will it be required. City government can go so far; but can never take the place of the cross in making good citizens.

Let us look first at the needs for a well-equipped, well-systemized effort, and under the head of city work we would include the various reformatory homes, prisons, etc., as well as the slums and poorer portions of our great cities.

Take as an illustration the Mission on Green Street, Philadelphia, and what is true in this district will be found so also in Boston, New York, or any city of over 50,000 inhabitants. Surrounding our rooms are many small streets and blind alleys. Facing on courts eight or ten feet wide are houses four stories in height, and on every floor a family. Families of five and six will live in two rooms. The neighborhood is not what is called a bad one; not nearly so much so as farther down in the lower parts of the city; and yet there are many families where both parents use intoxicating liquors, and many families where the money earned by the father is so small that children are forced out on the streets at a time when they ought to be at school. These alleys and courts abound with children. They seem to rise through the crevices of the sidewalk—hundreds of them! What attractions does home offer to little waifs like these? The rooms are so small and the mothers so nearly worked to death that they are in the way. With many of the mothers, if the children will not bother them, they do not much care where they go to. No pleasure at home, they drift out on the streets, learning there all the wickedness they hear and see. And these, the children of to-day, are

It is worse than useless for a speaker to talk about the "ten lost tribes" or "fore-ordination," or any such subject. He would probably be "guyed" and laughed at by the children. Short addresses, made up with anecdotes, good spiritual singing, these attract and win the boys and girls and the older folks. But speakers are hard to get, and the right ones precious as diamonds.

Nor is this all. By precept and example the parents and children must be taught the necessity of thrift. Most of them live from hand to mouth, caring little for the morrow. A good dispensary is a valuable adjunct to the work.

Then consider the hundreds, yes, thousands, confined in prisons, reformatories, and such institutions. They will not seek the Gospel; it must be brought to them. The story must be made simple and interesting. No use sending a man who will talk for two hours telling them of their former lives and hardening them by every word he speaks. Just consider that the average age of a convict is on the sunny side of twenty-nine, and many in for their first offense, and realize how much power there may be in the words of a speaker alive with the love of his Master.

Here is the work. Here are the thousands. They are not hungering after righteousness. The story of Jesus must be told them in their own homes. They must be sought out and compelled by love and earnestness to attend the public meetings.

What is being done? Practically nothing. Some of the Conferences have established Boards of City Missions, but have made no provision for carrying on the work. It takes money, time, labor, and judgment. A city should be mapped out, Mission-rooms opened—not on Sunday merely, but every day and night in the week. Reading-rooms and dispensaries should be provided. The neighborhood should be visited. And all this done in a systematic manner. Desultory and haphazard work-in business does not pay, nor will it pay in God's work. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are sent out of the country every year for Foreign Missions, and yet nothing is systematically collected for City Missions. A congregation will listen attentively to a missionary and contribute their hundreds of dollars to the work, and yet in their own city are children and other folks sitting in darkness as deep as that of India. In many cases the people know nothing of the needs of the work, simply because there is no machinery to bring it to their notice. No appropriation is made for the outcasts; no stirring appeals to reach a Million-dollar line for the salvation of heathens at home. Foreign Missions are parts of God's plan. So also is this Home Mission.

Many pastors will not allow one to speak in the church on a stated Sunday for this cause, and then allow a collection to be made afterward. They plead in excuse that their church has enough to do to raise its other collections.

The needs of the work are so different from those of a regular church that it should be made a department by itself. Let our Conference act on this matter, give to the work a wise leader, give him the machinery necessary to make the work effective, and Methodism will be doing her part in this direction in winning souls for Christ. Of course, it is rather more religiously romantic to read of the prairies resounding with the praises of God than it does of a Missions in the slums. But the soul of the harlot washed white in the blood of the Lamb is just as precious in Christ's sight as that of the settler on the frontier.

Coupons of the Bloomsburg carpet  
work Sept. 20th will be paid on de-  
mand on and after this date at the First  
National Bank.  
JAS. MAGEE 2ND, Treasurer.

Christian Advocate, March 15, 1899.  
Wanted—Work, not bread.

Editor Christian Advocate: These are in truth hard times through which we are passing. With thousands crying for bread and the distress so acute and apparent, it seems brutal to even hint that our present system of charity is wrong and calculated to do more harm than good.

Such, however, we believe to be the case. With the very best intentions toward their fellow-men, committees all over the land are doing their best to pauperize American citizens.

In the very first place, let us distinctly say, no reference is made to the sick and physically helpless poor. These we have always with us, and are to be cared for, and that as well as we can. Our remarks are intended to refer to the thousands of able-bodied men and women now out of employment, and who are being fed and clothed by the charitable people in every city of the land. We do not want to be misunderstood. As old as the race itself is the law that men shall earn their bread by the sweat of their brows, and its corollary, "He that will not work, neither shall he eat." All our values depend upon human labor. The safety of the state depends upon the thriftiness of its people. Taught by history and confirmed by experience, we have accepted this law as the great foundation stone upon which is reared the superstructure of modern society.

That man is an enemy of the state who teaches that there is any other way to obtain bread except by working for it. One of the easiest things to do in the world is to corrupt human nature. It has been so in all times, and every precaution should be used to preserve a man's self-respect. History offers no more striking example than the fall of the Roman citizen from the position as conqueror of the world to that of a slave fed by the bounty of his political master.

Let us glance at the methods adopted today to relieve the distress among the people.

Take Philadelphia, for example, and it will serve as the pattern for any other large city. A central committee is organized, with a subcommittee in each ward, which passes on the applications as they are presented, deciding how much shall be given in each particular case. The central committee has sent out an appeal for ten thousand dollars per week. This is to be distributed in the shape of bread, coal, house rent, and other necessaries of life.

Meanwhile able-bodied men and women are kept in idleness, eating bread for which they have not worked. The thousands of tradesmen, butchers, bakers, and grocers, who depend upon the patronage of the working people find themselves unable to collect the money outstanding, or to pay for the goods they had purchased. What right have we to force them into bankruptcy, when, by adopting proper

methods, they could be saved as well as the people fed? Take the following illustration: A friend of the writer told of a tenant, a baker, who was unable to pay for his rent, or in fact pay for anything. A charitable organization, with the very best of intentions, had opened a bread shop a square away, and was selling five cent loaves for three cents, one half cent less than the cost price. To this shop not only came the poor, but those able to pay full price for every-thing.

Surely our baker and men of his class have rights which the people are bound to respect. What we want to do is to set in motion the mainspring of commerce. Give the people work, and pay them for it, and the retailer can pay his bills, and the jobber give orders to the manufacturer. Easier said than done? Not one whit harder to do than raise the five hundred thousand dollars Philadelphia will raise and give to charity before next June. The money could just as easily be applied in payment for work done, and would do infinitely more good. Instead of committees raising money to be given outright, let them devise means to keep people employed. There is not a town or city of over five thousand inhabitants in this land of ours which cannot spend all it can raise in making it more habitable. Streets need repaving, roads mending, public works carried on. These benefit the community after the hard times have passed away, and money so spent carries with it the blessing of money earned.

Those able to afford need not stop giving. Give to the city or town for the above purpose, and your values will be enhanced by the improvements made. Manufacturers and those employing people should do all in their power to help along the good work of preserving American citizens. It is well known that there is no money in manufacturing now, and the temptation is to close down works rather than accumulate stock. But our country is large, and its capacity for using goods of all kinds almost limitless. If banks and moneyed men, without violating any business rules, will do all they can to financially assist the manufacturer in carrying the stock made up under these conditions, it will not be long before the great mass of unemployed will be working at least three-quarter time, and eating the bread of industry instead of idleness.

People who have the means to buy should do so. Put money into circulation and help beget confidence. Then the money spent will come back to you, having blessed many others in its journey. But give work rather than bread any time.  
JAMES MAGEE.  
Bloomsburg, Pa.

Mrs. Marshall went to church. Of course, Rob could not go, but Edith, who stayed at home with Harold, kept him company. While they were alone together Rob said:

"I don't see why people make so much fuss over Easter. It doesn't seem to me any thing very wonderful that Jesus should rise from the dead, since He was God. I should think the thing to celebrate was His death instead of His resurrection."

"Why," said Edith, "if He hadn't risen we should not have known whether His death availed for our salvation or not."

"I don't understand that," said Rob. Edith thought a moment, and then asked:

"What would you have thought if Karl had not come back to you yesterday, and no one had come from here, nor any message?"

"Why, I'd have thought papa was going to leave me to get home the best way I could, just as I deserved," Rob answered, with a laugh. "No, I shouldn't, either," he went on, more soberly, "because Harold was with me. I should have thought Karl couldn't find the way here, or else that something had happened to him."

"And suppose Harold had not been with you?" said Edith.

"Then I shouldn't have known for certain which to think."



