

Today the United States of America has one of the highest levels of income inequality in the world. As a result of recent judicial decisions, the spending of corporate and individual money to influence elections and policy is afforded the same protection as speech, and corporations are granted extraordinary powers. While Americans cherish political and social equality, at least rhetorically, most oppose efforts to limit the concentration of corporate power and wealth and demonstrate hostility to progressive taxes that would redistribute wealth and services downward. They view the individual accumulation of great wealth as evidence of talent and hard work and one of the most cherished freedoms guaranteed by the Founding Fathers. But in fact, the United States was shaped in part by a radical tradition of economic equality, and the notion that the health and stability of a commonwealth depended on relative economic equality without extremes of terrible poverty or great wealth. The common corollary was that an elected republican government had the duty and power to maintain that happy condition. Our session will explore evolving tradition in America of economic equality, from the Revolution through Reconstruction.

For centuries, Europeans had assumed that all power (political, social, and economic) was connected, as reflected in feudalism and the emergence of absolute monarchs. But when the contest between king and Parliament exploded into the English Civil War in the 1640s, some radicals (inspired by radical Protestantism reflecting the Biblical Jubilee) called for all Englishmen to share land and wealth as well as political power. While these Diggers were soon suppressed, their ideals continued to have power through writings like James Harrington’s famous novel *Commonwealth of Oceana* (1656). Those radical ideas about equality and republican government approached reality in the America colonies, particularly New England, thanks largely to the land and other resources “provided” by indigenous peoples.

As the imperial conflict between Parliament and its American provinces developed in the late 1760s, “patriot” propagandists urged other Americans to preserve their “liberty” and “republican virtue” by (as “Brutus” wrote in 1769) avoiding “the temptations of ease and luxury”—i.e., to put the needs of their community ahead of their personal fortune. Benjamin Trumbull’s 1773 election day sermon in Connecticut (document A) reflects those concerns. When the War for Independence erupted, there were widespread efforts to control prices and greed at the local, state, regional, and national level, reflecting traditional concepts of the “just price” and more radical egalitarian republican ideals; see document B. But at about the same time, some Americans began to argue that the rules restraining free market pricing violated the Revolution’s natural principles of liberty and property; see document C.

- A. Benjamin Trumbull, *A Discourse, Delivered at the Anniversary Meeting of the Freemen of the Town of New-Haven, April 12, 1773* (New-Haven: Thomas and Samuel Green, 1773), pp. cover, 1st page of text (6?), 30-33.
- B. Plymouth County meeting of committees of safety and their resolve, *Boston Gazette*, June 16, 1777.
- C. Connecticut Courant column defending liberal ideal of property, “To Mr. Watson,” *Connecticut Courant*, May 12, 1777, p. 1

After winning independence, Americans generally embraced equality instead of regarding it as dreaded anarchy and saw their new country as the most egalitarian nation on earth. But at the same time, they began to view capital as a source of affluence, vehemently opposed the creation of corporations as a source of privileged power, were increasingly concerned that an aristocracy of

wealth could corrupt the republic and called for measures to ensure future economic equality. A few even advocated legal limits on individual property; at least one state legislator even called for the Biblical Jubilee.

D. “In the House of Representatives,” *Connecticut Courant*, June 11, 1787, p. 1

There is no question that the new liberal ideas of individual property rights became dominant, especially at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and that Americans became increasingly willing to accept social hierarchies and the inequalities of wealth that accompanied the explosive growth of cities and the rise of mass production and wage labor. That acceptance came easier as new state constitutions severed the traditional connections between property ownership and political participation. But the older tradition remained and during bad times grew stronger, as in the wake of the Panic of 1819, the first great depression in the country’s history. Laborers and artisans in northeastern cities organized workingmen’s parties to push for reforms, and some became part of the nascent socialist movement. In New York, a mass meeting in October 1829 adopted the following manifesto:

E. “The Report and Resolutions of the Committee of Fifty,” in John R. Commons, ed., *A Documentary History of American Industrial Society*, 10 vols. (1910-1911), 5: 149-151, <https://archive.org/details/documentaryhist05comm/page/149>.

This labor movement was by the Panic of 1837, but soon new egalitarian efforts with similar ideas took their place. This included the new interest in communitarian living, from the religious Shaker villages to the Fourier phalanxes that included the Transcendentalist Brook Farm near Boston. More significant was the National Reform Association, organized in 1844 by former “Workies” in New York City, which renewed and popularized Digger agrarian ideals in supporting radical land reform in their own state, and calling for a national law reserving free homesteads on federal land for actual settlers, a limitation (160 acres) on the amount of such land any person could hold, and a ten-hour work day for laborers.

F. NRA manifesto in *Young America*, August 1845.

G. *The Jubilee*, “Plan for Restoring the Land of New York to the People.”



A discourse, delivered at the anniversary meeting of the freemen of the town of New-Haven, April 12, 1773. By Benjamin Trumbull, A.M. Pastor of the church in North-Haven.

Trumbull, Benjamin, 1735-1820.

[Table of contents](#) | [Add to bookbag](#)

[<< Previous section](#) [Next section >>](#)

Page [unnumbered]

**DISCOURSE, DELIVERED AT THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE
FREEMEN OF THE TOWN OF NEW-HAVEN, APRIL 12, 1773.**

By BENJAMIN TRUMBULL, A. M. PASTOR OF THE CHURCH IN NORTH-HAVEN.

NEW-HAVEN: PRINTED BY THOMAS AND SAMUEL GREEN.
M,DCC,LXXIII.

[<< Previous section](#) [Next section >>](#)



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[Table of contents](#) | [Add to bookbag](#)

[<< Previous section](#) | [Next section >>](#)

Page [unnumbered]

EXODUS I.8. NOW THERE AROSE UP A NEW KING OVER EGYPT, WHICH KNEW NOT JOSEPH.

IT will be thought strange, no doubt, at least at first view, that the preacher should make choice of a Text like this, upon such an occasion as the present. The audience will say,

What relation can the story of Joseph, and the history of the Egyptian kings, have to the important business on which we are assembled? What remarks can be made on Pharaoh's ignorance of Joseph, on his cruel oppression of the Hebrews, or on his despotic government of his Egyptian subjects, which can afford instruction or entertainment suited to the circumstances of this free meeting?

However if we view the words more accurately, and enter fully into the story of which they are a part, we may, perhaps, judge, that none could have been more proper: That no topick could have given a finer lead to such sentiments, as are peculiarly adapted to an occasion like the present.

THE Egyptians seem to have been particularly haplpy, in along succession of native kings, from the reign of Misraim or Menes, the founder of the kingdom of Egypt, to the reign of Concharis or Timaeus, the twenty fifth king of Tanis or of the lower division of

Page 6

Egypt, for the term of about six centuries and a half¹. During this long period the Egyptians, (as did most nations in these early times,) enjoyed great freedom, noble immunities and privileges. Especially, was this the case, until the latter part of the reign of Thusilmares, the twentieth king of Tanis or of the lower division of Egypt. About the thirteenth year of his reign Joseph the Hebrew was advanced to the office of prime minister in the court of Pharaoh. Near thirteen years after his advancement, towards the close of that remarkable famine, which then prevailed over Egypt, and all the neighbouring kingdoms, he bought the Egyptians themselves, as he had their

lands and cattle before. From this time they became the servants and tenants of Pharaoh, and their former privileges suffered a great eclipse. They now held their lands of the crown, tilled them for Pharaoh, and gave a fifth of their increase, as an annual acknowledgement and tribute to their prince.

JOSEPH, who had been a father to Pharaoh, and to his subjects, seemeth to have supported his character, not only during the reign of Thusimares, but also during the three succeeding reigns: and to have been prime minister, in the courts of four princes successively, for the term of about eighty years.

THE government under his administration, seemeth to have been wise and gentle: and the people, though abridged of some, yet had many privileges left them.

THE great abilities and integrity of Joseph, with the eminent services he had done in Egypt, rendered

Page 7

his name and memory dear, both to the princes whom he had served, and to the people whose saviour, as well as ruler he had been. He had advanced the crown of Egypt to a state of grandeur and opulence, which, before this time, had been unknown in that, and, perhaps, in every other kingdom.

LONG, no doubt, had the memory of Joseph and of his services been precious, and his name been honoured by the Egyptian princes and their subjects, had a succession of native kings continued to hold the sceptre. Long, no doubt, the children of Jacob would, not only, have continued to flourish, but would, for his sake, have obtained protection.

BUT about fifty years after his death, the kingdom was transferred to a foreigner.

Now there arose up a new King over Egypt, which knew not Joseph.

That is, a king of another family and nation*. This new or foreign king, is supposed to have been Salatis, the first of the Shepherd kings, as they are commonly called. He, about the fifth year of the reign of Concharis or Timaeus, led a numerous army of foreigners, (probably the ancient Horites, whom the children of Esau, about this time, expelled from Mount Seir,) against Egypt. They marked their way with terrible slaughter and devastation. The inhabitants were slain, their cities and houses laid in ashes, and the country, unable to resist the fury and valour of these bloody invaders, soon made its submission. The conquerors, advanced Salatis, their principal leader, to the throne. HE knew not JOSEPH. He was a stranger to his person and services. He had no particular connections

Page 8

with the Egyptians or Hebrews. He had contracted no particular friendship or regard for either. How dear soever the benefactors and saviours of their country were to the native inhabitants, it little affected him. Their good services to a country, for whose welfare, he cared nothing, could have little influence indeed with him. To maintain himself upon the throne, to which he had waded through blood and slaughter, to reward his friends, and fix

*It is Conveniencie of the Committees of Correspondents, from
the towns in the county of Plymouth, held by adjourn-
ment at Plimto, on Wednesday last, the 27th, the
following draft was unanimously adopted.*

*That in America, the complicated distresses and em-
barrassments, necessarily attending a new country,
engaged in a bloody conflict with a power which
through valor in arrogating to itself omnipotence, is
unassimilable, in conjunction with its allies, and by its
present naval superiority,—that after contending two
several circumstances, considered, with an unparalleled
cruelty, and watering with their richest blood, the
soil on which their ancestors had before so copiously
shed their own,—that such a people, after exhibiting
such illustrious examples of patience, contempt
of life and danger, when near the crisis of that state,
and in sight of the promised land, should suffer an ex-
treme loss for gain, than which no passion is more
incompatible with the true dignity of man, to divert
this attention from the most exalted object, and
certainly endanger their entrance into the cause of
peace, liberty and happiness, will astonish all future
generations, and give a vicious cast to their noblest at-
tachments.*

*This Convention, alarmed at the rapid progress of
warfare and extortion, which, like a resolute torrent,
has overspread the land, and threatens the utter extinc-
tion of every virtuous and patriotic sentiment, ear-
nly extract their concurrence, especially those who
know they are more immediately connected, to pause
a moment from the pursuit of wealth, and reflect on
the tremendous consequences, to which, so general a
detraction from public spirit and virtue, naturally leads.
Are not our savage and cruel enemies exerting every
effort, and drafting their, with all resources to despoil
the inhabitants of these States into an unconditional
subjection to lawless power and despotic rule? Will it
not require the vigorous and joint efforts of every Whig
upon the Continent, to repel the hostile invasion,
which will probably be made upon several of the Uni-
ted States, in the course of the ensuing campaign?
Was he not perfectly acquainted with human nature
who observed, " Ye cannot serve God and Mam-
mon?" Is it not the height of folly to suppose that
men, whose minds are wholly bent on the acquisition
of wealth, will pursue the public welfare with an assi-
duity, commensurate to its importance? And will not
the least remissness of our exertions in this critical con-
juncture, hazard arid defeat? And what then, in the
name of heaven, will they cleave to all them?*

*The unquited prices, which are still demanded for
examination of all kinds; notwithstanding the integ-
rity of the legislative authority, to check their ex-
travagance, is a triple-headed mischief, as it tends to
weaken the springs of government, to ruin the current
and to disengage the soldiery. The variety of ways
in which each of these may be affected by a continua-
tion of these avoluted, extortious, and oppresive
practices have been often repeated and so indeed so
obvious as renders it unnecessary to enumerate them.
And who would all men who sincerely with the free-
dom and prosperity of their country, whether military
operations can be carried on with the requisite vigour
without government's money or soldiers?*

*It is easy to trace, in all the difficulties and embarras-
sments, the serpentine cleavages and judicial coun-
ting and artifices of a set of men, well enough distin-
guished by the name of tories, who with unmitigated
malice, labour to create division and animosities among
themselves, that they may more effectually gratify their
infernal spleen by overthrowing the glorious fabric
of liberty reared in these American wilds, and with the
demolition of that noble freedom, lead the world.
But it is inconceivably strange that any boastful man
can be so incautious and unguarded as to be duped by
such unnatural miscreants.*

*The members of this convention, determined self-
ishly to discharge the sacred duties they owe to their
country, themselves and posterity, that whatever shall
be the issue of this severe contest, they may be happy,
adopt the following resolved.*

*Resolved, That an equal exchange of the fruits of
the earth, or communiaction of one man's labour, in
due proportion to that of another, is the basis on
which the felicity, freedom and happiness of a community
greatly depend.*

*Secondly, That the highest degree of political and ci-
vil liberty consists in the living under the protection of
an equal government, or the administration of laws
enacted by the people themselves (who are to be go-
verned by them) or their representatives, freely and
adequately elected.—And that it is the indispensable
duty of every good subject to pay all due obedience to
the acts of such a government.*

*Thirdly, That we will use our utmost influence to
enforce the act of this State, entitled " An act in ad-
dition to said act, and will do all in our power to
bring to condign punishment the open and notorious
violators of said acts, as enemies to the present govern-
ment, and the independence of America.*

*Fourthly, Whereas difficulties have arisen from a
supposed disposition to the prices of many articles,
the Convention have been at the pains of fixing the
prices of these articles as near as could be, in a just &
equitable.—It is therefore recommended to the good
people of this country, to adhere strictly to the prices
as they are now stipulated, so they tender the union
and peace of this county, and the salvation of their
country.*

*Fifthly, That it is a duty incumbent upon all persons
who have a superabundance of the necessities of life to
supply such as are destitute, at the stated prices; and so
much of them as they may not reasonably want for
their own consumption.*

*Sixthly, Our internal enemies having become more
open and daring in their diabolical machinations of
subverting the great cause of America and mankind,
as are monopolizing wth like shirts, cloathes, provi-
sions, &c. so well for the purpose of enhancing the
prices of these commodities, and so deprecating the*

*treasury, as for reducing the people to distress at
ware, it is seriously recommended to all the friends
of this Continent in general, and to those of this coun-
try in particular, to watch with vigilance and circums-
pection the movements of all suspicious characters,
and to take immediately such decisive measures as
shall effectually preclude them from executing their
impious devices.*

*Seventhly, That it is hereby recommended to the
selectmen of the several Towns in this county,
to warn their respective towns to meet without delay,
and proceed agreeable to an act of this State, for
suspecting the movements of all suspicious characters,
and to take immediately such decisive measures as
shall effectually preclude them from executing their
impious devices.*

*Eighthly, As we have undoubtedly intelligence that
the British King will exhaust all the strength of his
kingdoms in this campaign, in pursuit of his favourite
idea of subjugating these States, and as this State may
probably be visited by the unallowable heat of his hand-
ed marche, it is further recommended to every
good man in this county, capable of bearing arms, to
equip himself completely, and with all possible speed,
that the enemy may not obtain any advantages over
us, from our being unprepared to oppose them.*

*Ninthly, As the last resolutions are but of little sig-
nificance, without a constant correspondent thereto,
this Convention are unanimously determined, with
the most scrupulous punctuality, to carry into execu-
tion the Resolves of the Grand American Congress,
and the good and wholesome acts of this state at every
thing dear and sacred to us depends upon an inviolable
adherence to the same) and to prosecute to the ut-
most rigor of the law, such persons, as from a prin-
ciple of family to the righteous cause of their country,
shall be found countenancing them; and to treat
such shameful prostitutes as traitors and participeles.*

Published by Order of the Convention.

THOMAS CORN, Chairman.

*P R O V I D E N C E, June 7.
We learn that three Frigates sailed a few days ago
from Newport, and were joined off Block Island by a
go gud ship and two frigates from New-York. They
are said to be bound on a cruise.*

*Since our last four soldiers (three of them foreign-
ers) one, marines and three seamen, have desisted from
this enemy at Rhode Island, and arrived here.*

*By a person who escaped from Rhode Island on Wed-
nesday last, we learn, that the enemy are obliged to
subsist almost entirely on stated provisions, and that a
number of distaffed persons, who lately fled to New-
port from the southern part of this State for protection,
were compelled to bear arms, and have been sent to New-
York to join the ministerial army.*

*A gentleman from Middlebown informs, that an off-
icer had arrived there from New-Jersey and brought
advise that, sharp skirmish happened on the 26th of
last month, in which the enemy had 77 men killed, and
60 taken prisoners. Of the Continental troops 20
were killed and wounded.*

*B R O T H E R N, June 15.
Wednesday the Hon. Abraham Fuller, Esq; was
elected to a seat at the Hon. Council of this
State, in the room of the Hon. James Bowdoin,
Esq; who has resign'd.*

*Wednesday last returned his Perl, the Seaman Amer-
ica, Capt. Daniel McNeil, having sprang his main-mast,
before his ship from Trade, (counted in one last) he
lives with a Brig from ————— which is barely
expected.*

*Capt. Oak's late boat taken a valuable Prize, which
is to be arrived at an Eastern Port.*

*Capt. Skinner has taken two Brig's laden with Fis-
hicks are safe arrived at an Eastern Port.*

*Saturday last arrived in Port, two Brig's from
Bulus; laden with salt; and other valuable Articles.*

Their Cargos belong to the Continent.

A Letter from Bulus of the 15th of April makes

no mention of any Political affairs.

*Same day arrived in Port the Brig formerly men-
tioned to be taken by Capt. Cleavelon, bound from Eng-
land to Guinea.*

*Also the same Day arrived a Prize Drift, taken by
Commodore Manly; she was bound from London for
New-York, laden with Duck, Corrige, &c. which has
come to a very good Market. Commodore Manly and
Capt. McNeil, as the Prize Master inform us, when he
left them, had sell'd him with these transports in Lut-
ton, under cover of a C. Gun Ship bound for New-York,
and, as the two Continental Prizes had sail'd round
the ship several times, he don't know, what will be
done in one or more of its transports.*

*Captain Johnson (formerly of the Yankee) in a
Continental Brig from Virginia, has taken two Brig's
laden with Wine, and sent them into Maniz. He was
left in Charge of another.*

*Thursday last at a special Session, James Clark,
late Minister of Dedham and David White, of the
same Place, were br^t in guilty of being Unlucky to
the United States of America; and were immediately
concluded on board the Guard-Ship.*

*Friday last the noted Colonel Stephen Holland
left from the Gaol in this Place, for that in Exeter
New-Hampshire, under a proper Guard.*

Danbury, May 31, 1777.

*In Obedience to a Resolves of the Honorable Congress
of the last of April last, this is to inform all con-
cerned, That Military Hospitals are established for
the Rotten Department, at Danbury, in the State of
Connecticut; and at Fall Hill, in the State of New-
York. All Officers, Regimental Surgeons or others;
are therefore required to take Notice, that such of the
Continental Troops under their Care, who may happen
to fall sick at or near into Places, will be received into
the Hospital and properly attended to; they are
particularly desired to send Certificates &c. &c. to the
Resolves referred to, and to report such as may have
been left in the Care of private Physicians and Surgeons
to the Director's Office in this Place.*

ISAAC FOSTER, B. D.

*Last Week the General Assembly sitting here ap-
pointed the Hon. Roger Tazet Paine, Esq; At-
torney-General for the State.*

In CONGRESS, May 27, 1777.

*RESOLVED, That for the future there be only one
Chaplain allowed to each Brigade in the Army,
and that such Chaplain be appointed by Congress.*

*That each Brigade Chaplain be allowed the same
Pay, Rations and Forage, that is allowed to a Colonel
in the same Corps.*

*That each Major General be requested to nomi-
nate and recommend to Congress, a proper Person for
Chaplain to his Brigade; and that they recommend
one that such as Clergyman of experience and es-
tablished public Character for Piety, Virtue and Learn-
ing.*

JOHN HANCOCK, President.

STATE of MASSACHUSETTS-DAY.

COUNCIL-CHAMBER, Boston, June 14, 1777.

*NOTICE is hereby given, That there is to be
a ball in the Town of Rutland, in the County
of Worcester, & a Wooden Barrack of 120 Feet long, and
4 Feet wide, and two Story high, each Story is to
be 8 Feet in the Clear, to be Framed, Raised, Boarded,
Hingled and Clapboarded, and to have three Entrances
crossways through the House, a little Cage in each
Entry to be divided by Blank Partitions into Rooms
of so Foot square, with two Windows in each Room
three Squares wide and four high, & by 8 Glass—*

*The House, to be laid with Double Pine Boards, all
the Workmanship to be done in the plainest manner,
and all the Materials to be found and provided by the
Spur ready to the Work in't Head.—Such Carpenters
as are inclined to build the House shall be paid, and
rebaed and fed themselves during the Time they
are doing the Work, are desired to send their Propo-
sals sealed up, and directed to the Secretary of this
State at Boston, on or before the 1st of July next, at
which Time the several Proposals will be opened and
examined; and such Carpenters whose Proposals are
most reasonable and best approved of, will be immedi-
ately employed by the Council of this State to do the
Work, which must be done as soon as possible. One
half of the Money will be advanced the Workmen, on
their giving Bond to complete the Carpenters and
Joiners Work, and the Rebaed when the Building
is finished.*

*NOTICE is hereby given to the Brethren of the
ancient and honorable Society of Free and Ac-
cepted Masons, That the Festival of St. John the Bap-
tist, will be celebrated on Tuesday the 24th instant, at
the Hall of St. John the Baptist, in the Grand
Stewards at said Hall, or of the Grand-Secretary.*

Dinner to be on the Table at Two o'Clock, M.

*By Order of the Right Worshipful JOSEPH WEBB,
Esq; Grand Master of Ancient & Free*

Master, NATL. MIRRE, G. Secy.

Boston, 15th June, 1777.

WANTS Employ, in the mercantile Way, a young

*Man, that writes a good Hand, and can be
well recommended.*

Inquire of the Printer.

*ALL Persons indebted to the Estate of Joshua Swain,
late of Waltham, deceased, are desired to bring
in their Accounts to Zechariah Weston, of said Wal-
tham, Administrator on said Estate, in Order for a
speedy Settlement.*

*WILLIAM John, of Waltham, Esq; Judge of Prob-
ate of Wills, &c. for the County of Middlesex, to*

receive and examine the claims of the several creditors to

the estate of J. Joshua Swain, late of Waltham, deceased,

represented insolvent; and six months being allowed

unto the said creditors for proving their debt.—Do

give notice, that no, shall intend that business, at the

*house of Capt. Isaac Gleason, Fisherman in Waltham,
the last Monday of this and the five following months,*

from Two to Six of the clock afternoons,

April 15, August 15, October 15, December 15, 1777.

JOHN CLARK.

TAKEN up by Abram Peice of Waltham, on the

Great Road in said Town, two Jackets, and a

Pocket-Book with some small Money in it, which

the Owner may, have again by paying Charge.

June 20, 1777.

ALL Persons that have any demands on the estate

of Mrs. Elizabeth Webb, deceased, and those

who are indebted to the said estate, are desired to settle

*the same with William Hale-Townsend, Esq; sole ex-
ecutor of her last Will and Testament.*

Boston, June 14, 1777.

DESERTED from me the subscriber, in capital

Benjamin Warren's company, colonel Ichabod

Alden's regiment, one James Hurlon, 25 years old, 5

feet 6 inches high, light complexion, brown hair, grey

eyes, born in Ireland, something pack-tricken, well

favoured; a rascall of Rantwick.—Also one Isaac

Bernabas, an Indian, 16 years of age, a paleface and

dweller at Martha's Vineyard, with a born look; 5

feet 3 inches high, black on when he runs away; an

old red coat; and other mean apparel.—Whoever

will apprehend both or either of said Deserters, and

deliver them to me, in any part, and find word so

that they may be had, will have EIGHT DOLLARS

reward for each of them, and all necessary charges

paid by me.

WILLIAM CURTIS, Lieut.

Cambidge, June 11, 1777.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY.

TWO Negro Boys and two Negro

Girls, from eight to thirteen years of age.

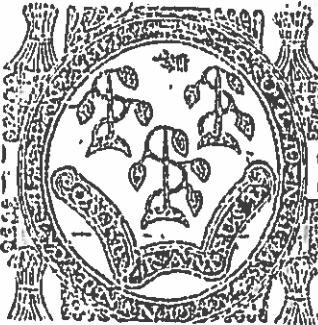
Inquire of the Printer.

CONNECTICUT

A. N. D.

WEEKLY

Containing the FRESHEST ADVICES,



COURANT,

HARTFORD

INTELLIGENCE.

Both FOREIGN and DOMESTIC.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY EBENEZER WATSON, NEAR THE GREAT BRIDGE.

Printing Office, Hartford, April 28, 1777.
An irreasable price of the necessities of life has
done the Printer into an unhappy dilemma. He
must sling up his business and starve his family,
and the wages of his workmen, and the price
New-Paper, and other works. He has hitherto
adhered to his former price, by which means
he has suffered in his interest, especially for
the past, while with indiguation and fur-
ther he bodes the power of avarice, and the infi-
rity of the times. But what can be done? He has
been against the tenent of opp, & often till his
disembodied, and must either rise in his de-
reduced to beggary. And is it right to
the means of safety, and work as it were for
what every necessary of life is purchased at the
stuporous price? No; the horrors of poverty,
which him like an armed force forbids it; the
burning want of his family, the irresistible
nature and the great law of self-preservation.
As the people will not break the fatal in-
duced, by reducing the price of things, he is com-
pelled to the price of his work. *Twelve Shillings*,
therefore, for the news paper, and other work-
man, is as low as he can possibly afford it, as
the master-portion, (after which the paper will
rise, than any one of it's price on the continent.)
The price is consistent with the regulating act, so
as it always has, so he means still to adhere,
and no masterfully violated, he thinks
excusable in the step he has taken, and that
will have just cause of complaint. Those
who are unwilling to comply with the above
are desired to send their names to the Printer
three weeks from this date, (at which time the
next alteration will take place) that their papers
will, otherwise they will be continued to them
in humble service.

E. WATSON.
Those persons who send their names to the
Printer, desiring their papers may be discontinued in
course of the above advertisement, are requested
to send the money for those they have al-
ready.
The price is general warr raised in their price about go
in the Regulating Act.

For the benefit of the F. U. B. L. I. C.
I requested that such riders as carry the Con-
necticut Courant, and others, on public business
in this town for the future call at the Post-Office, that
bills which remain for persons adjacent may
be ready conveyance. Two's. HILLDAVE.
Gulf, May 4, 1777.

W. I. N. E. S.
AGA, LISBON, TENERIFFE & ROD-PORT,
To be sold
EBENEZER B. R. N. A. R. D., jun.
in Hartford.

Instrument of INDIGO, of the best kind, to
be sold by MATHER and SMITH, in Chris-
tian, near John Pomeroy's, Suffield.

RENTED from Capt John Durfee's company,
Col. Wally's regiment sume time, face, Michael
72 years of age, 4 feet 4 inches high, dark
brown hair, dark complexion. Jacob Evans,
son of age, 5 feet 8 inches high, light hair, gray
light complexion. Thomas Gardner, 5 feet 10
high, 27 years of age, has had the small pox,
longs rock or scar over his right eye. Whoever
takes either of them, and return them
to me, shall have five dollars reward for each,
and necessary charges paid by

Theodore Woodbridge, Lieut.

Hartford, April 28, 1777.

RENTED by the subscriber, a brown HORSE, a
boy 4 years old, as usual price, new hind foot
a little white spot on his nose, no breed. Said
boy found in the subscriber's pasture. The owner
offered to pay charges and take him and keep
away.

ELIJAH WOOLWORTH,
Esq., May 3, 1777.

RENTED from the subscriber on the 27th ult.
large red and white COW, about 8 years old.
Owner will take said COW and return her to the
owner shall be handsomely rewarded.

JOSEPH COIT.

Connecticut Insurance-Office:

THE public are hereby informed, that there is
kept by the subscriber at his house in Wester-
field, next door to the meeting-house, an INSURANCE
Office. — The underwriters are MILES SAMUEL
BROOME, JOHN BROWNE, JEREMIAH PLATT and
JOSEPH WOOD. Any gentleman that wants to have
insurance made, may apply to any of the above gen-
tlemen, or to

BARNABAS DEANE.

April 28, 1777.

Just published, and to be sold by the Printer before,
Price ONE SHILLING.

The Reasons and Design of public Punishments;

A. SERMON,

Delivered before the People who were called to the

E X E C U T I O N

M O S E S D U N H A R R,
Who was condemned for HIGH TREASON against
the STATE of Connecticut, and executed
March 19th, A. D. 1777.

By NATHAN STRONG,
Paster of the first Church in Hartford.

Bloody and devilish Men shall not live on half their Days.

ALL persons indebted to the subscriber are desired to
make immediate payment, as he designs soon to go
abroad, and is uncertain when he shall return, and
stands in need of his money to subsist upon.

JOSEPH ROOT.

Hartford, May 3, 1777.

S T R A Y E D or stolen from the subscriber at

New Lebanon, in Albany county, on the 18th of
April last, a MARE and two COLTS, the mare of a
dark colour, two years old, paces and trots, the colts 2
years old this spring, one a dark coloured bay, the
other a more light bay, a white streak in his forehead;
both of them have, colts, paces and trot. Whoever
will take up and send them to me at New Lebanon,
or secure them and send me word, or advertise them
in the Hartford paper so that I may find them, shall
have 5 dollars reward and all necessary charges paid,
by

ISAAC KING.

New Lebanon, May 3, 1777.

RUN AWAY from the subscriber, living in Coventry,
short the first of April last, an apprentice E.O.Y.
named Samuel Evans, jun, he is about 5 feet 7 or 8
inches high, something slender built legs blue eyes,
a very wide mouth, broad fore teeth, talk much but
little teeth, had on and took with him a buttoned
cotton coat and waistcoat, leather breeches, check'd
flannel shirt, mix'd coloured stockings, black buckler-
chief, a white hunting flint. Whoever takes up said
boy and returns him to me the subscriber, shall have
two copper lawful money reward, no charges paid,
by

STEPHEN RICHARDSON.

All persons are forbid harboring said boy.

RUN AWAY from the subscriber in the night of
the 16th of April, a Negro boy named LIVER-
POOL; has on a brown jacket, a blue cap, blue
stockings and red vest: is a short thick fellow, about
18 years of age. Whoever will take up and secure
said Negro so as his master may have him, shall have
FIVE DOLLARS reward, and all reasonable charges
paid by his master, living near Salford Ferry-
gate on the Oblong in Batches County.

JOSHUA DAKINS.

April 26, 1777.

ALL persons that have any accounts with me, either
of LEAZER & NASH, late of Granby, deceased, are
requested to bring the same to Wm. Phelps Nash, now
of Granby, Administrator to said estate; all indebted-
to said estate are desired to make immediate pay-
ment to said Phelps.

May 2, 1777.

Mr. WATSON,
If you please to insert the following observations in your
useful paper, perhapply will it be of service to the
public, and oblige many of your readers. A. D.
I wish pain I have heard a great deal of talk
about the depreciation of our paper currency.
The arguments commonly made are, that the high

prices of goods and labour, and the preference which
too many people give to a payment in silver, goods, or
necessaries, to one in paper money. These ridiculous
prejudices prevail and well-meaning persons, tho'
ignorant and ill-informed, and sometimes from our
foolish and lurking enemies, who, knowing the impor-
tance of our paper currency at this important crisis,
say and do every thing in their power to depreciate it.
If I can indirect and enlighten the best, and disseminate
the last, by a few arguments drawn from the cause of
things, and founded on experience, I shall think I
have done the public some service.

There are two causes for the depreciation of bills
or paper currency. First, a want of credit or means
of redemption in the emitters. Second, a flood or
great number of bills emitted. The first admits of no
remedy, and must steadily set only depreciate, but
exalitate a current, is ill supported. The last is no
more incident to a paper than to a gold or silver cur-
rency. Every man versant in history, knows, that
since the discovery of South America, and her mines,
the value of gold and silver did not in Europe above
a thousand per cent, and the price of labour and goods/
etc. rose in the same proportion. It is agreeable to
the course of nature, that every thing should be valued
in proportion to its scarcity or plenty. This holds as
well with respect to gold, or silver, and precious stones,
as every thing else.

That the first cause of depreciation, is not, nor can
hardly ever be the case with America, while we con-
quer, and subjugate to a certain power, must be evi-
dent to every man of sense.

When we consider the immense resources of this
extensive continent, viz., the soil and quit rents of
an almost infinite quantity of new lands, its colonies ar-
ising from our extensive and free trade with every
part of the world, and the most moderate rates or taxes
from a numerous and almost infinite encroaching people.
What amazing sum of paper currency, may
not these States redeem, not only without oppression,
but even with ease to the subject?

I have heard it said by some, whom I have always
disputed for the assertion, that in their opinion, it was
pretty much the same, whether we were taxed by
Britain or our own assemblies, for the payment of ex-
cessive debts; but if these gent'oms are not led to
reason and common sense, they must acknowledge a
very great difference betwixt the taxation of a foreign
power, whose interest it is to tax and oppress us for
the payment of a debt, in the contracting of which
we have had no voice; and a taxation exacted for the
payment of our own debt, by an assembly of rep-
resentatives, whose interests are naturally blended with
that of their constituents, and who cast their pro-
portionable share in their burdens.

I know that the notion of a depreciation has taken
its rise from the high prices of goods, occasioned by
their scarcity and the risque and charge of exposing them;
but whenever the tamer are removed, and
goods become plenty, they will of course sink in their
value; especially when we consider that the abun-
dance of money in every body's hands, occasioned by
these copious emissions necessarily to carry on and sup-
port the war, being launched out in trade, money will
then become more rare, and its estimation in pro-
portion to its scarcity.

As to the scheme of supplanting the money and re-
gulating the prices of things by penal statu's, it al-
ways has and ever will be impracticable in a free country,
because so low can be framed to limit a man in
the purchase or disposal of property, but what must
infringe those principles of liberty, for which we are
gloriously fighting. I am very sensible of the hardship
of those which we are stated by law, so as to hinder
the starting in business, which is the case of the army;
but let us not remedy that inconvenience by a great
er, the infringement of fundamental principles. Certainly
it is in the power of these active legislatures,
at the expence of the community, to support the sold-
iers of the soldiery, during the war, at a just propor-
tion to their wages, and at the end of the war, they
will have an equal chance with their fellow subjects.
This will remedy the chief inconvenience arising from
a scarcity of goods and a plenty of money, without ex-
croaching upon those natural and constitutional principles
of liberty and property, which ought always to be se-
cured and inviolable in a free country.

Connecticut Courant,

AND

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCER.

HARTFORD: PRINTED BY HUDSON AND GOODWIN, NEAR THE BRIDGE.

STATE of CONNECTICUT,
In the House of Representatives,
FRIDAY, May 25.

MR. Hopkins, at an early day of the session, moved for leave to bring in a bill for exempting the land of inhabitants of this state from being sold for the payment of taxes. Leave being given, when the bill came before the house, many objections were raised against the form and provisions of the bill. Upon this, Mr. Hopkins moved for leave to take back the bill, and that a committee might be appointed to draft a bill more agreeable to the sense of the house. The motion was granted—a committee appointed—and a new bill brought in. The subject was debated at several times; the principal objections against it were, that it would greatly impede, and in many cases defeat, the collection of taxes; and that it would afford no substantial relief, because the hardship of being imprisoned for taxes, is quite as great as that of having one's land sold. When the bill was put to vote, scarce a hand was lifted against its favour.

WEDNESDAY, May 30.

Mr. Peter Bulkley of Colchester, moved for leave to bring in a bill for a tenth—act—leave was given and the bill laid in. Upon its being proposed to have this bill considered at the same time, with one which Mr. Gillett of Stratford was to bring in for an emission of paper-money;

Col. Hinman wished to have this bill read now; for, to have both read at once would give so great a shock, that the house would not be able to bear it.

Maj. C. Phelps seconded the motion of having it read, and moved that it might be assigned for consideration in the afternoon.

Mr. Davenport mentioned that the bill had been long in agitation, and had been handed round to the members of the house, so that they were in general acquainted with it; he therefore moved the house to take it into consideration immediately.

Mr. Taylor thought that, as the two bills were twins, the attempt should be made to bring them both into the world at once; but he perceived they would be still born.

Col. Wadsworth hoped they might be marked, that the house would know them a part.

Mr. Davenport's motion being seconded by several gentlemen and the motion for assigning being withdrawn, the house proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. Peter Bulkley said that the bill ought to be treated seriously and not laughed out of the house; that the states round us had made such laws to secure their inhabitants; that the people of these states could still collect their debts of us; that when a man offers up all to his creditors, it is wrong to imprison him; that the bill ought to be fairly treated; that if there were mistakes in the bill, they ought to be altered; that people abroad did expect, they should do something of this nature; and that he wished the yeas and nays might be taken.

Mr. Webb was in favour of the bill; because it put it out of the power of creditors to torment poor debtors. Mr. Welles, Mr. Speaker, I rise with diligence on the present subject. I am sensible I shall have to meet all the learning and eloquence of this house. These will be against me; yet I propose to touch out this an unfeigned read. I trust the importance of the subject will lead the house to hear me with patience. I shall consider this subject in the first place as it respects our condition and laws; and secondly, as it relates to the manners of the people. The great legislator of the universe gave his ancient people not only a system of moral law, but also of civil and political law. That plan of government was popular or democratical. Although the government was popular or democratical; yet the continuance of it was to be by the people. For this purpose an equal distribution of property was necessary. We may as well think to repeat the great laws of attraction and gravitation; as to think of continuing a popular government without a good degree of equality among the people as to their property. By these laws established by infinite wisdom, slavery was prohibited, and lands were to revert to their former owners, at the end of every fifty years. When the people broke over these regulations, and added field to field; the preachers preached repentance; they exhorted the people to under the heavy burdens—to loose the bands of the prisoners—to bridle every yoke—and to let the oppressed go free. Now let us take up our collecting laws, and see whether they agree with these precepts. I need not dictate to the members of this house what these laws are; they are well known. The creditor wants to get judgment; judgment is given for him; and no notice is taken of the manner in which the debt arose; whether

from an honest bargain, from inevitable providence, or from idleness and bad husbandry. When execution comes out, the debtor is obliged to turn out his personal estate to be sold on execution. Men are feeling about the sale; it is to them a painful sight. The goods are sold low; part of the debt is collected; and the rest is paid. The debtor is willing to turn out his other estate at its just value. But the creditor will not take it. The debtor must be torn from his family and dearest friends, and carried to goal, there to be kept till he has paid the uttermost farthing. He must sell his land, Avaricious men stand round. "I know the horrors of a prison; and, that rather than bear them, a man will do any thing. The land must be sold for very little; and then the debtor may face out of goal. If we would only divest ourselves of old prejudices, we should see the unreasonableness of these things."

I know that arguments will be used on the other side. "They will say that contracts are sacred, and must be violated; that credit is important, and must be maintained. On the other hand, I say, justice and righteousness without goodness of heart are tyranny. But the beneficial effects of goodness and mercy are unlimited; we all stand in need of these." I have gone over some of the arguments on this subject; I will proceed further; and consider the bill in a retrospective view. Its operation upon past contracts is the greatest objection against it. But I would ask, what can a man do more than resign up all that he has? The law of justice and kindness requires no more. As to the operation of such a law upon future contracts, I think it would be beneficial. It would put a check upon trading and living extravagantly. It would establish private credit; because a man must either pay down, or establish a character of performing his contracts honourably. It would establish public credit; because public and private credit depend upon each other.

Mr. Cleveland. One of the gentlemen who spoke first on the bill, wished to have it rejected seriously. I join with him in this; but, upon serious principles, I am against the bill. Contracts are sacred things; and moral honesty requires a specific performance of them. Let us consider the case of two individuals, who enter into a contract. They know what their agreement is; they know that the law enforces it; and each of them voluntarily subjects himself to the consequences of his inability to perform. It is true, there are disadvantages in our present system of laws. Nor can we ever expect they will be perfect, so long as human nature continues the same. As to the idea of an equal division of property, it never can be reduced to practice. We, however, come as near to it as can be expected. There is a free circulation of property; when the owner of an estate dies, it is divided among his children; when this profuse and extravagant spend their estates, the industrious acquire them. In this way and by such means, there is a sufficient equality among the people of this state. But this bill would not answer any such purpose. The state has no right to interfere with past contracts; and take away one man's money, and give it to another, because he stands in need of it. This bill would be attended, with the disadvantage of raising the prices of articles. Suppose a man has stock which he would sell; he does not know what property would be put off to him in payment; he must demand a higher price. When that property is appraised off to him in payment, if the appraiser mean to keep strictly to the agreement, or if they undertake to arbitrate, it will produce nothing but confusion. As to the lessening of law-suits, this bill would be so far from it, that it would increase them. Those persons who would feel the inconveniences of this law, would contrive some way to elude it. They would keep out of the way so, that a tender could not be made; or perhaps the tender would be made in the wrong place. This would occasion a dispute. The cause must be tried in the county court; and then, if large enough, in the superior court. There would be the cost of attorney, witnesses, and fees. Further, this bill would destroy private credit. Those who lend money are generally either farmers or traders; they are not in a capacity to take in the various articles which might be tendered to them. They see what disadvantages the law subjects them to; and lock up their money in their chests, a free circulation, of cash is exceedingly beneficial. Only one dollar constantly circulated, would in a short time pay off debts to the amount of a hundred pounds. But this bill would prevent the benefits of a free circulation; it would put a stop to all industry; it would be ruinous to the state. There is no such stimulus to industry as what we commonly call a medium, which is hard money.

Mr. Peter Bulkley spoke, and repeated much of

what he had said before; which gave rise to a discussion relative to the rules of the house.

Col. Seymour. In considering this subject; Mr. Speaker, it is of importance, that this bill be clearly understood. I will attempt to delineate the contents of it, so as to make it intelligible. The first clause of the bill makes all real and personal estates receivable in payment of executions. If the debtor offers it in payment, it is to be appraised off to the creditors, and all collecting officers; meaning sheriffs and constables, are to proceed accordingly. By the second clause, a tender of real or personal estate shall stop the interest on all contracts. After the debtor has made an inventory of all his estate, and tendered it to his creditors, he is not liable to imprisonment. All rates or taxes, whether due to the state, or town, society, &c, are excepted; and the person who owes, is liable as heretofore. I am seriously and conciently opposed to this bill.

I conceive it, Mr. Speaker, to be fraught with ruin. I highly respect that gentleman [Mr. Welles] for the ingenuity and solemnity, with which he treated this subject. But I do not despair of convincing him, that his sentiments are not right, and converting him to this side of the question. If he could not be convinced, I will wish him to rise, and state his objections. This bill I would consider in a moral point of view; it relates to past contracts. Can the members of this house lay their hands upon their breasts, and say, that they will sleep in, and nullify past contracts. I cannot believe they will do it. If they should, it would be, to use the words of a great writer, a *finis*. It would be impious. I will not follow the gentleman through the Jewish history. When was the law, which he mentions, promulgated? Was it not, while they were travelling through the wilderness? It was a law before they had bought or sold, or even acquired their lands. It was a law at first; there was notice, that there would be a jubilee once in fifty years; and they contracted accordingly. Is not Mr. Welles smitten with this? He must be convinced that the instance from the Jewish law does not justify us in interfering with contracts after they are made. This bill, Mr. Speaker, would dry up every spring of industry and common honesty. It would destroy our commerce. Is not our commerce now decaying? I would ask the farmers, what shall we do with the produce, when all nature is blooming around us; and we have our cattle (as I said the other day) upon a thousand hills, when shall we do with the produce of our farms, if the merchant is unable to receive it. Some are for discouraging commerce. Cut it all up, say they. Is not the merchant the agent, the factor, the servant of the farmer? Let us see the operation of this bill. Suppose that I owe Maj. Phelps a large sum of money; and that he has no farm, but a store of goods. In the fall of this year, when he cannot take them, I go, and tender him a number of cattle and horses. It is more just to cut off at one stroke one half or three fourths of his debt. The neighbouring states, who have tried such acts; are now under the clouds of ruin. New-Hampshire has made the trial. The inhabitants of that state cannot now gain credit for the smallest articles with us. They are despised. Business is stopped. Ruin follows the bill. I would rather cast my bread upon the waters, than make such a law as this. I dare not do it. It would destroy like the devouring insect.

Maj. C. Phelps. It is an important maxim, that the legislature should not make laws, unless there be a necessity for them. It is proper for us to enquire, what would be the operation of this bill; whether it would do good or hurt? One of the gentlemen says, it would prevent law-suits. But I observe, Mr. Speaker, that there is a blank left in this bill, for a certain number of years to be inserted; it is to exist only for a limited time. It might prevent people from demanding their dues for a time. But it would be like damming up a stream; which would cause it to rise, and swell, and sweep all before it. This bill is unnecessary. The people in this state are not so much crowded with suits and executions now as they were in the year 1774. Hence I infer, they are not so much in debt. It is not then, from the insolvency of republican governments, that some are for such an alteration. This bill would take away all confidence in dealing between man and man. We never can depend upon any thing, if past contracts are liable to be altered by the legislature. It would encourage idleness and prodigality. My debtor may be careless and prodigal. This law would prevent my calling upon him until he had spent the greater part of his estate. It would take the whole to pay me, and he would be ruined. Whereas a more reasonable law, from his creditors would have awaked him from his idle dreams, and given him the necessity

Ec. H
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A Documentary History of American Industrial Society

Edited by John R. Commons
Ulrich B. Phillips, Eugene A. Gilmore
Helen L. Sumner, and John B. Andrews

Prepared under the auspices of the American Bureau of
Industrial Research, with the co-operation of the
Carnegie Institution of Washington

With preface by Richard T. Ely
and introduction by John B. Clark

Volume V
Labor Movement



Cleveland, Ohio
The Arthur H. Clark Company
1910

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2. THE AGRARIAN PARTY

(a) THE REPORT AND RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE OF FIFTY

Working Man's Advocate (New York), Oct. 31, 1829, p. 1, col. 2. This report was presented at a meeting on October 19, 1829. Though handed in by J. C. Stanley, chairman of the committee, it was written by Thomas Skidmore. Its adoption, according to Robert Dale Owen, one of the secretaries of the meeting, was without due consideration.

. . . Your committee, therefore, feel that all human society, our own as well as every other, is constructed radically wrong; that in the first foundation of government in this state the division of the soil should have been equal, at least, among families; and that provision should have been made (if property must descend in a family line) that it should descend in an equal manner, instead of having been placed at the disposal of the caprice of testators. They even go farther, and say, as their opinion, that inasmuch as the people resident on the soil, at the first formation of our government, had equal right thereto, as individuals, not as members of families, so also had their immediate successors the same right. But this has never been accorded to them; nay, even the families themselves of the first settlers, as we have seen, had nothing of equality existing between them; and, as a certain and natural result, we see thousands of our people of the present day in deep distress and poverty, dependent for their daily subsistence upon a few among us whom the unnatural operation of our own free and republican institutions, as we are pleased to call them, has thus arbitrarily and barbarously made enormously rich.

But though, as your committee believe, it is to this unnatural and unequal organization of society that we

are to look for the prime source of all our oppressions; of that which places over us task masters, with power to require unreasonable toil; with power to withhold an adequate recompense; with power to deny employment altogether; and thus inflict upon us untold suffering; still your committee are sensible that this fountain of your distresses is not to be dried up but by a revolution; a civil revolution, it is true, since three hundred thousand freemen in this state have the power, through their votes at the ballot boxes, to bring it about, without resorting, as most other countries must do, to the use of the bayonet.

But although your committee are sensible that, until a revolution take place, such as shall leave behind it no trace of that government which has denied to every human being an equal amount of property on arriving at the age of maturity, and previous thereto, equal food, clothing, and instruction at the public expense, nothing can save the great mass of the community from the evils under which they now suffer; still they are also sensible, approaching as we are the eve of one of our annual elections, that there is an opportunity offered us of abating, of assuaging, of preventing the aggravation of our calamities, by resorting to the polls, and there electing, if we can, men who, from their own sufferings, know how to feel for ours, and who, from consanguinity of feeling, will be disposed to do all they can to afford a remedy. . . .

[Omitted: a lengthy argument against banking institutions "as being next to the original unequal appropriation and transmission to posterity of the soil of the State, the greatest cause of your present unhappy Condition;" an argument against the auction system; and brief arguments against the Brooklyn Ferry Companies, the New York Gas Light Company, imprisonment for

debt, and the general ticket system of electing presidential electors; also a short argument in favor of a single municipal legislative chamber, and in favor of direct election of officials for short terms of service.]

With this observation your committee beg leave to offer the following resolutions.

RESOLVED, that it has become the duty of the people to enquire into the causes of their distresses, and to express their opinions in relation thereto.

RESOLVED, in the opinion of this meeting, that the first and unequal appropriation of the soil of the state to private and exclusive possession, was eminently and barbarously unjust.

RESOLVED, that it was substantially feudal in its character, inasmuch as those who received enormous, because they were unequal, possessions, were lords, and those who received little or nothing, were vassals.

RESOLVED, that hereditary transmission of wealth on the one hand, and poverty on the other, has brought down to the present generation all the evils of the feudal system, and that this, in our opinion, is the prime source of all our calamities.

RESOLVED, that these calamities have been greatly aggravated and increased by a legislation which has employed all its energy to create and sustain exclusive privileges; and that among the objects of such privileges, banking institutions stand most conspicuous.

RESOLVED, that these institutions, as it regards our own state, stand constantly indebted to the public, according to the best of our information, in the sum of thirty or thirty-five millions of dollars.

RESOLVED, if they are to be suffered to remain among us, that they ought no less to pay interest on the debt they owe to the community, than that the community itself should pay interest on any debt it may owe them.



Land Monopoly causes national crimes and evils, creating inordinate desire for territorial acquisition, leading to wars and violence, wealthy speculators corrupting the government, the landless poor being ready instruments for a war, and traders and military aspirants urging it on. It leads to aggressions on the rights of the Indian tribes, who use the land in common, and tends to prevent their progress to a better state of society. It perverts enterprise to the accumulation of acres instead of the improvement of the soil. The uncertainty and constant warfare it engenders, prevent association for mutual advantages not to be enjoyed in isolation. It causes office-seekers, and elevates unscrupulous men to the important trusts. It causes litigation, mobs, riots, retaliatory violence, bloodshed, and insurrections. It weakens Republics, and gives strength to Monarchies. By the uncertainty of shelter and subsistence which it occasions, it stimulates avarice to the highest pitch, and greatly weakens the social virtues. It causes those curses upon industry, rents and mortgages, or interest upon land. It leads to interest upon money, by which wealth is obtained from the producer without equivalent. It generates Paper Money and various other contrivances and monopolies which transfer the products of labor without compensation to those who are privileged to deal in them. It produces the monstrous anomaly of poverty among the producing classes in proportion to the increase of national wealth.

We, therefore, Representatives of Men of Progress and of Equal Rights, in Convention assembled, appealing to the highest power for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name and by the authority of that portion of the people whom we represent, solemnly publish and declare, that the time has arrived when a system of measures ought to be commenced, that will speedily restore the soil to the people, and place every human being in this country in possession of every inalienable right. For which purpose we will proceed, by every means in our power, to organize in one body all who are in favor of this reform, and to concentrate their energies by an INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS. And for the support of such a Congress in all its meetings, so far as they are directed to carry out these principles, to the extent of our ability, we mutually pledge ourselves to each other.

["YOUNG AMERICA," EXTRA. Read and Circulate.]

"I set out on this ground, which I propose to be self-existent, that the earth belongs to us trust to the living."—*Jefferson.*
"There should be some limit to the right of any human being to beautify and embellish God's earth for the sustenance of the race."—*W. E. B. Free.*



THE JUBILEE

A PLAN FOR RESTORING THE LAND OF NEW-YORK OR (INCIDENTALLY) OF ANY OTHER STATE TO THE PEOPLE.

(Taken from *Emancipation*, a weekly paper devoted to Human Rights and Social Improvement, organ of the National Reform Association, who advocate the freedom of the Public Lands.)

PLAN FOR RESTORING THE LAND OF NEW YORK TO THE PEOPLE.

To secure to every farmer a farm.

1. No one *hereafter* shall, under any circumstances, become possessed of more than 160 acres of land in this State. (1)
2. *To secure to every mechanic or professional man a lot.*
No one *hereafter* shall, under any circumstances, become possessed of more than one lot in a city or village, (the size of which may be regulated by the city or town authorities.) (2)

To abolish at once the Feudal Tenures.

3. There shall be a special Court or Commission, composed of Land-holders and (poor) Lacklanders proportioned to the numbers of their respective classes in the State, who shall, in all cases where land is held by a twenty years' or more, a life, or a perpetual lease, determine, on principles of *equity*, (without regard to legal wrongs,) what (or whether any) compensation shall be paid to the claimant in full extinguishment of his claim. (3)

To abolish Mortgages.

4. The Homestead Lot or Farm shall be inalienable, except at the will of the occupant, and then only translatable to a landless person.

To abolish monopolies by never dying bodies without souls.

5. Every Corporation of whatever name or nature, now holding land, shall be allowed five years to dispose of the same to landless persons, under the above restrictions, excepting the lots and buildings occupied for their business.

To provide for Associations or Communities.

6. Associations of persons may hold their Freeholds in common, or in joint occupancy.