

Suffolk University

## Digital Collections @ Suffolk

---

Ford Hall Forum Documents and Photographs

Ford Hall Forum, 1910-2013 (MS113)

---

1913

### Ford Hall Forum Folks newsletter, vol. 1, no. 8, 02/16/1913

Ford Hall Forum

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.suffolk.edu/fhf-docs>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Ford Hall Forum, "Ford Hall Forum Folks newsletter, vol. 1, no. 8, 02/16/1913" (1913). *Ford Hall Forum Documents and Photographs*. 46.

<https://dc.suffolk.edu/fhf-docs/46>

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Ford Hall Forum, 1910-2013 (MS113) at Digital Collections @ Suffolk. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ford Hall Forum Documents and Photographs by an authorized administrator of Digital Collections @ Suffolk. For more information, please contact [dct@suffolk.edu](mailto:dct@suffolk.edu).

# Ford Hall Folks

FKF3

Vol. 1. No. 8.

February 16, 1913.

Price Ten Cents.

## STIRRING UP THE CHURCHES.

A professor in one of our theological seminaries says that, notwithstanding all the blessings which the Ford Hall meetings have brought to those who attend them and the indirect benefit to the community at large, he believes that perhaps their greatest service has been to the churches themselves. He notes a marked change in the attitude of the churches hereabouts, during the last five years, and attributes a great deal of it to the influence of the Ford Hall meetings. He thinks the churches are rapidly coming to a better understanding of their relation to the great social, economic and industrial movements of the day. There are certainly many facts ready to hand that bear out such a statement.

I could name a dozen churches in and around Boston that have come to see the advantage of holding a popular meeting for the free discussion of the great questions that are stirring the public mind today. Let me call particular attention to one of these gatherings most recently established. Six or seven of the Protestant churches of Newton proper, including the orthodox and liberal wings, have united in a popular monthly Sunday evening meeting. All these churches give up their own regular Sunday evening service (there are two that do not have any) on the Sunday that the popular meeting is held. This is very interesting and significant, but a great flood of light is thrown on the situation by this additional fact. These churches, so I am told, do not total at their separate Sunday evening services, held each in its own place, an attendance exceeding three hundred altogether, whereas at the popular union meetings, held once a month, the attendance rises to seven hundred, and more than that number turned out last Sunday night when Professor Rauschenbusch spoke.

It is very difficult in a quiet, homogeneous, suburban residential district to get the people out to church Sunday evening. Few churches are able to solve that problem. But the

popular forum idea seems to appeal in such a community not only to those who are in the habit of going to church, but also to a good many who ordinarily avoid church attendance.

It is exceedingly curious that the Ford Hall meetings, which were organized especially and exclusively for those who are more or less estranged from church, cathedral and synagogue, should all unwittingly point the way whereby the forces of organized religion may quicken the lagging interest of many of their adherents.

*Henry W. Coleman*



## NEXT SUNDAY'S SPEAKER.

Dr. O. P. Gifford, the brilliant Brookline Baptist, speaking on "The Social Value of Free Speech," strikes us as a pretty strong attraction for the Fifth Anniversary program of the Ford Hall meetings. Mrs. Lionel Marks (Josephine Preston Peabody), reading her poem, "The Singing Man," is a great card also, not to speak of Russell Kingman's string quartette and the anniversary letters which Mr. Coleman will read. Moreover, Brother Coleman will be bound to make a speech when we present him with that Book. And he knows how to make speeches!

## THE PRAYER.

(Preceding Mr. Filene's Address.)

We plead with Thee, O God, for our brothers who are pressed by the cares and beset by the temptations of business life. We acknowledge before Thee our common guilt for the hardness and deceitfulness of industry and trade which lead us all into temptation and cause even the righteous to slip and fall. As long as man is set against man in a struggle for wealth, help the men in business to make their contest as far as may be, a test of excellence, by which even the defeated may be spurred to better work. If any man is pitted against those who have forgotten fairness and honesty, help him to put his trust resolutely in the profitableness of sincerity and uprightness, and, if need be, to accept loss rather than follow on crooked paths.

Establish in unshaken fidelity all who hold in trust the savings of others. Since the wealth and welfare of our nation are controlled by business men, cause them to realize that they serve not themselves alone, but hold high public functions and do Thou save them from betraying the interests of the many for their own enrichment, lest a new tyranny grow up in a land that is dedicated to freedom. Grant them farsighted patriotism to subordinate their profits to the public weal, and a steadfast determination to transform the disorder of the present into the nobler and freer harmony of the future. May Thy Spirit, O God, which is ceaselessly pleading with us, prevail at last to bring our business life under Christ's law of service, so that all who share in the processes of factory and trade may grow up into that high consciousness of a divine calling which blesses those who are the free servants of God and the people, and who consciously devote their strength to the common good. Amen.

WALTER RAUSCHENBUSCH.

## BRILLIANTS.

You are entitled to a point of view but not to announce it as the centre of the universe.—Henry van Dyke.

The keenest test of a man comes when he has attained; the struggle to attain keeps him strong, but the line of least resistance soon shows itself in success.—Hugh Black.

## THE GROWING PAINS OF DEMOCRACY.

(Address of Edward A. Filene of Boston at the Ford Hall Meeting, February 9, 1913.)

I think that we shall agree, all of us, that we are face to face with most momentous political, industrial and social changes. I think we shall also agree that inasmuch as these changes predicate the need of greater justice, we should feel ourselves under obligation to see that they are brought about with fairness to all interests concerned and with due regard for the conservation of all in the present order that is worth conserving. I think we may also agree that the most immediate changes needed are those dealing with big business and those making for greater justice between employees and employers. I do not think that such just relations come about from the mere statement of abstract principles, but must come rather from the working out in our every-day life and in competitive business of these principles. If that is true and the great questions that underlie the coming changes are business questions, then we shall require the best leadership and the best business leadership that we can get. Now that seems to be a self-apparent truth, an axiom, and yet of all these mistakes that we people make, perhaps none is so constantly made as the mistake in choosing leadership. What may be the right leadership at the beginning of a great movement may, by its very virtue and strength, become bad leadership as the movement progresses. (To bring out this point Mr. Filene quoted a conversation he had had, when in Japan, with Prince Ito, in which both of them agreed that great generals do not necessarily become great statesmen.)

I thereupon thought of Grant and of Dewey, who would have been President if he had not stopped it himself. We did not stop Dewey. (Applause and laughter.) Therefore, we ought not to outlaw the great captains of industry unless we are sure that they cannot be used at this critical stage for the cause of the common good. My experience teaches me that they can be so used. As I study the situation, it seems to me that nine out of ten of the captains of industry who have failed, have failed as the result of the system and the environment

and the pressure for which people, are as much responsible as they are. (Applause.) I must admit this if we want the growth of our democracy in the last fifty years.

We need leadership that comes from experience, and if that is needed now is the time that helps men settle the big business and of better relations between the employer and employees, then that leadership must be business leadership and not the preaching of the prophet. I am not making a plea for a new life. Life seems to me too short to come after it too uncertainly (and applause) to allow much class feeling. But we live that because the demand is right, that therefore it must come of itself. Now what will be the result? I do not get good, right leadership. Democracy needs leadership as much as aristocracy—what we have now will be a reaction that will come back again momentarily, because there is no stopping the world or in the heavens to stop the onward progress of democracy (Applause)—but will last for many years. And I am human enough to want a glimpse of the promised land before we die. (Laughter and applause.)

I am going to try and trust in this evening, some of the results that have led up to the phases of the present movements of our democracy, great social and political to-day, trying to share with you hope and faith in the future.

Many men, seeing the political and political troubles, grow pessimistic, but I find myself growing more optimistic. This is because I am forced to believe that the democratic institutions of our country, but the scum rising from the process, like the scum when the purifying of bronze is complete, is resplendent. The hand of the working toiler is not as proud as of the non-working dude. The regiment returning from a covered and dust-covered march. So democracy, and fighting out the great common justice and the common good is not always pretty to look at, the seeing eye it is always because through its dust and its wounds, shines

THE GROWING PAINS OF DEMOCRACY.

Speech of Edward A. Filene of Boston at the Ford Hall Meeting, February 9, 1913.)

...k that we shall agree, all of us, are face to face with most serious political, industrial and social changes. I think we shall also agree inasmuch as these changes create the need of greater justice, we should feel ourselves under obligation to see that they are brought about with fairness to all interests and with due regard for the preservation of all in the present order is worth conserving. I think we also agree that the most important changes needed are those connected with big business and those for greater justice between employers and employees. I do not think that such just relations come from the mere statement of abstract principles, but must come from the working out in our daily life and in competitive business of these principles. If that is the great question that under the coming changes are business questions, then we shall require leadership and the best business leadership that we can get. Now it seems to be a self-apparent truth, and yet of all these mistakes that we people make, perhaps the most so constantly made as the mistake in choosing leadership. It may be the right leadership at the beginning of a great movement and its very virtue and strength, but it had leadership as the movement progresses. (To bring out this point, Filene quoted a conversation he had had, when in Japan, with a general, in which both of them agreed that great generals do not usually become great statesmen.) Upon the thought of Grant and of Lincoln, who would have been Presidents had not stopped it himself, we do not stop Dewey. (Applause and laughter.) Therefore, we ought not to allow the great captains of industry unless we are sure that they can be used at this critical stage for the cause of the common good. Experience teaches me that they can be so used. As I study the situation, it seems to me that nine out of ten of the captains of industry who have failed, have failed as the result of the system and the environment

and the pressure for which we, the people, are as much responsible as they are. (Applause.) I think we must admit this if we study the growth of our democracy during the last fifty years.

We need leadership that is wise from experience, and if the experience that is needed now is the experience that helps men settle the question of big business and of better relations between the employer and the employees, then that leadership is business leadership and not that of the preacher or the prophet. (Applause.) I am not making a plea for my class. Life seems to me too short and what comes after it too uncertain (Laughter and applause) to allow much room for class feeling. But we have an idea that because the demand for changes is right, that therefore it must conquer of itself. Now what will happen if we do not get good, right leadership—and democracy needs leadership just as much as aristocracy—what will happen will be a reaction that will set the whole movement back again—not permanently, because there is no power in the world or in the heavens that can stop the onward progressive movement (Applause)—but will set it back for many years. And we are all human enough to want to get a glimpse of the promised land before we die. (Laughter and applause.)

I am going to try and trace with you, this evening, some of the causes and results that have led up to a few of the phases of the present developments of our democracy and to the great social and political tendencies of today, trying to share with you my hope and faith in the future.

Many men, seeing the present social and political troubles, grow pessimistic, but I find myself growing more and more optimistic. This is because I am forced to believe that the evils of our democratic institutions of today are but the scum rising from a purifying process, like the scum which arises in the purifying of bronze and leaves it resplendent. The hand of the hard-working toiler is not as pretty as that of the non-working dude. A victorious regiment returning from war is mud-covered and dust-covered and blood-covered. So democracy, working out and fighting out the great problems of common justice and the common good, is not always pretty to look at; but to the seeing eye it is always beautiful because through its dust and its grime and its wounds, shines its soul,

stamped with the glory of its work for the common good. As the great political and social events of the past few years unroll themselves, one class of men thinks the country is going to the dogs; then there is another class which, seeing and judging the same events, is as hopeful as the first is pessimistic. Judging separately and apart the facts on which either class base its beliefs, either seemingly may prove its contention; but taking these facts as a whole, as part of an applied democracy, we are able to judge more surely of their meaning and bearing, and whether they are for good or for bad. Such a taking of present political and social events in their proper relation to the past makes for optimism. As I have said, we find almost inevitably that they are part of the upward and onward progress for equal opportunity and a fair share of usefulness and happiness for every man. What I mean is this, that a man who could think straight could have foreseen 25 years ago that the causes then at work would bring about at this time approximately the results which make our problems and hopes today. Let us examine these causes and results.

We have been trying to work out equal opportunities and just and efficient government on the largest scale and on the largest stage the world has ever known. We have endeavored to do it in the democratic way, a very difficult way; for there has been no time in the history of the world when one man or a few men could not do some special thing better than the great mass of men. This led to giving absolute power in the early days of the world to one man or a few men, but the world's experience taught it that it was unsafe to give absolute power to any man or any few men. (Applause.) And so the history of the world is the story of civilization learning slowly and working steadily to replace the power of one man or a few men with the self-government of all men—democracy.

The chief characteristic of the past century and a half was its reaction against the undue power of the inherited rights of the few which threatened the right of equal opportunity for all of us. The French Revolution and our own Revolution were very dramatic events, and the latter's greatest effect was in the larger liberty and freedom which it slowly gave to all of us. But like all epoch-making events, it was impossible to stop such a move-

ment just at the point where it had accomplished its greatest good. It was inevitable that it should go beyond the point of the greatest good or the point of safety, even as the swiftly-moving train cannot be instantly stopped. And so the great movement for individual rights has produced over-individualized men, men who think their personal property rights the most sacred things in the world and far exceeding in importance the rights of the community in which they live. (Applause.) But this type of man, inevitable as he is, is an impossible type because the greatest sum total of freedom for each man together with the greatest sum total of freedom for all men, are possible only as each man is limited in his individual freedom to an amount that will not interfere with or unduly deprive his fellowmen of their freedom. (Applause.)

During the last twenty-five years, especially, this great battle for individual rights has been accompanied by the greatest industrial development the world has ever seen. The forces of men have been doubled and quadrupled by great inventions and by great advancements of science. Capital and opportunities have been centralized and in part monopolized. Opportunities and centralization grew faster than men grew to take charge of them. The men at the head of these great undertakings could only keep their places by getting results, without much regard to the means employed, however good their intent. They were a good deal like the man in the midst of a herd of stampeding cattle. As long as he keeps his seat he is just as safe there as anywhere else. But let him try to drop off and immediately the herd will trample him out of existence. And if their larger vision kept them free from using bad means means that infringed upon the rights and liberty of their fellowmen, yet in most cases they had to depend upon subordinates from whom they had to insist on results; and these subordinates, in most cases with an even smaller vision of historic and of real values, and often with still greater pressure upon them proportionately for results, had often less opportunity or desire to study and select the means employed to get those results. The shortest and easiest methods, therefore, were too often used, even if they were unethical or unlawful. In most cases, I believe there was no direct bad intent. Speaker Cannon

said the other day to a friend of mine, "Men are conditioned by their environment and their activities. I am what I am on that account, whether it be good or bad." I do not agree with Mr. Cannon that this is a proper excuse for unsocial or bad action, but it is true that it does account for much bad action done without evil intent, and this lack of evil intent is one of the causes which makes me optimistic as to the future. Our undesirable citizens become undesirable, as a rule, not through wickedness but by being seized by a whirlpool as the stream of triumphant democracy rushes on.

The great captains of industry during this great rush of commercial and industrial progress in the last twenty-five years were men so overburdened with work that their lives moved in very small circles. They worked and played and were almost always in the same kind of environment, the environment of their work and of their fellow captains. Almost surely such men are bound to make fundamental mistakes in working out their problems in a democracy. This is a type of man who will be less and less fit for the management of great businesses in the future. The great cry is not for opportunities and capital, which are not scarce in this country, but for men who know all kinds of men and yet are efficient; men, that is, who can lead and guide other men in great numbers.

Now I will say that because of the great pressure upon these men for results they came to feel that the end justified the means; and some of the means employed were, control of legislation, control of publicity and control of money and of banks. The attempt to control legislation, it is said, has been forced upon big business by the attempts of grafters to exact contributions from vested interests by legislation inimical to their proper rights. Be that as it may, big business found it the shortest and easiest way to make sure in advance of elections if possible, to see that men friendly to their interests were elected and only this kind of men if possible. In their dedication of their individual and property rights, however, they forgot that by such methods they were imperiling and at times destroying the equal rights of their fellow citizens. But the sins of these great captains of industry and of these great captains of finance were the sins of all of us. For as

stockholders in the great aggregations of business and capital, of which they were the head, we asked only for good dividends and in no way demanded an accounting of the methods by which such dividends were won. If we people, who had the power to protect ourselves through our right to demand this accounting from our representatives, political and financial, had exercised that power during the last twenty-five years, the evils of the present conditions would not have come about. We would have organized an opposition that would have been helpful not only to ourselves, but equally helpful in relieving something of the overwhelming pressure on the men at the head of these affairs, our representatives. (Applause.) But we were rushing just as fast as we could ourselves, and if that was not as fast as the captains of industry it was not for lack on our parts of desire to do so. We also were devoting our time to making money and neglecting, for the most part, our civic duties.

Then, too, as a people we were not trained to defend our rights. We could not think straight about our rights as these problems came up. Our education had not prepared us directly for life. Until now our common schools have been developed in large measure on the basis that all scholars were to go to college or to a university instead of on the basis of the fact that only a very small proportion go beyond the grammar school. It has even been denied that true culture can come from vocational education, a training for life work. Our educational institutions have been largely in the hands of an intellectual aristocracy (applause), which may be as dangerous to true democracy as an aristocracy based on inherited wealth. (Applause.) For that men who work and play with only one kind of men are unsafe as leaders in a democracy is as true of preachers and teachers as it is true of the business man. (Applause.) On the part of the teacher or the preacher such isolation results in a super-refinement which is inimical to true democracy. "Art for art's sake," as it is commonly interpreted, is treason to our democracy. I am emphasizing these weaknesses only because they had and still have a very important bearing on education, which after all, is the fundamental remedy and comes nearer a panacea for our present evils than any other thing.

I have spoken so far of two causes,

over-individualization being the first and unsuitable education the second. The third is class distinction. As we grew richer we moved our families into a better locality where there was more sunshine, better air, more playgrounds, more parks. We used the schools and clubs and churches of the new neighborhood into which we had come and ceased to know our former neighbors. Then class religious and racial prejudices sprang up, to which the selfish politician seldom appeals in vain. We forgot the troubles we had moved away from!

But Tammany stayed. The Tammany leader who moves away from his district loses his job. The Tammany leader is the ever-present friend. He knows the troubles of his neighbors. It is his business to help them in time of trouble and to take part with them in their time of joy. Is it any wonder that men so helped will give their votes to the men who helped them? Tammany and Tammany men,—whose like is in every city and not in New York alone,—can never be beaten until we realize that we can never safely escape the troubles of the masses by moving away from them. (Applause.) Until we realize that the only way to beat Tammany's selfish friendliness is by unselfish friendliness, until we realize that in a democracy we are part of one another and must help each other, and that we cannot escape this even if we would!

Another means which might have helped to save us from errors was education through our public press. But here again the owners and publishers failed to get the support that was necessary that they in turn might have strength sufficient to resist the great current of materialism and over-individualization which swept our country. The history of the evolution of our public press is that of a business proposition, and a private business proposition at that. Of course there are many papers whose owners and editors and publishers believe that they have no right to exist except as they serve the common good, and who resist the pressure from special or financial interests or advertisers. It is one of the great helpful signs of the time that, as a rule, such papers are among the most prosperous in the country. And this would naturally be because the value of the paper to its advertisers lies in the fact that the paper has the confidence of

its readers. The paper whose readers have learned to have confidence in its methods of handling the news, and in the disinterestedness of its editorial opinions, is by far a greater help to the advertisers than one which has the opposite reputation.

We must not forget, however, that the attempt to print truthfully all the news that is fit to print is a difficult one. The pressure to suppress news or to color it is endless and takes an endless number of forms. Sometimes it is that of a city trying to suppress news of a yellow fever or a typhoid fever outbreak or an earthquake or a strike. At other times it is that of a group of men trying to suppress news which they think will hurt their interests. We retailers are not the least of sinners in this. Almost all the papers in this and all cities suppress the news of accidents in our shops and stores and have been suppressing stories of arrests for shoplifting in our stores because they know we do not like it. (Applause.)

Now before attempting to point out the remedies for these wrong conditions I have been describing, I want to glance briefly at the attitude of different men to whom the proposed remedies must be traced.

First there are the prophets and preachers, men who think their main duty lies in emphasizing and preaching an abstract principle of right, however impossible it be of immediate adoption as a whole by the masses.

Then there are the conservative men who believe that there is no promised land, that the only roads which are safe are the old ones. Besides these there are the over-individualized men and the opportunists.

I said in the beginning of my talk that the more I understand the ills of our democracy, the more optimistic I become. The reason for this lies with the remedies which are simple and within the reach of all. It has been well said that the remedy for the evils of democracy is more democracy. There must be adequate representation of the public in the control of railroads, for instance. And by that I mean literally that strong and trusted representatives of the public must sit on railroad directorates. In a democracy, we as individuals have no right to exist except as we serve the common good. A railroad has no right to exist except as it serves the common good. A newspaper has no right to exist except as

it serves the common good. A business has no right to exist except as it serves the common good. (Applause.)

The best rule for business is the golden rule. Men who love their neighbors and therefore can handle and lead men, are the coming leaders of business. The only road to success and happiness for any of us is to conform to the great current of democracy of which we are a part, and to do with a will our share of work for the Common Good. (Prolonged applause.)

#### JUST A FEW OF THE QUESTIONS.

Q. Doesn't the socialistic press serve the common good?

A. I do not know—I do not read it.

Q. What is your opinion of a municipal newspaper?

A. It is one of the panaceas. I have no objection to seeing it tried, but what is more needed is that we, the public, should hold our newspapers accountable for presenting the news fairly and impartially and to recognize that there is nothing more sensitive to public opinion than the average commercial newspaper. (Applause.)

Q. Does the rum business serve the common good, and shall it go on serving it?

A. There is a difference of opinion about that. The last vote of this Commonwealth said that it did and that the people want it continued.

Q. Inasmuch as Commerce does not produce anything but exists for the mere sake of distribution, has it any right to exist? (Laughter and applause.)

A. I have said we have no right to exist except as we serve. If commerce serves it has a right to exist. If you can imagine production, without commerce to distribute it—if you can imagine one day of your life without the service of commerce then commerce has not any right to exist.

Q. What hope do you hold out of equal opportunity to the small employer compared with the large employer?

A. Very little. No business has a right to succeed excepting as it serves the common good. It is our duty to see that opportunities are kept open; under these, then, if the small business ought to survive, it will survive.

common good. A business right to exist except as a common good. (Ap-

rule for business is the Men who love their and therefore can handle are the coming leaders. The only road to success for any of us is to con- great current of democ- h we are a part, and to ill our share of work for a Good. (Prolonged ap-

W OF THE QUESTIONS.

the socialistic press common good? not know—I do not read

is your opinion of a mu- paper?

one of the panaceas. I ection to seeing it tried, more needed is that we should hold our news- untable for presenting the and impartially and to at there is nothing more public opinion than the mercial newspaper. (Ap-

the rum business serve good, and shall it go on

is a difference of opinion

The last vote of this th said that it did and ple want it continued. ch as Commerce does anything but exists for ke of distribution, has it exist? (Laughter and

said we have no right to as we serve. If com- s it has a right to exist. magine production, with- e to distribute it—if you one day of your life with- ice of commerce then s not any right to exist. ope do you hold out of unity to the small em- red with the large em-

ttle. No business has a ed excepting as it serves good. It is our duty to rtunities are kept open; then, if the small busi- survive, it will survive.

If it ought not to survive, big business should do the work.

Q. What do you think of the single tax?

A. I think well of it. I think it is good. I do not believe in the final radical program of it. But I think the tax will come more and more on the land and less on production.

USHERING AT FORD HALL.

You are familiar with the old query,—"Had you rather be on the outside looking in, or on the inside looking out?"—that's the choice a fellow makes when he joins the Ushers' Corps at Ford Hall, for we really have two corps,—and neither is pronounced "corpse" either! Both are much alive.

In the normal course of events the line ushers who are now assisting in lining up the early comers on the sidewalks "two by two, the elephant and the kangaroo," would never get into Ford Hall—at least on the more popular evenings,—unless some special provision were made for them, and they well deserve a reserved seat after their hour's work in shooing mavericks from the faithful flock. So the ushers "on the inside" reserve a sufficient number of seats for those who, in the street, have borne the cold winds and the icy eyes of the non-elect. Few realize the service these outside men' render in thus warding off potential dangers to women and the infirm in the lines at our doors,—from such rushes and stampedes as have disgraced many such a moment in other less civilized folk!

On the inside the usher has other problems,—he must find every available seat and try to have it occupied democratically, "Ladies First, Please;" he passes his programs; he reminds the forgetful ladies that the law treats all hats alike, whether worn by voters or not; he acts as a buffer to the janitor from the assaults of the fresh-air crank in the center and the gent at the left, whose gilded dome feels a draught; he reminds the thoughtless that whispering during a musical number annoys others and is a breach of good manners,—and he is rewarded for his service with so many covetous glances at his selected seat near the door that he had rather stand as a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord

than sit in the presence of his friends. Try standing at "Attention" yourself for three hours and you will feel entitled to a Carnegie presidential pension! But the usher gladly does all these things for the joy of knowing he is doing a very necessary and vital service for the fifteen hundred persons who, week after week, enjoy the educational and inspirational treats at Ford Hall.

It's a thousand times better these days to be a volunteer at Ford Hall than to own an office on State street!

J. P. ROBERTS.

HELP PASS THE "RED LIGHT" INJUNCTION BILL.

By writing to your representative at Washington those of you who believe in the work Clifford Roe is doing can help pass the Iowa Red Light Injunction law in Washington, D. C. This law has worked with notable success in several states besides Iowa, and that it is greatly needed in Washington the following communication amply shows:

"If adopted in the District of Columbia, the bill will be a precedent for all states. Such legislation is needed here to close scores of elegant, public brothels, flaunting their shame in the faces of our 250,000 voteless citizens and to prevent a quadrennial saturnalia which disgraces each presidential inauguration. On the night of Jan. 18 I saw many youth entering a brothel, 63 feet distance from the great marble edifice, where the District of Columbia is governed. Contiguous were about 20 more brothels with music, dancing, singing, liquor-selling and the painted women in the doorways. The men and boys were coming to or leaving this section at the rate of about 20 per minute. This protected iniquity exists in five or more districts of the city, and borders two sides of the capitol grounds. I sent to Commissioner Rudolph the street numbers of 61 brothels within three minutes' walk of his office building. He politely acknowledged my communication, but did not question its correctness. This 'red light' injunction bill passed the Senate unanimously on Jan. 17 and now pressure on the House is needed."



## SUFFRAGE AND LABOR.

Not every suffragist can go and do picket duty with the girls and women who are out of work on principle these cold winter days, but every one can read over again "The Working Girl's Prayer," which was offered three times a day by the girl strikers of Kalamazoo last year on a similar occasion. Because I believe this prayer is typical of the working girls of America, and is true to their woman's spirit, I offer it here to indicate how close are the aspirations of the suffragists of the country to those of working women far and near:

## The Working Girl's Prayer.

O God our Father, you who are generous, who said, "Ask and ye shall receive," we, your children, humbly beseech you to grant that we may receive enough wages to clothe and feed our bodies, and just a little leisure, O Lord, to give our souls a chance to grow.

Our employer, who has plenty, has denied our request. He has misused the law to help him crush us; but we appeal to you, our God and Father, and to your laws, which are stronger than the laws made by man.

O Christ, thou who waited through the long night in the Garden of Gethsemane for one of your followers who was to betray you, who in agony for us didst say to your disciples, "Will you not watch one hour with me?" give strength to those who are now on picket duty, not to feel too bitterly when those who promised to stand with us in our struggles betray us.

O God, we pray you to give to the

fathers and mothers of our strikers a chance to bring up their helpless little ones.

You who let Lot and his family escape from the wicked city of Sodom, won't you please save the girls now on strike? Help us to get a living wage.

O Lord, who knowest the sparrow's fall, won't you help us to resist when the modern devil who has charge of our work takes advantage of our poverty to lead us astray? Sometimes, O Lord, it is hard. Hunger and cold are terrible things, and they make us weak. We want to do right. Help us to be strong.

O God, we have appealed to the ministers, we have appealed to the public, we have appealed to the press. But if all these fail us in our need we know that you will not fail us.

Grant that we may win this strike, and that the union may be strong, so that we may not need to cry so often, "Lord, deliver us from temptation!"

We ask this, Lord, for the sake of the little children, helpless and suffering; for the girls who may some day be mothers of children, and for those girls who dislike sin, but are forced into it through poverty.

O Christ, who didst die on the cross, we will try to ask you to forgive those who would crush us, for perhaps they do not know what they do.

All this we ask in the name of the lowly Carpenter's Son. Amen.—Woman's Journal.

Ally yourself when young to some great but unpopular reform and grow up with it into influence and honor.—Whittier.

## THE MACHINE.

Helen M. Boardman.

The Machine is kept in a little hut not far from the factory. Each morning it propels itself over to its proper place in the factory. It is a wonderful Machine but it is not worth much. There are so many such Machines in the world.

As the sun peeps over the horizon, the factory whistles blow and the Machine starts out. Other gray Machines are going through the early light to the same place. They are used to make hats. What would the world do without hats? Indeed, hats *must* be made.

One day the scream of the whistle is heard before closing time. The great wheels stop for a moment as something silent and gory is carried out and taken away in a wagon. A Machine is broken. Never mind, there are other Machines to be had at the same price. Toot, whistles! Turn, wheels! What if a few Machines wear out? Hats *must* be made!—The Survey.