
LABOR DAY.

The notion that the day we celebrate is a class holiday has steadily been losing ground since it was first observed, but it still survives to a degree. It should be the aim of all broad-minded people to correct this erroneous impression.

Labor day is for all, or almost all, of the population. Those who are not laborers in one way or another are very few, and little use to the world in which they live. The purpose of the day is to dignify, exalt and celebrate the force that rules the world, that makes civilization possible and existence enduring.

What would this world be without labor? It builds the houses we live in, makes the clothes we wear, supplies the food we eat. Let all labor cease, and in three hours the inconvenience would be felt even by the most affluent; in three days the civilized world would be chaos; in three weeks the world would be in the agonies of famine; in three months the richest man would be starving, and in three years there would hardly remain a human being on the face of the earth. We talk of people "living on their money," but no one lives on money, no one lives on accumulated wealth. It is only as money and "accumulated wealth" have the power to command labor here and now that they have any value.

This mighty force, the basis of all the material welfare of the world, has received scant honor compared with its transcendent importance. Civilization has this paradox: the laboring man, the producer of all wealth, is generally the poor man; and in a money-worshipping age, he has actually come to be regarded by many as inferior to those who do not work. Labor day helps to disabuse the mind of this idea. It dignifies labor, not with a dignity which does not naturally belong to it, but by according to it some of the honor—a very little as yet—that should belong to the potent force that makes the world what it is.

Labor day is for education. It gives an opportunity for enlightening the proud and arrogant as to the worth of that which some of them value too lightly; and it should be used also to enlighten such of the laborers themselves as now see through a glass darkly the real nature of the evils that beset them.

Long live Labor day, and success to it! By the way, don't miss THE GLOBE'S band concert on the Common this afternoon at 3 o'clock.