

# The People.

VOL. VIII, NO. 41

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 1899

PRICE 2 CENTS

EDITORIAL

## SMASHING THE FAMILY— WRECKING THE RACE.

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In New Jersey a discussion is raging on the subject of the employment of women in the Worthington Pump Company as core makers. A workingman wrote to object; thereupon one capitalist paper after another took up the subject, and, without exception, approved of the innovation. The liberty to look for work is the ground they take.

It is of little use to raise one's eyes "higher," look beyond our frontiers, and ask whether the class that is thus degrading the people by forcing woman into machine shops is the class to be trusted to civilize the Filipinos, Cubans and Porto Ricans. The thing to do is to contemplate that class fixedly, fixedly contemplate its principles, and thus get a clear idea of its character. That being done, the situation will be best understood.

The capitalist class claims to base its existence upon "Freedom." It tires not of speaking of "freedom of contract," "freedom to look for and secure work," etc. And yet for a slaver class it has no equal, for a hypocrite it is unexcelled.

A free field and no favor sounds well; but that implies certain conditions. It implies not only a field as available to one runner as another, but that both are placed at a par. If, however, one runner is so loaded down with weights that he can hardly move, and another is left free and easy, then, however free the path may be, there is no equality, and consequently no freedom.

This being thus, the lack of equality and freedom becomes all the more shocking if positive facilities for the race are given one runner, while the other is left without any. It is scored against squirarchy that in its duels with the mechanics, the knight was allowed full armor, defensive and offensive, while the plebeian was compelled to fight unprotected and without any weapon except the tool of his trade. There was no freedom

there.

In view of this, what shall be said of that “freedom” that consists in creating famine around the majority of the people; and these having become ravenous, allow them freedom to so compete with one another, aye, to so compete with their own lives, as to drive them to the point of sacrificing almost all for the privilege of keeping out of the grave!

That is what capitalist “freedom” amounts to. The working class, being deprived of every opportunity to earn a living, it is now insisted on shall enjoy full freedom to—compete with itself: the men with the women, the women with the children, the children with one another, in other words, to smash the family, to wreck the race in order that the idle capitalist live!

There is, however, a higher law and a higher freedom that the working class will assuredly appeal to and avail themselves of: the Freedom to throw off their backs the Capitalist Class that now oppresses them.

Speed the day!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded February 2004