The National Labor Congress — The proceedings of the National Labor Congress, which has just closed its deliberations, after a session of five days in this city, are published in our columns. The national equality of man, which underlies as a principle all our institutions, has its corollary, the abolition of slavery. The primal curse which is imposed upon humanity, that every man shall earn his bread in the sweat of his brow, accords with these ideas, a common law of brotherhood to the whole people. No true republican can be insensible to every effort which tends to abate the rate labor from degradation and ignorance, and to crown its other rewards with all the happiness and the moral and intellectual advancement of which our nature is capable.

The profoundest of problems, social and political, involves the labor and its relations to capital. The two are dependent one upon the other, and the best interests of each are secured only when there is harmony between them. Yet in the nature of things, and in the nature of man himself, with his selfishness, his inordinate desire to begetting individual and class antagonisms, nothing is more difficult to reconcile, beyond the regulation of those influences and the devising of those steps which shall place capital and labor harmoniously in healthful and equable accord. These questions have deeply engaged the ablest intellects and the most enlightened minds, and they are not yet exhausted, though the great law of demand and supply comes in primarily to affect them, and ordinarily dispenses for the time of all such issues.

Coming, therefore, into general council for the first time, was not to be an easy task for the Congress of laboring men should devise more than a few general propositions for the consideration of their brothers throughout the country, and that of these a portion would require fuller discussion and some modification before they are finally accepted as the universal interests of the laboring classes. As was expected, a first and prominent subject which engaged the attention of the council was the want of protection of the hours of labor, and the resolutions propose to fix eight hours as the time for a day’s labor, with a day’s wages to be sought to this end; therefore, discussion is likely to ensue in legislative bodies on the subject. Speaking on facts and figures, one would be likely to see it on both sides, by which to determine whether it be practicable and wise.

There is one subject on which this Congress has expressed its view—that is, the surplus labor of our cities seeking employment in agriculture—which seems to be the most important. Many of our cities are overcrowded with laboring men, who, supplied in return to cities, and they are not wcharmited, though the great law of demand and supply comes in primarily to affect them, and ordinarily dispenses for the time of all such issues.

Other subjects upon which the resolutions of this Congress have spoken, and upon which the most approved, suffering, modest, uncomplaining class of labor, the sewing women, the importance of education, libraries, reading, rooms in every town and city, and for life, intellects of the working classes, and the necessity for reforming in the construction of tenement houses, possess an interest, and will attaine at the discussion must in the end be productive of important and beneficial results to society at large.

These and other topics, assuming a certain definiteness of outline in the resolutions of the Congress, are to be conveyed to the various labor bodies, the trades organizations; and whatever measures of benefit can be hit upon will, through these agencies, be more rapidly impressed upon the public attention. One by one the abuses of society, whatever they may be, must give way before discussion and the force of public opinion, and there can be no objection in this country to the great experiment of the laboring classes to demand and have, and their wants demand and have, their voice and appearance to the intelligence of mankind, seeking to obtain just demands. Here labor is the support of the arts, and to the arts and to the state, and to the moderation, it will always have its due influence and power.