

*Industrial Slavery*  
NEW YORK ELECTION.

I have always declared that I cared little for how men voted, and much for how they thought. I accepted the nomination for mayor of New York last year solely because my candidacy would arouse discussion and set men to thinking about a great truth. It was the same reason that compelled me this year to accept the nomination for secretary of state. And as it was with me, so it was with the others. During all this campaign we have proclaimed it on every stump that we cared nothing for the election of candidates, but everything for the education of the people. Our campaign has been a propoganda. We hoped for a larger vote, because we believed that the larger the vote the more powerfully could we arrest attention to our principles, and the more quickly force them into political discussion and political issue. But if we have not gained in this way all that we hoped, not only have we good reason to congratulate ourselves on what we have gained, but it may be easily seen how it may prove in the long run far better for the cause that we should not have moved forward too fast and triumphed too easily.

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Who is there to whom "years have brought the philosophic mind," who, looking back over his own career, may not see how often what seemed at the time to be disaster, has really proven a blessing in disguise; that opportunity has come out of disappointment, and that the thing which he at the moment most strove to gain would have proved the thing which it would have been worst for him to have?

So it is with movements such as ours. Had our hopes been fulfilled there would to-day have been rushing into our ranks the half-educated and the self-seeking; responsibilities that we might not have

as yet the experience or wisdom to meet might have been thrust upon us, and the shock of our success might have caused the adoption of half measures, which would in the long run delay our full triumph. Looking back over the history of our civil war who cannot see that if Bull Run had been a victory of the Union forces instead of a reverse, human flesh and blood might have yet been bought and sold under the American flag; and that bitter disappointment and staggering defeat sealed the fate of chattel slavery as no victory could have done.

So it may prove with industrial slavery. Had we polled a great vote at this election it would have been to land speculation the handwriting on the wall; it would have forced into our national politics the pressing economic issues of the day; it would have staved off and modified the impending industrial depression and would have led to the adoption of many half measures for the relief of social discontent. It would have been better immediately for the country, but it can be easily seen how it might have been worse for the cause.

As it is, while the land grabber deems himself secure, and politicians think that all danger of the deluge has passed, the impulse we have given to thought will continue, extending in ever widening circles, and our propaganda will go on the more efficiently that there are among us none but those who work for the cause. Then - possibly when we least expect it - seeming accidents will combine to so bring our principles into political issue as to clearly call upon every man to take his side, and then the advocates of "the land for the people" will seem to start, as it were, from the ground.

What we have to do in the meanwhile is to push on the work.

We must never forget that time is an element in all things human. It requires a measurable interval of time for a sensation to pass from the fingers to the brain; how much more does it require time for an idea to enter and take possession of the mind? The speeches that have been made, the literature that has been disseminated, the discussion that has been provoked during this campaign, could only slightly, as we well knew at the time, affect the vote at this election; but the effect of it will steadily and increasingly tell. Every day that passes will add to the number of those who accept our principles and press their acceptance on others. Let us push on the good work.

Signed: Henry George,  
November 12, 1887.