

by the operation of the existing attachment laws. As soon as a poor debtor's weekly wages fall due, some watchful creditor is there to seize upon them. Thus the honest laborer, striving to lift his head above the waves of despair, is periodically re-plunged into the most abject despondency. Perhaps, a little time, and a cheering word would have enabled him to pay, out of his hard earnings, the debts of misfortune. But, no! his spirit is crushed by continual pressure. No chance is given him to recover his equilibrium, before another blow dashes him, hopelessly to the earth. Modify the attachment laws; without, if possible, enlarging the opportunities of fraud. But, modify them, any how. Let not the innocent suffer for the guilty. Enact laws, of any degree of severity, to punish the swindler; but, take not from the mouths of an honest debtor's children the bread, whereby they live. Let credit be given more upon personal character. That is the proper basis for it. The man who thrusts his goods or money, upon any other principle, generally leans upon the slender reed of speculation. He makes; or, he loses. After all, prudent Capital has only to fear that description of men, who, even under the old system, never failed to elude justice, by overleaping the barriers of conscience and the law. I regard this case as fully within the spirit and intention of the thirty-ninth section of the third Article of the Constitution; but, I have called your attention to it, because a different view is entertained by those, whose judgment is entitled to respect. This may be the proper place for an allusion to a kindred subject; which is of paramount importance to the welfare of the working classes. I have reference to the regulation, by law, of the hours of labor. This question has engaged the attention of the ablest philanthropists of the Age; and is well worthy of your consideration. I am not unaware that, practical difficulties surround it, upon all sides. It is understood and admitted that, a system of regulated labor, which might be well adapted to some particular trades, would prove ruinous in other occupations. But, it is equally well known that, in those departments of labor, which are uniform and systematic, the principle can be advantageously applied. The routine of a factory varies materially from the uncertain employments of agriculture. A rule of labor, which would be impracticable, perhaps, to the former, is not necessarily so to the latter. The only question properly to be considered, is, can this great industrial reform be accomplished? I think it can; and I, therefore, urgently press it upon your consideration. No one will deny its intrinsic justice. It is the right of the poor man, that, Society, and the Law, to the support of which he so largely contributes, shall afford him the necessary opportunities for bodily refreshment and mental cultivation.

The Militia laws of the State are absolutely valueless. I cannot too strongly press upon your Notice the necessity of a complete re-organization of the whole system, as contemplated by the Constitution. The Legislature has, invariably failed to accomplish the desired reforms, for want of the proper information as to details. I think it would be judicious to consult the opinion of the most experienced military men, in the State; which could readily be effected, through the medium of a committee of Conference.

There is but one other matter, suggested, by the Constitution, upon which I intend to remark; and that briefly. It is the selection of Commissioners to codify the laws, and to simplify the forms of pleading. This, you will allow me to say, Gentleman, is one of your most important duties. What can be more essential to the interests and convenience of the People, than to have the legislation of more than a century reduced within the compass of an accessible and intelligible digest? And, what intellect, free