

Document C

"Slaver" Wagons, 1846.

We were not aware, until within a few days, of the modus operandi of the factory powers in this village of forcing poor girls from their quiet homes to become their tools and, like the Southern slaves, to give up their life and liberty to the heartless tyrants and taskmasters.

Observing a singular-looking "long, low, black" wagon passing along the street, we made inquiries respecting it, and were informed that it was what we term a "slaver." She makes regular trips to the north of the state (Massachusetts), cruising around in Vermont and New Hampshire, with a "commander" whose heart must be as black as his craft, who is paid a collar a head for all he brings to the market, and more in proportion to the distance-if they bring them from such a distance that they cannot easily get back.

This is done by "hoisting false colors," and representing to the girls that they can tend more machinery than is possible, and that the work is so very neat, and the wages such that they can dress in silks and spend half their time in reading. Now, is this true? Let those girls who have been thus deceived, answer.

Let us say a word in regard to the manner in which they are stowed in the wagon, which may find a similarity only in the manner in which slaves are fastened in the hold of a vessel. It is long, and the seats so close that it must be very inconvenient.

Is there any humanity in this? Philanthropists may talk of [African] slavery, but it would be well first to endeavor to emancipate the slaves at home. Let us not stretch our ears to catch the sound of the cashion the flesh of the oppressed black while the oppressed in our very midst are crying out in thunder tones, and calling upon us for assistance.

Source from *Voice of Industry*, January 2, 1846, in H.R. Warfel ET. al., ed., *The American Mind* (New York: American Book Company, 1937), p. 392.

3 In your own words what is the author's opinion on women working in the Lowell factories?

ANSWER ON YOUR OWN PAPER

4 What is being described in paragraph #2?

5 Do you agree with the authors opinion stated in paragraph #5? Why or why not?

6 Does the document support or oppose the Lowell mills? How do you know?

Document D

Dignity of Labor

where

From whence originated the idea, that it was derogatory to a lady's dignity, or a blot upon the female character, to labor? and who was the first to say, sneeringly, "Oh, she works for a living? Surely, such ideas and expressions ought not to grow on republican soil. The time has been, when ladies of the first rank were accustomed to busy themselves in domestic employment.

Homer tells us of princesses who used to draw water from the springs, and wash with their own hands the finest of the linen of their respective families. The famous Lucretia used to spin in the midst of her attendants; and the wife of Ulysses, after the siege of Troy, employed herself in weaving, until her husband returned to Ithaca. And in later times, the wife of George the Third of England, has been represented as spending a whole evening in hemming pocket-handkerchiefs, while her daughter Mary sat in the corner, darning stockings.

Few American fortunes will support a woman who is above the calls of her family; and a man of sense, in choosing a companion to jog with him through all the up-hills and down-hills of life, would sooner choose one who had to work for a living, than one who thought it beneath her to soil her pretty hands with manual labor, although she possessed her thousands. To be able to earn one's own living by laboring with the hands, should be reckoned among female accomplishments; and I hope the time is not far distant when none of my countrywomen will be ashamed to have it known that they are better versed in useful, than they are in ornamental accomplishments.

Source from Lowell Offerings, Series II, Vol. II (1842) p. 192

7 What is the author's opinion's about other people's opinions of women working a in the Lowell factories?

ANSWER ON YOUR OWN PAPER

8 Does the author support or oppose the Lowell mills? How do you know?

show on page 100  
Disagree but rude

characters  
in Greek  
and Roman  
myth

asked questions

whipping

Paragraph 5  
2 ->

Paragraph 5  
free