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# Edward Bellamy Launches *The New Nation*

by Eugene V. Debs

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We have on our table No. 1, Vol. 1, of *The New Nation*, published weekly, by Edward Bellamy, at No. 13 Winter Street, Boston, Massachusetts. In an article captioned "The New Nation," the editor pays special attention to the question, "Why will not the old nation do?" Among the reasons why the old nation will not do, and in what special particulars the new nation will be an improvement, the editor says that: "In the old nation, the system by which the work of life is carried on is a sort of perpetual warfare, a struggle, literally, to the death, between men and men. It is a system by which the contestants are forced to waste in fighting more effort than they have left for work. The sordid and bitter nature of the struggle so hardens, for the most part, the relations of men to their fellows that in the domestic circle alone do they find exercise for the better, tenderer and more generous elements of their nature."

The editor further remarks, that in the old nation — that is, in the present nation, "the people are divided, against nature, into classes: one very small class being the wealthy; another and much larger class being composed of those who maintain with difficulty a condition of tolerable comfort constantly shadowed by apprehension of its loss; with, finally, a vastly greater and quite preponderating class of very poor, who have no dependence even for bare existence save a wage which is uncertain from day to day." It is also pointed out that "half of the nation — the women — are dependent upon the personal favor of the other half, the men, for their means of support;" that "a million of men are crying for work;" that, "not only does wealth devour poverty, but wealth devours wealth," etc. Under the "new nation," all these things will be changed. There will be "neither

rich nor poor,” all will be employed except the sick, the old and infirm, and they will have every possible attention.

In the new nation it is said that “the children will be cherished as precious jewels, inestimable pledges of the divine love to men. Though mother and father forsake them, the nation will take them up,” and that “education will be equal and universal, and will cover the entire period of life during which it is now enjoyed by the most favored classes,” and when these things are accomplished, then — “for the first time in history, the world will behold a true republic, rounded, full-orbed, complete — a republic, social, industrial, political.”

*Edited by Tim Davenport*

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