

Mr. Cleveland in his message.

THE "TRAMP" GOVERNOR.

We picked up the papers yesterday, and from the headlines of the dispatches expected to read a sensation from an official crank. But after reading the circular of Governor Lewelling to the police of Kansas, we could only feel gratified to know that our cruel treatment of the unfortunate poor had received from one state executive a proper rebuke.

And we shall not even quarrel with the literary style or what some might regard as seeking to make a point by a sentimentality that caters to the million, but there are in it stalwart sentences and philanthropic ideas. For some time now our law makers have been closing up workmen's avenues for bread winning. Thousands upon thousands of men and women that had good wages and steady work a year ago are now idle and penniless, for no fault of their own—but turned away from work by the enacted laws of the land—made idle by statute.

These people must not be treated as vagrants and criminals. The people of the United States have put by their votes the law making power into the hands of their representatives and servants. And from them they have the right to demand the right and privilege of earning their bread. If this is denied them, the law should feed them—and not make the poverty imposed by law a crime—punishable by fine and imprisonment at hard labor. Whatever literary or other criticism may say of Governor Lewelling's utterances, his protest against law imposed idleness and destitution being treated as a crime does him honor.