

HONEST WORK.

It should be the aim of every true man, no matter what his occupation may be, to strive to excel, and to no body of men does this apply with greater force, than to the skilled artisan. The great inventors in every age have generally been artisans who have kept this maxim before their eyes and have studiously endeavored to perfect themselves in their calling. In the first place, to take the lowest ground, it *lays*. When hard times and depression of business come, then even a good workman finds difficulty in obtaining employment, but to an inferior one it is an impossibility, for no employer of labor will give a job to a man who does not understand his business, when there are ready to his hand dozens of men who will give a good return for their wages. When work is rushing and the supply of skilled labor is inadequate to the demand, the employer who knows the effect of introducing a careless or slovenly workman into his workshop, tries his best to do without such, and only takes him on when he can do no better, and at the first convenient opportunity discharges him without any scruples. Like the bad sheep that affects the flock, one slovenly workman has a contaminating effect upon the whole workroom. If one man's poor work is passed, then another better man may slight his job, and the general effect is demoralizing. So the employer finds by experience that a bad workman is dear at any price, and seizes the first opportunity to get rid of him. The workman who has a reputation for good work can always, when there is any opening at all, obtain employment, and his services are generally in demand.

Again, a man should, for his own satisfaction, take sufficient pride and interest in his work to strive to rise to the highest attainable position in his avocation, whatever it may chance to be.

It is also a duty a man owes to his employer, whether that employer be the general public or some individual or firm, to give a "fair day's work for a fair day's wage." It is the honest way and the experience of every one is that the honest way is the best way, and a man serves his God more effectually by doing his duty on week day to his fellow-man, be he employer or fellow craftsman, than by neglecting it on week days, and sitting on "the front seats at meetin'" on Sundays. The true remedy for poor work is for the inferior workman to work for wages equivalent to the value of his labor, until increased experience and continued improvement give him a claim to better pay and a higher position. Were all men to do their work well from a sense of duty, the world would be proportionately better and happier than it now is, and there would be no doubtful answer to the question, "Is life worth living?"

—*American Artisan.*

IS COLD WEATHER HEALTHFUL ?

The notion that cold weather is healthful has doubtless sufficient foundation in fact to prevent it being classed among "popular fallacies," but, like the Constitution of the United States, it may, perhaps, suffer amendment to advantage. Of course, by cold weather is not meant that which the thin-blooded, the effeminate and the invalid consider such. Anything approximating the freezing point is sufficient to set them quaking and complaining. We demand for cold weather a temperature that any healthy, vigorous individual will concede to be such—zero is about right. Yes, it is cold when the snow crackles, when the very best varnish will occasionally crack on the sleigh, and when the cheeks and ears of the sleigh's occupants wear a hectic color, while their noses and fingers, and presumably their toes, are of a frigid blue. We take it that all but those of exceptional robustness are vulnerable at these points to a zero temperature. These tingling fingers and aching toes are trifling matters, to be sure, but it will not be claimed that they are the indication of a sudden influx of health. May they not be warnings? The effect of extremely cold air upon the lungs or on a rheumatic shoulder is often unmistakably bad. It seems to us that right here is indicated where the line should be drawn between a healthy and unhealthy degree of cold. Let the test be comfort—fingers and toes included, Down to the point where the brisk air continues to produce a pleasurable exhilaration, it is probably healthful, but when the extremities, though well protected by wraps without and a good circulation within, grow cold, this should be regarded as a warning that the healthful limit has been passed. We beg to suggest caution in drinking these drafts of health proffered by old Boreas, as, like some other iced beverages, they might be more wholesome without the ice.—*Metal Worker.*

THE STRUGGLE FOR LIFE AGAINST CIVILIZATION AND ÆSTHETICISM.

A report of papers read before the Academy of Medicine in New York on the general subject of plumbing, has appeared in our columns from time to time. A paper bearing the suggestive title which appears above, was read before that body quite recently from the pen of Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, in many portions of which our readers will find matters of interest. The following report is from the *Times*:

"We need not to be reminded," said the essayist, "how our hearts were touched when Doctor Doremus told us how this insidious enemy to human life—sewer gas—entered his own home and took from him a beloved son, and prostrated another with a lingering and almost fatal sickness. He declared that he would rather have exposed them to the most deadly gases in his laboratory than to this sewer gas, for the poisonous effects of which we have no remedy. Is it surprising that, considering the deadly nature of these gases, and the impracticability or inefficiency of all, or nearly all, of the measures for their exclusion which have been suggested, there should be hesitancy in accepting the statement sometimes made, that it is "foolish" to talk of the risks to health from modern improvements when plumbing can be made absolutely safe? Or is it strange that a scientist well known should declare that if he were to build a house, he would not have it connected in any way with a sewer! He would have all the closets, drains and pipes in an annex; and this is the conclusion, it may be here said, to which many of our most wealthy citizens have already arrived. Not a few of our lately constructed and most elegant mansions have not an inch of plumbing in those portions of their building which are usually occupied by their families, and I have conversed with at least one very intelligent plumber who favors the same practice. What, then, is the upshot of all this matter? With all respect to the gentlemen whose views have been presented to us in past discussions, I must say that they have suggested nothing of any importance which is new; nothing that was not known before; nothing, indeed, which has not been tried, and which has not, for one reason or another, proved itself to be either impracticable or insufficient, and in many cases totally inefficient. Science has not kept pace with civilization, and without concessions on the part of civilization there is at present no adequate remedy for the evils we suffer. Since Bede's day we have had occasion to observe that when men left the open plains and the small hamlets, and crowded themselves into the narrow limits of cities, the ratio of sickness and death was proportionately increased. When, also in the progress of civilization the fire-places disappeared, with their great open throats—the best ventilations ever invented—and decorated cast-iron stoves were substituted, house sanitation experienced a loss which no sanitary engineer or architect has ever repaired; and when, in obedience to the same inexorable demands of progress in luxury and æstheticism, gas was substituted for oil, and hot-air or hot-steam furnaces for stoves, the hand was again moved forward another point on the dial of human life.

"Possibly nothing will so forcibly illustrate the magnitude of the evil we are considering as the fact that it has given birth to a new profession. The calamities necessarily incident to the progress of civilization long since made it necessary that there should be a class of educated men whose duties it should be to look after the rights of citizens, and another class to attend the matters of health, and now a condition has arisen which renders necessary a new class of specialists or professional men called "sanitary engineers," who are supposed to be well informed in matters of hygiene, architecture, or house construction and engineering, and who for the present seem to find plenty of occupation, and are, no doubt, performing a much needed and very useful service; but of whom it may be said that up to the present time there is no evidence that they have done anything more than to investigate the evils they have been asked to remove; and, indeed, there may be found many notable examples in which the best sanitary engineers have failed to effect even a mitigation. I repeat that in order to render pure and innocuous the atmosphere of our houses it will be necessary, first of all, that civilization should make some concessions. The concessions demanded as a condition of the successful application of our present knowledge of the laws of hygiene are:

"1. That all plumbing having any direct or indirect communication with the sewers shall be excluded from those portions of our houses which we habitually occupy—in other words, that it shall be placed in a separate building or annex.