

THE WHITE SLAVE TRADE.

Those who inherit the antipathies of the late Mr. Babbage will rejoice to learn that the Italian Government has at last succeeded in passing the bill which the Chamber had on the anvil for five years for the suppression of what is known in Italy as the "white slave trade." The Roman...

close at home. There are to be no public houses on the property.

After the noble earl and his friends had inspected, a specimen of each grade of houses, they entered the fine lecture room, where an address was presented from the workmen. The noble earl, in his reply, said it was his proud boast that he had been 40 years engaged in the work which had been referred to, and he hoped to remain active in it until he was called to his fathers.

THE EMPEROR OF RUSSIA AND WORK.

When the yellow flag with the double-headed eagle of Russia in the centre flies from the flagstaff of the Kremlin palace, it announces to Moscow that Alexander, the emancipator, is in the ancient capital of his vast dominions. Constitutional sovereigns lie on a bed of roses compared to the autocrat of Russia. From him everything hinges in the country that contains 8,000,000 of square miles; with him moves the entire machinery of state, and always on the move his majesty is obliged to be. Trained in the severe school of the Emperor Nicholas, Alexander II., never allowed himself a moment's relaxation. It is known what a passionate soldier the Emperor of Germany is—how he will ever attend the drills of a single company. The Emperor of Russia, though, goes from review to review, from field days of 5,000 men to field days of special arms, from the target practice of a few non-commissioned officers to a manoeuvre of the fleet. Now in Poland, now in Tsarkoe Selo, now at Cronstadt, now in the Caucasus, and all at once in the Crimea. Always soldiers, soldiers, soldiers. He himself is never out of uniform, and none of the ministers ever discard their epaulettes. The imperial suite is of course enormous. In the morning his majesty is at Moscow; at evening he proceeds to the Crimea. In the train the Minister of the Interior will probably see him with innumerable papers for signature; the Minister of Finance, of Justice, or of Foreign Affairs, will disturb the Imperial rest. Such is to be an emperor; and how many there are who would give a whole life-time for five minutes in such a position! For five minutes it may be pleasant, but it is questionable whether a longer experience would not bring about a change of feeling.

Mr. Joseph Arch addressed nearly 3,000 persons on Tuesday night, January 6th, at Swindon. He advocated among other things an extension of the franchise to the labourers, which, he said, they would have. Many tenant farmers being present, he took the opportunity of denying that the Union was antagonistic to the interests of farmers. On the contrary, the extension of the franchise would enable labourers to vote with the farmers in returning members who would vote for a Landlord and Tenant bill, thus releasing farmers from political serfdom to their landlords, and securing for them fair treatment in matters of legislation. In return for this the men must have better wages, kind treatment, and four or five acres of land to cultivate. This would not make them neglect their masters' interests, but, on the contrary, kind treatment would make them better servants. Mr Arthur Clayton also spoke, and denied that he and Mr. Arch had quarrelled, and said both were as good friends as two men could well be. Mr. George Mitchell, of London, also spoke. A resolution in favor of assimilating the borough and county franchise was enthusiastically carried.

The Chicago Workingman's Advocate says:—In reply to several inquiries we believe we can assure our readers that the farmer's organization of the west, will stand with the workingmen on all the main issues, viz: The money, land, railroad, and other monopolies, and that a large majority of them will soon, if they do not already, favor the repeal of Schenck's sticking plaster to strengthen the public credit, and the payment of the public debt in strict accordance with the laws under which it was originally contracted. These issues really embrace all the leading features of the reformers which the producing classes, through their platform, have demanded. They are fundamental in character—and upon their success—all others of a minor nature depend.

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THE AGRICULTURAL CHILDREN'S ACT.

The 1st of January 1874 marked the beginning of a new life for little Hodge, the son of the farm labourer. On that day the Agricultural Children's Act of last session came into effect, if not into actual operation, in regard to education in the rural districts. In a year from this time, when the bill will become law, Master Hodge will not be allowed to undertake so much as the frightening of crows unless he can show some proficiency in letters. Without requiring him to go so far as the Scottish ploughboys, who are said to rebuke their teams in Greek, the Legislature insists that Hodge, if between eight and ten years of age, shall have attended school 250 times in the current year; and if between ten and twelve, 150 times, to render him eligible for employment on any farm. Some few exemptions are allowed at harvest time and the like seasons of pressure, but, speaking generally, no boy who has failed to attend school this year, is to do farm work in 1875. At first the Act may not be very well received by the labourer, for whose benefit it is intended; and the squires will no doubt be quite ready to become the mouthpiece of his discontent. Their prospect in the measure is indeed one of gloom. In a few years, Hodge, no longer obliged to be the silent hero of his own story, will write to the papers like any other Englishman with a grievance, and between his pen and his vote his masters will have a pretty time of it. Their best policy is to make what terms they can with him in the meanwhile.

Miscellaneous.

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JOHN LOVELL, Publisher. Montreal, 9th August, 1873.

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