

doing business, let the consumer make up the balance. The stereotyped argument of our employers in every attempt to reduce wages is, that their large expenses and small profits will not warrant the present prices for labor ; therefore, those just able to live now must be content with less hereafter.

In answer, we maintain, the expenses are not unreasonable, and the profits are large and in the aggregate great. There is no good reason why we should not receive a fair equivalent for our labor. A small reduction seriously diminishes the already scanty means of the operative, and puts a large sum in the employer's pocket ; and yet some of the employers would appear charitable before the world. We ask, is it charitable, is it honest, is it humane to take from the laborer, who is already fed, clothed and lodged too poorly, a portion of his food and raiment, and deprive his family of the necessities of life by the common resort, a reduction of wages ? It must not be so.

To rescue our trades and other callings from the conditions into which they have fallen ; to raise ourselves to that position in society to which we, as workmen, are justly entitled ; to place ourselves on a foundation sufficiently strong to rescue us from further encroachments ; and to elevate the moral, social and intellectual condition of all workmen, is a work the necessity of which