

made to the Early Closing movement, and which, if real, would rather induce me to oppose the objects of the Association for whose benefit I make these remarks. It is that the young men, when allowed to get free at an early hour, spend their time in dissipation, and that improvement and exercise is a mere excuse. That this is the case, in many individual instances, is no doubt true; but I am prepared to affirm that it is not so, as a general rule. The objection has not only been made, but its validity has been tested in various large towns. Persons have been employed by both friends and foes to visit the drinking and dancing saloons, and other places of dissipation, for the purpose of noting the young men who patronised those places, and it has been distinctly proved, that comparatively few of the young men who were liberated from business at an early period of the evening, were found in them, while those who were detained in their places of business till a late hour, were very generally their patrons. And what is the reason? Why, here it is. Those liberated at an early hour, find it not too late to visit those families with which they may have been so happy as to form an intimacy, and to spend the evening with them; or there is time for a ride or walk to the country or the park, to enjoy the fresh air, while the later hour prevents both of these innocent ways of spending the evening, and recovering the tone of the system. And yet, a little amusement and gratification must be had, which the drinking and dancing saloon, with their voluptuousness, afford, and they enter there to the detriment of their morals and health. I am entitled to say then, that in viewing this subject of your relations to young men, you are bound to take this matter into your calculations, when you would do what is just and equal to them.

But whether you find it possible, with due regard to the legitimate interests of your business, to afford to the employed more time, or not, still, other subjects of duty, in regard to the things which are just and equal, remain for your consideration. I do not consider that you are a just man, if you have no interest in the happiness and health