

make them good citizens to do away with all the men are beginning to privilege of being idle as they did. Nothing grade a class as the dependent. The day man must feel loyal simply because he estate, or because he The men are willing the ambassador of the respect, but they de of a strike) that their be equally well re- known that the g towards the poor is fitting towards every the unions have per- tendency of human action, and they have pose, but to assist it. of the policy of trade rights, those privi- withheld from them, their members fit to ex- It has already been o their employers, as essential before a man al trade unionist. les, and subscribe to wrong-doing and evil doth breed a habit in those practices as become, in every way, y do the unions take they exert themselves

by anti-unionists of a man joins a union d becomes a slave to e union officers. It replied that a man, t to give up his lib- however, if such it in fact. The work- task of asking more ng them personally, o his liberty than a dvocate to plead for en in a union come accord: they do not o, unless they think and they can leave they like. To say one's liberty, is the ying that a man, in of his country, of is giving up his been an acknowl- man may voluntarily ctions on his liberty

po, is much freer in an is the citizen in is with great diffi- row off his obliga-

tions, and then but to rest under fresh restrictions; but the former can do so with the greatest facility, though, for reasons mentioned in a former chapter, he seldom avails himself of the opportunity.

Inasmuch, however, as most trade unions are benefit societies, they have all the influence (and none of the flummery) which flows from those bodies. To teach men to prepare for a rainy day, to lay by for old age, to protect themselves from poverty in case of accident or failing health, loss of tools, etc., and to reward merit and inculcate the principle of brotherly love and benevolence, are surely laudable objects, and so long as the criteria are sound, they cannot help but have a good influence upon those who are prudent enough to deny themselves to-day, in order that they may enjoy to-morrow.

These societies, too, are exceedingly useful in the mass of valuable statistics they collect. The death rates and the causes of death in various trades point to a field in which medical men may work to great advantage; while the fluctuations in the rates of wages, and the gradual shortening of hours present an equally interesting problem to political economists. This information, too, is given for, comparatively speaking, small districts, and the problems referred to can therefore be studied when local influences interfere with general laws. Altogether, there is ample food for both the student, the philosopher, and the statesman, in the vast amount of literature that is annually issued by the trade unions; and which, by the way, must keep employed a great number of printers, thus benefiting a trade by the mere action of recording the experience of their existence.

It has been pointed out that combination amongst workmen has existed ever since men had the intelligence to understand that they were oppressed by those whose position gave them the power to oppress. The power to combine became more and more generally acknowledged, until at length, in spite of unjust and partial laws, trade unions became a fact. From combinations against oppression they developed into associations having for their object the amelioration of the condition of the working class. It has also been shown that the organization of a trade union is pre-eminently fitted to carry out that object, and, as proof of that, it has been argued: 1st, That trade unions have succeeded in raising wages and reducing the number of working hours. 2d, That these reforms do not benefit the laborer at the cost of either the capitalist or the consumer; as, between certain limits, it is found that high pay and the prospect of an early cessation from work are such incentives to industry that the produce of labor is actually greater

than under a system of long hours and low pay. 3d, That the workmen have such confidence in the benefits they derive from union, that, after the experience of "half a millennium," they are crowding into societies, into unions, in a greater ratio every year. 4th, That their declared object is to prevent strikes, and substitute arbitrations; and although the latter mode of settling disputes is often proposed by the men and refused by the masters, it is seldom proposed by the masters and still less often refused by the men. It has been argued further, that such being the objects of trade unions, and such their success in obtaining those objects, the influence of that success must be very beneficial; 1st, Because high wages means increased comforts, which are not only a social but a commercial advantage. High wages means increased production, also the double blessing just mentioned. 2d, Because high wages does not mean enhanced prices, but the contrary. 3d, Because the principles of trade unionism teach men the prudence of denying themselves something to-day, in order that they may have greater advantages to-morrow; and the duty of self-sacrifice, by calling upon them to contribute, out of their meagre wealth, towards the alleviation of the sufferings of their fellow-men. 4th, Because trade unions endeavor to obtain for the working classes more leisure for recreation and study. 5th, Because by lectures and other means, the unions endeavor to make their members better workmen; and by rules which stigmatize and punish the idle, the vicious, and the incompetent, do all in their power to make workmen better citizens. It makes clear to them that capital does not make the man, and that a laborer is no worse because he works. "Jack is as good as his master;" and the men know that if employers would only acknowledge this—if they would only meet their workmen as men on an equal footing with themselves, and discuss the wages system with them, as the late Mr. Brassey, Mr. E. Akroyd, Mr. W. E. Forster, and others were in the habit of doing—then strikes would be impossible.

It is really difficult to conceive how an institution with such noble objects, having attained those objects, can be anything but a great blessing to the community in which it is placed.

Trade unionism, then, has a great future before it. Its ultimate result cannot be otherwise than to convince both employer and employed that they are the truest friends, each of the other, for each derives his revenue from the other. The prosperity of the country is greatly due to the influence of unions on trade, and therefore that influence benefits the capitalist as well as the workman.