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WHAT CAN A WOMAN DO ?

She can come to a conclusion without
the slightest trouble of reasoning on it, and
no sane man can do it.

Six of them can talk at once and get
along first rate, and no two men can do
that.

She can safely stick fifty pins in her
dress while he is getting one under his
thumb nail.

She is cool as a cucumber in a half dozen
tight dresses and skirts, while a man will
sweat and fume and growl in one loose
shirt.

She can talk sweet as peaches and cream
to the woman she hates, while two men
would be punching each other's head before
they had exchanged ten words.

She can throw a stone with a curve that
would be a fortune to a baseball pitcher.

She can say "No" in such a low voice
that it means "Yes."

She can sharpen a lead-pencil if you give
her plenty of time and plenty of lead-
pencils.

She can dance all night in a pair of
shoes two sizes too small for her and enjoy
every minute of the time.

She can appreciate a kiss from her hus-
band seventy years after the marriage cere-
mony is performed.

She can go to church and afterward tell
you what every woman in the congregation
had on, and in some rare instances can
give you some faint idea of what the text
was.

She can walk half the night with a
colicky baby in her arms without once
expressing the desire to murder the infant.

She can do more in a minute than a man
can do in an hour, and do it better too.

She can drive a man crazy in twenty-four
hours, and then bring him to paradise in
two seconds by simply tickling him under
the chin, and there does not live that mor-
tal son of Adam's misery who can do it.

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PLAIN ENGLISH.

The modern day laborer is more wretched
than the slave of ancient times, for he is
fed by no master or anyone else; and if his
position is one of more liberty than the
slave, it is principally the liberty of dying
of hunger. He is by no means as well off
as the outlaw of the Middle Ages, for he
has none of the independence of that gay
free lance. He seldom rebels against soci-
ety, and has neither means nor oppor-
tunities to take by violence or treachery
what is denied him by the existing condi-
tions of life. The rich are thus richer, the
poor poorer, than ever before since the
beginning of history. The same thing is
true of the extravagance of the rich. We
are continually being bored by the anec-
dotes told by grubbers in history as to the
wonderful banquets spread by Lucullus.
But it remains yet to be proved that an-
cient Rome ever saw a feast that cost 80,000
dollars, like the ball given by a New York
Cæsar, of which the newspapers have been
giving us accounts recently. A private
individual who set before his guests
dishes made of nightingales' tongues, or
presented a hundred thousand sesteritia to
some Grecian hetera, made such a stir and
commotion in Rome that all the satirists
and chroniclers of those and after days re-
peated his name again and again. Now-
adays, no one speaks of the thousands
upon thousands who pay 30,000 dollars for
a set of china, 100,000 dollars for a race-
horse, or let some adventuress spend a
hundred thousand pounds for them within
one year. The extravagant luxury of the
ancient world and of the Middle Ages
aroused attention and astonishment by its
rarity. Besides, it had the modesty to
limit its display to a comparatively small
circle. The masses saw nothing of it.

Nowadays the insolent parade of the
wealthy is not confined to the ball rooms
and banqueting halls of their set, but
flaunts along the streets. The places where
their aggressive luxury is most prominently
displayed are the promenades of the large
cities, the theatres and concert halls, the
watering places and the races. Their car-
riages drive along the streets, splashing
mud on the bare-footed, hungry crowd;
their diamonds never seem to sparkle with
such brilliancy as when they are dazzling
the eyes of the poor. Their extravagance
loves to have journalism as a spectator
and delights to send descriptions of its
luxury by the columns of the papers into
circles which otherwise would have no op-
portunity to observe the life-long carnival
of the rich. By these means an oppor-
tunity of comparison is given the
modern wage receiver which was wanting
to the poor man of ancient times. The lavish
squandering of wealth that he witnesses
around him gives him an exact measure by
which to gauge his own wretchedness, in
all its extent and depth, with mathematical
precision. But as relative poverty is only
an evil when it is recognized as such by
comparison with others, the millionaires
are exceedingly unwise to flaunt their
luxury in the eyes of the poor, whose misery
is sharpened by the contrast. The uncon-
cealed spectacle of their existence of idleness
and enjoyment arouses necessarily the
discontent and envy of the laboring classes,
and this moral poison corrodes their minds
far more rapidly and deeply than their
material deprivations.

But these natural deprivations must not
be underestimated. The great masses of
the poor in civilized countries maintain
their bare existence under conditions worse
than those of any animal in the wilderness.
The dwelling place of the day laborer in a
large city of the Old-World is far more
filthy and unhealthy than the den of a
beast of prey in the forest. It is by far
less perfectly protected against the cold
than the latter. His food is barely suffi-
cient to sustain life, and death from actual
starvation is of daily occurrence in the
capitals of the world. The writers on political
economy have invented a phrase to
quiet the uneasy conscience of the rich—the
"iron law of wages." According to this
law the wages paid in any locality are
at least what is actually necessary to sup-
port life there. In other words, the laborer
is certain of earning sufficient to satisfy his
actual necessities, even if he has no surplus.
This would be very fine if it were only sus-
tained by facts. If it were true, the rich
man could say to himself, morning and
evening, that everything is arranged for the

best in this best of all possible worlds, and
no one would have a right to disturb his di-
gestion and his nightly rest by groans and
and curses. But the misfortune is, that
this famous iron law of wages is only a je-
suitical play upon words. At the best, it
does not apply to those who cannot procure
work at all. And during the time when he
has really work to do, it is impossible for
the laboring man in Western Europe to
earn enough so that he can have anything
left over for days when he is out of work.
He is thus reduced to beggary during part
of the year, or to a gradual physical de-
cline from lack of sufficient nourishment.
But the iron wage law does not apply even
to the amount of daily wages earned by
those actually employed. What is the
minimum of income that will support an
individual? Evidently it is that which
will keep his system in a good condition,
and allow him to develop fully and attain
to the natural limit of his life. As soon as
he attempts more than his system requires
to remain at the summit of its type, hen
he falls into physiological distress. Over-
work is as equally the cause of organic de-
cline as insufficient food, but the latter is
synonymous with slow starvation.—Mel-
bourne Bulletin.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF FACORIES.

In the Quebec Legislature on Monday,
Mr. Beland resumed the adjourned debate
on Mr. Turgeon's motion for copies of the
correspondence and documents in the pos-
session of the Government respecting the
medical sanitary inspection of the manufac-
tories and workshops. Medical inspection,
he said, was an excellent thing in itself.
Nobody could deny that in certain countries
it had greatly contributed to the welfare of
the workingclasses, but whether it could be
usefully applied in the Province of Quebec
at present was quite another question. He
knew all about the manufactories in the
district of Montreal, and must confess was
very well satisfied with the conduct of the
inspectors of manufactories named by the
Provincial Government, Messrs Mitchell
and Guyon. These gentlemen had done their
work so well that accidents were now exact-
ly one-half as numerous as formerly. Man-
ufactories were properly ventilated, and due
attention had been paid to morality by the
separation of men and women in larger
establishments. During the year twenty-
three complaints only had been transmitted
to the Central Council of Trade and Labor,
and in every case the proprietors had
hastened to put an end to the grievances.
The present law worked well. All that was
required at present was to amend it in
minor details. The principal fault, in his
opinion, was that children were allowed to
begin work too young, to the great damage
of their health, and especially of their in-
telligence. This was the cause of the
alarming percentage of mortality among
factory hands. He understood it was the
intention of the Government to amend the
law on this point. He thought that sanitary
reform would be greatly facilitated by de-
voting one night each week in the night
schools to reading a chapter of some familiar
work on Hygiene.

Mr. Blanchet said that the law of 1885
could not be put in force sooner as there
were doubts as to the jurisdiction of the
Legislature on the subject. The amend-
ments proposed to the present law merited
serious consideration. Opinions varied
much as to the age at which children should
begin work, but they ought to demand in
any case that children should be able to
read and write before putting them to work-
shops and be compelled afterwards to attend
school during part of the year. Educated
workmen were always superior to the igno-
rant. Hon. Mr. Robidoux said the govern-
ment would study all these questions seri-
ously. Both the suggestions of the leader
of the Opposition were good ones.

Union the Workman's Best Friend.

I at one time looked upon labor unions
with suspicion, but a long study of the
history of labor has convinced me that not
only are they the best friends of the work-
man, but the best agency for the employer
and the public, and to the extension of these
associations, statesmen and political econo-
mists must look for the solution of some of
the most pressing and difficult problems of
our time.—F. Thorold Rogers, M.P.

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MORAL SUASION.

Capital always protests against the
use of force. That is to say, it pro-
tests against force when someone else appli-
es it to Capital, and the peaceful and legiti-
mately pressure which the trades unions have
employed in order to maintain their right
to co-operate for their own protection
roused the monopolist press to frantic
indignation. If Labor has any wrongs, su-
asion should be employed to set
right; the inert influence of public op-
ion should be brought to bear on the case
argument and rhetoric, and gentle exhor-
tion should be made use of to bring about
general reformation. It is true that the
monopolist cares not one straw for moral
suasion, and the weight of public op-
ion has as little influence on his conscience
as a pound of butter might have if fried in
the blazen gates of Tophet, and argument
rhetoric have no effect on his bank ac-
count which is his only vulnerable point; he
always demands that Labor should try
these empty weapons, and be content,
than a generation ago Charles Dickens
a vivid picture of the miseries of the
dock laborer—that wail and stray who
in a kennel, and lived on a crust, and got
a miserable pittance by hanging on to the
skirts of commerce. No stronger moral
fluence was ever applied in a good cause,
but though the sympathy thus aroused
was illimitable, and the air was filled with
and bogus philanthropy, the dock-la-
borer was left as before with his attic
precarious crust, until the force of com-
pulsion did for him what no amount of
sympathy and cheap, unconsidered
would ever have effected. Hood's
"Song of the Shirt" drew forth an
of wasted tears, and though years
passed since the world first read it,
tears are flowing yet—and the laborer
cries for whose salvation that sad
was written, sews in her lonely room
for lower wages than she received.
Hood endeavored to arouse the
with the tale of her miseries. Walter B.
when he wrote the "Children of Gil-
more" a brilliant effort to do what Hood
failed to accomplish, and as the result
his endeavors, philanthropic societies
formed, and pompous addresses deliv-
ered, and secretaries and treasurers and
committees were hired and paid, and the
atmosphere was filled with wailing
and fat hypocrisy, and the sewing-
machines of London remains just where she
was before. The law of elevenpence-half
penny for sixteen hours of weary to-
il prevailed, for experience has proved
that a woman can live—or rather exist—and
for a bloated Christian employer, and
quietly of cold and misery and was
premature old age, and be buried
parish with out any trouble or ungen-
erally fuss, on that wretched maximum
woman has never learnt the art of con-
tention, or discovered how to obtain red-
ress. Force she has no prospect of relief
through outside assistance. But, the
Hood and Besant and other sympa-
her employer has been induced, by
fluence of public opinion, to subscribe
infinitesimal fraction of the money
ground out of his victim to one of
the fashionable societies organized
relief, and the secretary has got his
out of that subscription, and the com-
mittee has used it to liquidate the bill
official lunch, and the printing of the
report has been made charged against
and the hungry toiler who paid for
thrice-cursed philanthropy remain
gry and in rags to this day. The
of moral suasion contained in such
as "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was inco-
herent but the work its author meant
to be done by the Federal bays
Gottysburg and the Wilderness
same. Victor Hugo compressed
of burning was into "Les Misérables"
the "Toilers of the Sea," and the
was practically nil. Moral force
ported by the brute strength of
and combined physical effort, is a
thing; and the protest of Monopol-
what it is pleased to term the law
of Trades Unionism is merely an in-
to the masses to spike the only
that ever did or will ever do them
vice. In employing material
strikes and boycotting, Labor em-
one argument against which the r-
hide is not proof. There is no
ledge, but no more conscience or
in the world than there was a cen-
and if by any possibility the pow-
Trades Unions could be destroyed
lament would gain a wider ap-
and the worker would become a
hopelessly degraded slave that he
the days of old.