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HINTS TO THE EMPLOYER.



E have, as a general rule, directed our remarks on technical education to the employed. A few words of advice, now, will not be out of place to the employer. It is as much to the interest of the employer to have around him skilful and well-trained workman, as it is to the employed to become such, their interests, in fact, lie closely together, and there can be no doubt but that employers should, in duty to themselves and the public, take an interest in the training of their helpers, and see that the boys in their establishments,

learning trades, are not kept in ignorance, but that they receive careful instruction and drill, so that they may grow up to be skilful workmen and good men. Any workman, when he has acquired a skilful knowledge of his trade, has a self-respect which otherwise he would fail to feel, and then he is not as likely to be led away into strikes for higher wages, at periods of commercial depression, as those are who have skill and who would fain enjoy the same wages as another worker at the bench, who can do his work better and in half the time of the unskilful man. When bad times come it is the skilful and good men who are employed, even although wages are low, because, as a general rule, they are good men. There are some very skilful mechanics who are dissipated, it is true, but such, also, we frequently find to be the case in the highest spheres of intellect; they are but exceptions to the general rule.

Employers should spare no pains to teach their boys. The foremen should also take a similar interest in the youth placed under their charge, and not say, as we have frequently heard said, "I had to find out knowledge for myself, let them do likewise," this is a very selfish feeling. We have invariably found it to be the case that all eminent men have been particularly liberal in imparting their information to others. Every body

in a factory ought to undergo, periodically, a catechetical examination on the principles of his trade, and such things as he did not clearly understand should be explained to him. Young beginners should not be discouraged by a want of communicativeness on the part of a foreman, and the employer should take pains to encourage boys to ask questions, so that they may learn the why and wherefore of what they see in daily practice. Many boys are too diffident to ask questions, fearing it may be considered impertinent, or afraid to show an ignorance of what they might be supposed to understand; to such lads, a little kind encouragement would advance them rapidly in a knowledge of their trades. A celebrated Italian, when once asked how he managed to obtain such an immense amount of varied information, replied, "by not being too proud to ask a question when I was ignorant."

Employers have it in their power to assist most materially in the education and welfare of those they employ, and it should never be forgotten, by either employer or employed, that there is a connecting link, of mutual interest and good, between them that should on no account ever be severed.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO INVENTORS AND INVENTORS' FOLLIES.

A good deal has been written lately about the discouragement inventors meet with from the first conception of their idea until the issue of the patent, if it ever is issued. The inventor has nearly as many stages to go through as Shakespeare has given to the life of man. First is the dawning idea, seen through a mist or fog, in which the image is indistinct and undefined; often it is but a mirage, a mere atmospheric deception of the brain and never assumes any tangible shape whatever, and just as you think you have it, it disappears, like a Will-o-the-Wisp. Even when caught it has to be worked into many shapes and undergo many trials before the inventor feels that his babe is strong enough to be launched into life. For awhile he is wrapt up in the consideration of the great value and importance of the thing and the money that is in it. About this stage, he is seized with a sudden fear that some one may forestal him in his idea, or, that the secret may be stolen from