

boarding-houses, the proprietors make a reduction, generally about a third for youth, which, at these wages, leaves them a balance in hand of about a dollar; a sum quite sufficient for their clothes, pocket money, and other expenses.

"The mechanic whose family consists chiefly of boys, will find another very considerable advantage to result from his removal to the United States, in the settlement of them to trades. There he will have none of the difficulties so common in his own country to contend with, in the way of providing premiums necessary for them before they will be taken as apprentices, for none such, in fact, are required. The lad is in himself considered a premium, because from the very commencement of his servitude he is put to ready and profitable use—nothing is suffered to interfere so as to retard his advancement—no jealousy, no dread that he will learn his trade too quick or too well, and be ultimately injurious to his employer—he is set to work, to use an American expression, "right away;" and, as at first his remuneration does not exceed that which he would obtain in any other capacity, he must be, and indeed is, a decided advantage to his employer.

"The out-door plan of apprenticeship is the most general; the term of servitude, except in very particular cases, five years, and often, when the lad is rather old, for three years only. The salary—that is, to the out-door apprentice—in most trades commences at three dollars a-week, for the first year, with an advance of half a dollar for the two succeeding years, and one dollar each for the two last, making the amount five and six dollars for the most important and most expensive part of his time. In all cases the master either reserves a certain portion of the apprentice's wages, to be paid annually to the parents towards clothing him, or stipulates to become responsible for a sum, usually from thirty to fifty dollars, for such purpose, independent of wages altogether. Thus a provision for his apparel is effectually secured to him; and this invariable custom is, without doubt, the true cause why American youth are constantly met with so well dressed, and why they are always so strongly disposed to be so.

"The in-door apprentice is provided with boarding, lodging, the chief part of his washing, and his outer apparel, the latter being supplied by his master's own tailor, and the clothes generally speaking being as good as those which his master himself wears; but in neither case, whether as in or out-door apprentice, is he furnished with pocket-money. This deficiency, however, is amply supplied by the invariable practice on the part of the employer of permitting the apprentice to make as much over-time as he may think fit; and as he is paid according to the same rate of charge as the journeyman, so soon at least as he is capable of undertaking the work, it is no uncommon thing, if the apprentice be industriously inclined, to find himself in the receipt, for his over-time work, of half the amount of his weekly wages. This, it must be admitted, furnishes a great encouragement, and if put to a proper use, is likely to be of considerable service. Some will allow this extra money to accumulate in the hands of the employer, while the savings' banks present opportunities for the same purpose to others, many of whom, to their credit be it stated, being depositors of considerable amounts; and the money thus accumulated has often been the means of enabling numbers to commence business on their own account, so soon as their apprenticeship has expired.

"Task work for the apprentice is also customary in many trades, as soon as he is found to be sufficiently qualified in his business; all above a certain quantity being paid for as over-time work; thus giving an additional opportunity which both master and apprentice find their account in. In short, few things are omitted that will tend either to the encouragement of the apprentice, or further advancement of him in his business, the employer considering both inseparable from his own interest; there being no apprehension, as before stated, lest the lad should know too much for the future interest of the employer, no jealousy or distrust of him, nor any desire for keeping him to a distinct branch, that he may be made the most of for the time being; the apprentice is thoroughly instructed in his trade, and left to follow it when and how he may