

most successful efforts of private enterprise. The great moral results that crown these wise and hopeful efforts of Industry to emancipate itself from the thralldom of Monopoly, are seen in the fact that Co-operative Societies actuated by a spirit of equity and justice, share the profits amongst those who make them and appropriate a portion of their surplus wealth to the advancement, the elevation and the happiness of their own class.

The practicability of Co-operation, then, whatever form it has taken, is placed beyond all doubt. In Great Britain alone there are upwards of 800 societies, with 200,000 members, owning a capital of £1,000,000 sterling, and engaged in almost every kind of manufacturing, producing and distributing enterprise. In Germany there are more than 1,000 Co-operative Societies, with 140,000 members, who command a capital of £4,000,000 (30 million thalers) and are engaged in associations of Shoemakers, Tailors, Smiths, Bookbinders, Carpenters, Weavers, Shawl Makers, Cloth Makers, &c., and in distributive Retail and Wholesale agencies. In France, in Switzerland, and even in Russia, the same great industrial revolution is advancing; and already it has been established with great success on the Rochdale principle in Lawrence, Massachusetts, and other localities in the United States, and in Hamilton, Canada, where the operations have increased so greatly that the managers have been compelled to enter upon larger premises.

The establishment of a Co-operative Store is generally the first experiment which the friends of Co-operation make. Its object is to purchase the necessaries of life, food, clothing and fuel of the best quality which cash payments can command, to sell these at fair remunerative profits to its customers and to share the profits among the members and purchasers. The goods are as sure to be free from adulteration as the wholesale and produce market can supply them; and there is no probability of fraud by false weights or short measure; because, as the wholesale purchases and retail sales are under the constant supervision of the members; as the store-keepers are in fact the customers, and buyers and sellers have thus the same interests, they are not likely to cheat themselves.

It is not the least advantage of the Co-operative Store that it allows and makes no invidious distinctions in the amount of purchases, or the rank of its customers. The purchaser of one dollar's worth or less will receive as good an article and the same attention as the purchaser of a hundred dollars worth, and a child sent by its parent will be as faithfully served as if the parent went him or herself. This system of just and honest dealing, so rarely practised under the old competitive system, is not only satisfactory in a mere trade point of view, but cannot fail as it spreads to foster a higher tone of commercial morality by correcting those habits of deception and of imposition so common in business as not to be regarded as vices, and which have so pernicious an influence on personal character and national integrity.

But the most satisfactory feature of the Co-operative system is the arrangement and disbursement of profits. The profits, after