

a verdict on this question. You, young man, consider the interests of your employer. See what amount of diligence and attention are necessary to his success, and give your labour honestly to that end; and you, employer, consider what is right and equitable to give as well as to demand—what is equitable with due regard to the health and well being, and mental and moral manhood of those employed by you.

And let me say to you, especially to you employers, that I think far too little consideration to the interests of your young men has been given by you. The subject is a wide and varied one, and few of you have done more than dip into its surface. You pay them their wages. Yes, you bargained for that, and you have honestly fulfilled the contract. So far good. But will you be pleased to recollect what we said in the beginning of our discourse, and which we think it will do you no harm to remember, that while labour is good it should not be excessive, nor so long continued as to deprive of the means of health and of mental improvement, those who follow it. Have you considered whether their labour, if excessive, could not be lightened; whether their hours, if too long, could not be shortened; or whether there are not means which you might use for their improvement, or even for their amusement, not at all unworthy the consideration of even philosophers—I say, if you have not considered these things, you have before you a profoundly interesting and highly profitable and pleasure-giving subject for study, to say nothing of the healthful action to which it may lead.

It is not my place to say what length of time is necessary to be devoted to any particular business, that it may be profitably carried on. I think, however, that if employers would agree to shorten their hours, and if the purchasing public would make their visits to the shop at an early hour of the day a matter of conscience, there might be a much longer period at the disposal of the young men for recreation and improvement.

I have here to consider an objection which is oftentimes