

room for improvement in these particulars, especially where male and female workers are employed. We are sorry that in one place—Cornwall—there was a disposition to do away with washing facilities in factories altogether. There is probably no other one matter about a factory that seems so small, and yet is so important as this. The highest and best class of employees will not remain long in a factory where they have to appear on the street with smirched face and hands, and without a good coat or wrap. Not only so, but where they are compelled by circumstances to remain, they will sink in the scale of worth and character, as their surroundings take from them their feelings of self-respect. Where there is a good wash-room, a separate one for each sex, the employees will make themselves "respectable" before going on the street; and the feeling that prompts this will work in the direction of higher efficiency and more intelligent service.

One question seemed to have been in the direction of asking "Whether the employment of girls and women was in consequence of dissipation of the fathers?" and to show how there are "wheels within wheels," this question leads to bad consequences, and will not probably be repeated. All testify that it is *not* in consequence of dissipation on the part of the fathers, but that the hard times and the lack of constant employment, compel the women and girls to thus help out the family fortunes. And one correspondent points out the cruel wrong to such as thus seek work, if the idea should get abroad that it is drunkenness at home that compels it! They would feel at once that the public put a stigma upon them. God bless the good girls that work, we say; and let us give them all the honor they deserve!

Shorter hours have been much agitated for; and in some places, as London and Toronto, it has been somewhat widely tried. On the whole, it seems to work well. The men do *not*, generally, spend the time in idleness or dissipation. They relish the longer time they have at home, and, as it compels a slightly increased number of hands to be employed, it takes away some of the necessity for so long a "shut-down" in many establishments. All this, however, would point to smaller wages; and if the men can show—as very many of them claim—that "a man will do as

much in nine hours as in ten," why, the masters would never think of decreasing the wages, the fear of which is the only thing in the way of the men generally demanding shorter hours. Now, here is a field for the self-respecting ambition of the men to show itself.

In Hamilton, and a very few other places, Wednesday afternoon is an "off" time for the clerks; and in a large number of factories Saturday afternoon, or a part of it is rest time. But in almost every case the men are "docked" accordingly. John Knox was three hundred years in advance of his age, in recommending Wednesday as a day off, when religious people could have worship, and all could have rest. And recent researches have shown us that the Jews assembled in their synagogues not only on Saturday, but also on Monday and Thursday, which were doubtless among "the three Sabbath days" (*i. e.* worship days), on which Paul reasoned with the Thessalonians, Acts 17. If Wednesday and Saturday afternoons were universally given up to rest, there would be less "breaking down" from over-strain, and far less of Sabbath-breaking. We shall return to these labor statistics again.

THE COLLEGE.

As will be seen from Mr. Black's letter last month, the Colonial Missionary Society are gradually but finally withdrawing from the support of the College. While no surprise need be expressed at the Society terminating this exceptional aid, it puts the friends of the College in a position where active measures are required to make up the amount hitherto drawn from England. Most of all, the matter needs systematizing—that is, in the churches. A vast number of people would give a quarter-dollar monthly to each of these causes—the College, Home Missions, and Foreign Missions—if *they were regularly called on!* A Toronto friend said the other day, paying his dollar to the Editor for the INDEPENDENT, "If somebody would only *come round and get* the dollar, it would be no trouble to pay it: but here I have to sit down and write a letter and enclose the dollar, and so it gets put off." So with the support of the College. Now all that can be amended. Let the churches, in connec-