

been confined to any class or section, since some of the brainiest and most trusted men have come from humble but intelligent homes where subjects of importance were discussed with avidity. But the point is that such subjects are not discussed where commercial interests absorb all attention, and where so often all is invested. Speculators there have always been, and keenness is not a new thing, but to find the majority "keen as razors" is both new and alarming. We begin to understand how the sensitive Matthew Arnold was lacerated by the materialism of Chicago, so that it took him weeks to recover!

### III.

After twenty centuries it is strange that there should be so much Shadowland in our social conditions. Evils have been pointed out in every generation and efforts made to rectify them, but that inequalities still exist no one will venture to deny; and how to deal with them has been the problem for legislators and moral reformers. Many are giving close attention to that side. Meanwhile attention may well be directed to what we venture to think, if not a remedy, is a course, which if followed generally, would change much of the shadowland's bitterness into sweetness; it is the course taken by the late Richard Teller Crane.

Richard Teller Crane was born in 1832 and died in 1912. He is known to the world as a successful Ironmaster. Born of humble parentage, he was for seventy years a toiler and producer. By long and bitter experience he knew the employee's side of the labor question, as well as later, the side of capital. This man who afterwards had ten thousand men employed, and planned to set aside a million dollars for the purpose of "taking care of the men," earned during the first year of

his apprenticeship as a machinist but \$2.50 per week, out of which he had to pay \$2.25 for board and washing, leaving him but twenty five cents clear each week. His mind, however, was set on learning at any cost.

Bye and bye he set up a small brass foundry in a corner of his uncle's yard and from that day onward went steadily ahead. From a long sketch of his life in *The Valve World*, the following is gleaned:—

(1) He felt that in his own rise there was an inspiration for other youths.

(2) When he had reached prominence he realized that it was his duty to help others to see accurately and think clearly on the questions of the day, and sought by the establishment of small libraries for the benefit of his workmen to do so.

(3) He held that a man's character was projected into his business.

(4) He firmly believed in the obligation of stewardship, and pointed out that enlightened self-interest should move those having surplus wealth to improve the conditions of the less fortunate.

(5) He pleaded for preventive rather than reformatory charity.

Now put these five points into general practice and what a transformation would be affected! Let the youth and manhood of to-day know that the world has still a reward for thrift, honesty, perseverance and hard work—that is being lost sight of in this get-rich-quick age, to the undoing of tens of thousands; let it be remembered that character is projected into business, and the obligations of wealth are as binding now as they ever were; let it not be forgotten that individuals live, whose thought and practice point the way to social improvement, and that one such life is of more practical value