

GROWING OLD TOGETHER.

Do you know I am thinking, to-morrow
 We shall pass on our journey through life,
 One more of the milestones that bring us
 Still nearer the goal, my good wife?
 The glad anniversary morning
 Of our wedding-day cometh once more;
 And its evening will find us still waiting,
 Who had thought to have gone long before.

We are old, wife, I know by the furrows
 Time has plowed on your brow, once so fair;
 I know by the crown of bright silver
 He has left for your once raven hair;
 I know by the frost on the flowers
 That brightened our life at its dawn;
 I know by the graves in the churchyard,
 Where we counted our dead yestermorn.

Your way has been humble and toil-worn,
 Your guest has been trouble, good wife—
 Part sunshine, more trials and sorrows,
 Have made up your record through life.
 But may the thought cheer you, my dear one,
 Your patience and sweet, clinging love
 Have made for me here such a heaven,
 I have asked, "Is there brighter above?"

In life's winter, sweet wife, we are living,
 But its storms all unheeded will fall;
 What care we, we have loved each other,
 Who have proved, each to each, all in all?
 Hand in hand, we await the night's coming,
 Giving thanks, down the valley we go,
 For to love and to grow old together
 Is the highest bliss mortals can know.

Some children are still left to bless us,
 And lighten our hearts day by day;
 If hope is not always fruition,
 We will strive to keep in the right way.
 We have sowed and reaped, but the harvest
 That garners the world we wait,
 And happily, at last, we may enter
 Together the beautiful gate.

MR. HUGHES, M.P., ON "THE PROBLEMS OF CIVILIZATION."

The second of two lectures on the above subject was delivered by Mr. Hughes in Queen Street Hall on the evening of Friday, 31st January, to a large and interested audience. We make one or two extracts from the newspaper reports:—

TRADES' UNIONS AND THEIR LEADERS.

The "organisation of labor" in this kingdom has gone on in two parallel lines for the last twenty years and more, and at a rate as remarkable as that of the increase of our material riches. If Mr. Gladstone had added to his statement as to what the last fifty years have done for us in this direction, that in the organization of labor, and the consequent change in the condition of the working classes, the same period had done more than the 300 years since the first statute of laborers—or, indeed, than the whole of previous English history—he would have been making a statement even more certain, and more easy of proof, than that which he did make. Let me very shortly make good my words. It was not until the year 1825 that the laws prohibiting the combinations of workmen were repealed. They had lasted since the early Plantagenet times. Under them no open combination of artisans or laborers, such as the trades' unions which we know, was possible. There were unions indeed, but they met as secret societies, and worked by secret penalties and terrorism. After 1825, they came at once into the light, and there was a remarkable decrease, indeed almost a cessation, of those sanguinary crimes connected with trades' disputes which had disgraced the previous quarter of a century. It took another quarter of a century to effect the next great change. From 1825 till 1849-50 may be called the period of local unionism. In the latter year it entered on a new phase, that of federation. The first sign of the change was the great strike of the engineers at Christmas, 1851. Public attention was drawn to this struggle, involving as it did the prosperity of the most skilled and of the most national of our great industries, and the country was startled to find that a league of upwards of 100 local unions, all federated in one amalgamated society, were sustaining the local contests in Oldham and London. This federation, although beaten in 1852, has gone on steadily gaining powers and numbers ever since. There were then some 11,000 members, belonging to 100 branches in Great Britain and Ireland, and the funds of the society at the end of the great strike went down to zero in fact, it came out of the strike in debt. There are now upwards of 40,000 members, nearly 300 branches, which are spread over all our colonies, the United States, and several European countries, and the accumulated fund amounts to £140,000. Not only are the unions of the separate trades federated in great amalgamated societies, but these societies are again in federation. They hold a congress at the opening of each new year. It sat at Leeds at the beginning of the present month; and you may have remarked that another step in advance was proposed at the late Congress, "being nothing less than the incorporation of all the unionists in the kingdom into one vast society. This proposal was indeed rejected; but even as it is, for all practical purposes, the unions throughout the country are allied in a federation, which promises to be drawn closer and closer every year, and to become more and more powerful. Such have been, shortly speaking, the results of the twenty-five years

of federated unionism. And now let us look as fairly at this "problem of civilization," and ask what it means, and where it tends. That unionism is a great power, and likely to become a greater one still, no one will deny. That it is an army, by which I mean an organization for fighting purposes, goes without talk. That nearly all unions have their sick and provident funds, and their benefits of one kind or another, is perfectly true; but these are not their vital functions. They are organized and supported "to speak with their enemies in the gate," and to fight whenever it may be thought advisable. And when it comes to fighting they may use every penny of the funds (as the Amalgamated Engineers did in 1852), without a thought of the provident purposes contemplated by their rules. You can't have armies and battles without training professional soldiers. They must come to the front as naturally as cream rises if you let milk stand, and the trades' unions train leaders who are essentially fighting men. I do not use the word as implying any censure. Many cruel and unfair attacks have been made on these men as a class, with which I do not in the least sympathize. Many accusations have been brought against them which I know to be untrue. There are good and bad amongst them, as in all other classes; but, on the whole, they have done their work faithfully, and without giving needless offence. Indeed, I have often found them far more ready to listen to reason, to negotiate rather than fight, than their rank and file. They have, with some exceptions, supported the attempts to establish courts of arbitration and conciliation, and are, as a rule, honest representatives, and in advance of their constituents. But the fact remains, they are fighting men at the head of armies, and their business is constant watchfulness, and prompt action whenever a fair opportunity occurs. They accept and act on the principles of trade which they have learned from their employers, and see proclaimed in all the leading journals. Their business is to enable their members to sell their labor in the dearest market, and to limit and control the supply. Morality has nothing to do with buying and selling. They have nothing to do with the question whether their action is fair or just to employers; or whether it will bring trouble and misfortune on workmen outside the union. Employers and outsiders must look to themselves; what they have to see to is that every unionist gets as much and gives as little as possible. No one can doubt that this is a most serious business, and that organizations such as these do threaten the prosperity of our industry. Nevertheless, for my own part, I accept unionism as on the whole a benefit to this nation. Without it our working classes would be far less powerful than they are at present, and I desire that they should have their fair share of power, and of all national prosperity. The free and full right of association for all lawful purposes is guaranteed to all our people. They had better use it now and then unwisely and tyrannically, than be unable to use it at all. I shall be glad to see the day, and I fully believe it will come, when trades' unions will have played their part, and have become things of the past. But they have still a part to play, and until they are superseded by other associations, founded on higher principles and aiming at nobler ends, their failure and disappearance would be a distinct step backwards—a injury, not an advantage, to the nation and to civilization.

CO-OPERATION.

We now come to the co-operative movement, to which I may say at once that I have looked for twenty years, and still look with increasing hope, for the solution of the labor question, and the building-up of a juster and nobler and gentler life throughout this nation. From the time of legal recognition the progress of the movement has been rapid. The Government returns for 1870—only eighteen years from the passing of the first Act—show that in that year there were upwards of 1500 registered societies, numbering some half million members (each of whom we must recollect is the head of a family). These societies distributed amongst their members more than £8,000,000 of goods, and returned to them £267,764 in bonuses on their purchases. But this mere progress in numbers and wealth is nothing to the purpose in itself; it may well have demoralized and divided instead of strengthening and uniting, and then it had better not have happened at all. How about this? Well, in this case I am glad to be able to answer confidently and hopefully. The wealth has been well earned, is being well spent. From the very first the co-operators, these poor men, these weavers, cobblers, laborers, have deliberately and steadily repudiated the current commercial principles and practices. They are societies for fellow work and mutual help. They have fought no battle for high or low prices, and have no such battle to fight. They claim to stand on the principle of combining the interests of producer and consumer. They hold, one and all, as their distinctive doctrine, that inasmuch as the life of nine-tenths of mankind must be spent in labor—in producing and distributing, buying and selling—moral considerations must be made to govern these operations, and anything worth calling success in them, must depend not upon profits, but upon justice. For the ideas "cheapness" and "dearness" they have deliberately instituted "fair" prices, and their whole life has been a struggle—not, of course, free from backslidings and falls—

to reach that ideal. It is impossible to bring before you, in the space I have at my disposal, anything like proofs of a title of the good which this movement has done, how it is steadily strengthening and purifying the daily lives of a great section of our people. I wish I could induce all here to look into the matter carefully for themselves. Meantime, I may say that it has, in the first place, delivered the poor in a number of our great towns from the credit system, which lay so hard on them twenty years ago—for the co-operative system is founded scrupulously on ready-money dealings—next, it has delivered the poor from adulterated goods and short weights and measures. It has developed amongst them honesty, thrift, forethought, and made them feel that they cannot raise themselves without helping their neighbors. The management of business concerns of this magnitude has developed an extraordinary amount of ability amongst the leading members, who, in committees and as secretaries and buyers, conduct the affairs of the stores throughout the country. As their funds have accumulated they have been invested in corn mills and cotton mills, most of which have been managed with great ability and honesty, and are returning large profits. There have been failures, of course, as there must be in all movements; but in scarcely any cases have these been owing to the deep-seated dishonesty, the lying, the puffing, and trickery which have brought down in disgraceful ruin so many of our joint-stock companies. I have been speaking hitherto chiefly of the societies known as co-operative stores which are concerned with distribution; but associations for production are now multiplying, and at least as great results may be looked for from them. In those few which I have had the opportunity of watching, I can speak with the greatest confidence of the admirable influence they have exercised on the character and habits of the associates. These two parallel movements [trades' unions and co-operation], differing fundamentally in their principles and objects, have had this in common, that they have done more than all other causes put together to raise the condition of the great mass of the working people, and, by increasing manifold their power and weight, have at last won for them a large share in, if not the ultimate control of, the government and the destinies of our country. While they were disorganized they were powerless. They have found out the worth of organization, and are perfecting it in both directions with an energy which must have very serious results for the whole nation. That much of what they are doing in their trades' unions is causing alarm, and raising a spirit of hostility to their organizations throughout the country, is plain to the most careless observer. I am not here to defend many of their acts and much of their policy. I feel the truth of many of the accusations which are brought against them, of their carelessness of the common weal in the pursuit of their own ends, of the tyranny which they sometimes exercise over minorities in their own body, of the deterioration in work, the dawdling and incompetence which in many trades is not unjustly laid at their door.

THE TRUE SOLUTION.

The Teacher who has spoken the last and highest word to mankind is asking of our age, as He asked of the men of His own day, as He has asked of the sixty generations of our fathers who have come and gone since His day, the question which goes to the root of all problems of civilization, of all problems of human life, "What think ye of Christ?" The time is upon us when that question must be answered by this nation, and can no longer be thrust aside while we go, one to his farm, and another to his merchandise. Upon the answer depends our future—whether we shall founder on under the weight of increasing riches till our ravaged civilization has brought us to utter anarchy, and so to the loss of courage, truthfulness, simplicity, manliness, of everything that makes life endurable for men or nations, or whether we shall rise up in new strength, casting out the spirit of manum in the name which broke in pieces the Roman Empire, subdued the wild tribes which flooded that empire in her decay, and founded a Christendom on her ruins—which in our land has destroyed feudalism, abolished slavery, and given us an inheritance such as has been given to no people on this earth before us, and so build up a stronger, gentler, nobler, national life, in which all problems of civilization shall find their true solution.

CO-OPERATIVE TRADE SOCIETY—A GOOD EXAMPLE.

The Deal Cabinet Makers' Trade Society came into existence about seven years since, and numbers about 400 members, having, in October last, a capital of a little over £700. In that month a dispute arose between the society and the Messrs. Dyer's, the large deal cabinet manufacturers of Essex-road, Islington. The result of this dispute was a strike, and lock-out of 100 men at the firm, with an intimation that none of the men locked out would be employed by any member of the Masters' Association. The committee of the society, instead of keeping the men walking idly about on strike pay, resolved to expend the funds on opening a factory and employing the locked-out men themselves. This factory, situated in Tromville-square, Bethnal Green-road, has now been in active operation for fifteen weeks, and upwards of £1,500 has been

paid for material and wages. The whole of the 100 men locked-out could be profitably employed in the factory if the committee had more capital at their command, and they have, therefore, appealed to several other trade societies for temporary loans, at fair interest, to enable them fully to carry out these objects. They also invite an inspection of their factory by the public.

WHO ARE THE CRIMINALS IN THE SOUTH WALES STRIKE?

In the *Daily News* a few days since the following paragraph appeared, relative to the people out of work in Monmouthshire, South Wales:—
 "Strong men are literally fainting from hunger, and are driven distracted by their inability to supply food to their starving families. Women with infants in their arms are wandering about to seek a mouthful of bread for the little ones shut up in the empty home without food or fire. . . . The scenes of suffering are terrible to witness. . . . The strong hearty ironworkers are cowed and haggard; their once plump, rosy children look pinched and pale, and the mothers have pawned all their tidy little frocks and shoes for a mouthful of food."

This is a frightful picture of destitution and suffering—a lesson in political economy which at no distant period may produce most lamentable results; and we must not, whilst the initiatory facts are near, fail to attach at once the responsibility to the right persons. Let it never be forgotten that this horrible state of things was brought about by an attempt on the part of the employers to take from the men 10 per cent. of their wages. Let it be remembered also that this demand was made without any honest attempt to show that the state of the trade required it. We say this emphatically, because their offer to show the prices at which their most recent orders were booked was a mockery and a delusion. They know that it is only the amount of profit, and not the selling price of iron, by which such a question can be settled. The iron and coal masters attacked the men because they thought they had not strength to resist. They felt, too, that their ground was strengthened by the approaching severe weather, just as the late Emperor of Russia did, when he talked of the Crimean war. They knew that this terrible suffering would come to women and children, and there can be little doubt that they rejoice in it as an ally to help in the subjection of the men. We know perfectly well that a majority of the men out of work are not union men—that, therefore, their sufferings have in no way been brought on by any act of their own any more than that their suffering is continued by their own will. If the men in Union had not resisted this demand made on them to give up 10 per cent. of their wages, how long might it be before another 10 per cent. was looked for? What can men do under such circumstances? Can any London journalist tell them? They must always submit, or they must sometimes fight. They have to choose between the sharp pinch of a struggle like the present, or a chronic poverty and servitude which would keep them eternally on the verge of starvation.

Whatever of suffering or loss belongs to this struggle, the employers are accountable for it. Failing compliance with their demands, everything that has happened might have been foreseen as plainly as we may now see the frightful misery yet to come should the struggle be prolonged. We are not questioning the spirit in which the *Daily News* states the case. We simply say that when they call the conduct of the men in leaving their work a "wilful blunder," they are not correctly describing it. It was not a wilful blunder, it was a necessity—if they are at all to retain a right in regulating the price of their labor. On the part of the employers it is, however, worse than a wilful blunder. It is a wicked conspiracy—an attempt to plunder men of their wages in the belief that they have no sufficient power to resist; and, we repeat it, the misery now suffered by so many poor people was counted on by the employers as an assistance in carrying out their object. Never was there, perhaps, a more scandalous attempt to commit an act of injustice through the agency of human misery—and whether they win or lose, the ironmasters of Wales will find out that their crime is also a huge blunder that will tell on their future fortunes with staggering force.—*Bee Hive.*

LIFE IN A GREAT THREAD MILL.

A VISIT TO THE COATES ESTABLISHMENT, PAISLEY, SCOTLAND.

A lady correspondent of the *Missouri Republican* writes the following description of thread-making in a celebrated manufactory at Paisley, Scotland:—
 Yesterday I had the favor of being shown through Mr. Coates' mill by one of the sons, a junior partner in the firm. First saw the barch logs, six and eight inches diameter, which, after 12 or 18 months' seasoning, are hewn into blocks the length of the various spools; then these blocks were put under a circular saw which cuts biscuit from a flat, thin layer of dough. In the centre of the saw was a drill which made the aperture through the spool. A lathe, which hollowed out the middle for the thread, finished the process. The yarn is bought on the bobbins, then reeled on large spools and doubled and twisted. For the three cord thread one process is sufficient, but for the six cord, three double cords are first made, all twisted one way, then these

are laid together and twisted the opposite way. After the twisting the thread is reeled into skeins and bleached or dyed, and then wound on the spools. Over 1,000 girls are employed and 300 or 400 men.

America uses half their thread, and now they have learned that they can supply the American demand with better profit from American manufacture. Three years since they established a mill at Pawtucket, Rhode Island. They send English yarn and have it twisted and wound by American girls, and find that the difference in the labor is not equal to the difference between the *ad valorem* duty upon finished thread and raw yarn. The working hours for the girls are from six to six, with an hour, from nine to ten, for breakfast, and from two to three for dinner. In many of the processes of reeling and doubling the girls find it necessary to bring their toes as well as their fingers into service, and I was astonished at the intelligent discipline they had subjected them to. The shoes and stockings are on in a minute, when the work ceases, and then the girls rush off for their meals with bare heads. Bonnets have only a religious use, and on Sunday the girls sacredly obey the injunction not to appear with uncovered heads, but at other times no girl could stand the ridicule attending upon wearing a bonnet. I believe this is the habit of factory girls throughout Scotland, for I have seen the bare-headed troupes in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Aberdeen. When I came up to the girls, who were labelling the spools, the rapidity with which they drew the wet labels from their mouths seemed to me like a conjurer's trick. There was no end to the stream they threw out, but it was some time before I could discover that they went in from one hand as fast as they came out the other. These girls keep up this steady draft upon the salivary glands for ten hours in each day for year after year. I am sure tobacco chewers will be glad to learn that there is no deterioration of health as a result, for they have evidently been grievously maligned by hygienic prattlers on the ruinous effect of wasting saliva.

THE HUMAN EAR.

Prof. Tyndall concluded one of his recent lectures by giving a minute description of the human ear. He explained how the external orifice of the ear is closed at the bottom by a circular tympanic membrane, behind which is called the drum; the drum is separated from the brain by two orifices, the one round, the other oval. These orifices are closed by fine membranes. Across the cavity of the drum stretches a series of four little bones, one of which acts as a hammer and another as an anvil. Behind the bony partition, which is pierced by the two orifices already mentioned, is the extraordinary organ called the labyrinth, filled with water; this organ is between that partition and the brain, and over its lining membrane the terminal fibres of the auditory nerve are distributed. There is an apparatus inside the labyrinth admirably adapted to these vibrations of the water, which corresponds to the rates of vibration of certain "bristles," of which the said apparatus consists. Finally there is in the labyrinth a wonderful organ, discovered by the Marchese Corti, which is to all appearance, a musical instrument, with its chords stretched as to accept vibrations of different periods and transmit them to nerve filaments which traverse the organ. Within the ears of men, and without their knowledge or contrivance, this lute of three thousand strings has existed for ages, accepting the music of the outer world, and rendering it fit for the reception of the brain. Each musical tremor which falls upon this organ selects from its tensioned fibres the one appropriate to its own pitch, and throws the fibre into unisonant vibration. And thus, no matter how complicated the motion of the external air may be, these microscopic strings can analyze it and reveal the constituents of which it is composed; at least, such are present views of those authorities who best understand the apparatus which transmits sonorous vibrations to the auditory nerve.

A BUSY TIME AHEAD.

Our French Canadian contemporary, the *Quebec Canadian*, has a lengthy editorial, calling attention to the many important public undertakings which will be in process of construction during the current year. The fact that so many public works will be built for years to come should certainly attract, as the *Canadian* points out, a large immigration into Canada. Our contemporary gives the following list as an illustration of the work before us:—

Canadian Pacific Railway	\$80,000,000
Intercolonial	8,000,000
Northern Colonization	3,000,000
North Shore	3,000,000
Ontario and Quebec	3,000,000
Levis and Kennebec	2,000,000
Shefford and Chambly	1,000,000
Welland Canal	4,000,000
Carillon and Grenville	900,000
Post Office at Montreal	200,000
Court-house at Quebec	100,000
	\$105,200,000

For Cards, Bill-heads, or Posters go to the WORKMAN Office, 124 Bay street. Book and Job Printing neatly, cheaply, and expeditiously executed at the WORKMAN Office.