

these little ones are left to pick up scraps of questionable knowledge, in the gutters and alleys of their neighbourhood, their future as citizens and Christians is fearfully jeopardized. And yet, forsooth, when we meet with waifs and strays, and city Arabs, and jail-birds, we turn round and rate the parents for neglect of duty.

While it must be remembered that a man's labor is his property, and that while he claims the right to sell just as much of that property as he thinks desirable, at the same time we must not forget that the purchaser has rights also. Surely he may say how much of this commodity he wants to buy. Again, when health and strength permit, or circumstances demand that a man should work more than eight hours per day, who can show a just reason why he should be prohibited from doing so? Would not this be fatal to the vaunted maxim of labor—"From each according to his strength, to each according to his needs"? Again, would not the reduction of hours increase the cost of production, and so increase the cost of living? But, on the other hand, the man who works seventeen, or eighteen, hours a day, displaces some other workman and compels him to

walk the streets. In this there is an argument for a reduction of hours, but there is another side to the question. By the employment of more laborers do you not create the contingency of a probable reduction of wages? In our judgment eight hours are quite sufficient for any man to work, and the British Government has recently recognized this, by making eight hours the official day in all the Government dockyards,—this, too, without any reduction in wages. And when we can persuade all employers to be as generous with their own interest, as these naval lords are with those of the nation and empire, well, we will rejoice!

Then there is the perplexing

PROBLEM OF THE UNEMPLOYED.

Three millions of wage-earners are said to be out of work, to-day, in Canada and the United States. At a low estimate each of these has two others depending upon him for food, clothes and home. Here, then, we have an appalling aggregate of nine millions of sufferers for want of work. Some of these, perhaps, would not work if work were offered to them. But if we deduct one-third on this account, there would still remain enough to make us shudder. The introduction of machinery may