

Laborer.

THE GLORY OF LABOR.

The brow of labor wears a wreath
Of honor, wrought by hands of love,
Where flowers shall triumph over death,
And ripen grow above.
When God shall call the toiler hence,
And crown him with the recompense,
Then shall all strains of mortal sense,
All imperfections, die.
And in their place
Shall sigh the grace
Of immortality.

When Toil makes Virtue's self his bride,
And walks the path where angels might
Together walk, all purified,
Without one fear of blight,
Then may the eyes of mortals see
How pure and heaven-like can be
Man's earthly glory, and how free
From wanton shame and sin:
Then may we learn
How brightly burn
The soul's great fire within.

The lowest creature of His hand
May work great ends; toil not in vain,
For every humble act is grand
If it be free from strain.
The selfish monarch on his throne,
Who calls all victor his own,
Though bought with curse and blood and grief,
Let no man emulate:
Virtue alone
Hath ever shown
Divinely pure and great.

Riches and high degree and power
Stamp not the value of the man.
They may but live a short, weak hour:
They only mark the clan.
But labor, if it be the right,
Though humble, in His equal sight
Is great as though it owned the might
Of crowns and wealth combined:
Its works, if pure,
Shall stand, endure,
Long as the immortal mind.

SHORTENING THE HOURS OF LABOR.

HON. GEO. BROWN'S CONSISTENCY.

We cannot refrain from re-producing in our columns an editorial which appeared in the *GLOBE* of September 20th, 1871, as we consider it places in a very fair light the question now being discussed from one end of the Dominion to the other. The article originally appeared in connection with the agitation for the shortening of the hours of labor of the iron-workers in Newcastle, Eng., and the same arguments used by the *GLOBE* in that case can be applied with equal force to the movement in Canada. We commend the article to the careful consideration of the workmen of Ontario, without attempting to explain how it is that precept and practice are so widely different with the editor of the *GLOBE* between September 20th, 1871, and the action of the same paper during the past two weeks.

"Everything goes to show that a question to be discussed and re-discussed till settled in a satisfactory manner is that of the hours of labor and the relationship subsisting between the employed and the employers. It may be a very difficult, perplexing matter to meddle with, but far above all the mere political complications of the hour, it rises significantly and grandly, and the longer it is pooh-poohed or ignored the more formidable and perplexing it will become. The working classes are every year growing in intelligence and in the knowledge of their importance and power, and while they are taking an ever-increasing living interest and part in the discussion of political and social problems, what they have specially at heart and what they are seeking with ever increasing eagerness and determination is exemption from the long hours of labor to which they are now and have long been subject. Political economists may tell them that supply and demand must regulate all that, and that any agitation on the subject is unphilosophical and ill-advised, but they will continue their agitation, and will urge that, whether unphilosophical or no, it is reasonable that they should have relaxation from their daily toil; time to enjoy themselves with their friends and families; an opportunity, however short, to improve mind and heart by reading and study; that in order to secure ends so reasonable as these, there should be a revival of the definition of what constitutes 'a day's work,' and that that revival should consist in substituting eight or nine hours for the ten or twelve usually understood as the reasonable limit of daily toil.

"In England, on the European continent, and here in America, the agitation over the hours of labor is of great extent and significance. Men may seek to underestimate its importance, and to scorn its power and claims, but that is merely a proof of their ignorance or their thoughtlessness. It is neither to be put down nor turned aside. It may be reasonable, or the reverse, but it is there, and is neither to be stamped out nor sneered at. The wide-spread strikes at present going on in England and elsewhere have all their origin in this desire to have shorter hours of labor, and though the struggle between employers and employed has for more than three months been very fierce about Newcastle and Sunderland, and though employers have done their best to 'put down' complainants and petitioners whom they would not even hear, the likelihood is all in favor of the working men eventually making good in those districts their point, and establishing for all trades paid by the day a nine, if not an eight hours' period of labor, as constituting what is technically called 'a day's work.'

"On this side of the Atlantic the agitation for the 'eight hours' day, as exemplified in the procession and meeting last Wednesday in New York, tells very significantly how things are trending. It is calculated that upwards of 25,000 men took part in that procession; and though that may be an over-statement of the numbers, yet everything shows that the proceedings were on a very formidable scale. Everything was conducted with the greatest propriety. On the banners of the procession were such messages as:

"Eight hours for labor; eight hours for sleep;
And eight for mental improvement."

"The procession was made up of workmen of all nationalities and all colours, and the greatest enthusiasm prevailed both during the passing of the different trades and in the subsequent mass meeting.

"All this must be taken as a sign of the times. Long hours of labor do not give a corresponding amount of production, and the time now generally required might be safely lessened to the advantage of all concerned. Whether the length of the day's labor should be eight, or nine, or ten hours, is a question of detail; but it and other trade questions will have to be settled eventually by argument, consultation, conference, mutual concession, and arbitration; not by the rough methods hitherto so much resorted to, of strikes and lock-outs, which have caused and are causing so much misery, loss, and heart-burnings. The sooner employers and employed come to see and act upon this the better for all concerned. If the work of the world can be done as well by eight hours' daily labour as by ten, or, possibly, even better, why shouldn't it? It is a fair subject of discussion."

MEMORIAL TO EMPLOYERS.

THE following memorial has been addressed by the members of the iron trades of this city to their employers, and we hope, for the credit of all concerned, that it will not receive the same discourteous reception that a similar request presented by the Typographical Union received at the hands of the "master printers;" but that the employers to whom the memorial may be sent will give it that serious consideration and attention which it merits. We understand that members of the other branches of industry will present a similar document to their employers in the course of a few days:—

Toronto, April 12th, 1872.

SIR,—We, your employees in..... shop, acting in accordance with the resolution unanimously adopted at a Mass Meeting,—lately held in the Music Hall, recommending the adoption of the NINE HOURS system of Labour, to commence on the first Monday of June, beg respectfully to request that you will recognize the justice of that recommendation, by establishing Nine Hours as a day's work, (54 hours a week,) in the above named shop; the same to come into operation on the First Week of June, 1872.

Considering the discussion that has taken place upon the merits of the Nine Hours' system, since it was agitated in this country, and the great success which has invariably attended its adoption in Britain, it would be unwise to enter into details in this note; suffice it to say, that all experience goes to show that its general adoption would prove beneficial to all concerned, and that your cordial acquiescence to this request would tend to advance your interests as an employer, increase the comfort and enjoyment of your employees, and promote that harmony and good will which ought to prevail in all sections of society.

Hoping you will give this your most serious consideration, and intimate the result to the undersigned not later than the First of May,

On behalf of your employees,
Yours respectfully,
(Signed)

ON LABOR.

Painful as it must be to think of a number of fellow-creatures toiling early and late, labor has yet its own claims on our gratitude.

Labor seems to be man's appointed lot here, and it is foolish to quarrel with it; still more foolish to call it a curse; the thistles and thorns have been, and perhaps are, of more benefit than all the flowers in the garden of Eden. They have called forth man's energies and developed his resources. All these chimneys in our factory towns—are they not as steeples, veritable churches and towers of the great temple of Labor, pointing with no dumb stone fingers up to Heaven, saying, by us, by labor, is the road up here? Does not the flame and smoke-wreath look as if it came from some vast altar, the incense of sacrifices—yes, of noble, human sacrifices, daily offered up; and do not the clash and clang of a thousand hammers and anvils sound sweet upon our ears, as the music of bells calling us to our duty—trumpets sounding us to the battle of life, that battle against evil and wrong? So it must be; out of darkness cometh light, and from the cold frosts and bitter snows of winter, bloom all the beautiful flowers of spring; and from all this grime, dirt, and sweat of labor, who shall prophesy that there are not the giants in the land; even now may we see cranks, and wheels, and iron arms, tethered to their work instead of men; even now we do hear the music of the electric wires across the fields, telling us other things than the mere messages they convey; even now may the hum of the engine and the breath of its iron lungs, be heard in our old farm yards, and the reaping machines seen cutting down the golden wheat, and the steam plough furrowing up the fruitful earth, taking away the heaviest burdens from the backs of men.—*Westminster Review.*

SWISS LABOR.

Switzerland, according to a recent tourist, is the Paradise of Labor. There the employers and wealthier classes follow out that maxim of "Live and let live," which is so often paraded in England and other countries, but so seldom practised. Almost all the inhabitants are engaged in some species of industry or other, only three per cent. of the population being unemployed. The masters, or employers, content themselves with a moderate return for their capital, hence the journeymen are well paid, and both politically and socially they are on terms of equality. A Swiss journeyman almost invariably has a small patch of land attached to his cottage, and he cultivates it with the most sedulous care. The agriculturist, on the other hand, spends much of his winter and spare time in watch-making, wood-carving or some useful branch of industry. All are opposed to that system of centralization which

finds so much favor with our authorities at Washington, and, as for their President, they not only select an honest man, but take care that he shall keep so.

Disputes seldom occur betwixt Swiss operatives and their employers, and when they do, are almost invariably settled by arbitration; the system of *Conseils de Prudhommes*, or boards of conciliation, being more in vogue amongst them than even in France, where they took their rise. The principle of co-operation is also more general amongst them, and has flourished better than in any other part of Europe. Their common schools are excellent, and the children of all classes meet in them on terms of absolute equality. The only thing, in fact, which prevents Switzerland from being a modern Utopia is that its inhabitants are too content with a low scale of living, and are too much addicted to undercutting their neighbors. Their work is thus apt to be superficial. A Swiss watch, for instance, is neat, but far inferior to a Parisian in point of elegance, while in reliability and durability it is much surpassed by a Danish or English. Still Switzerland, on the whole, is one of the most interesting and happy of existing countries, and it is no wonder that its natives, in whatever quarter of the world they may be, sigh to return to their original homes.—*N. Y. Weekly Star.*

THE "GLOBE" ON CANADIAN EMPLOYERS.

RECENTLY, in an editorial article referring to employers of labour, the Toronto *GLOBE* uttered the following truths:—

"To an extent far greater than many suspect, there is a feeling of bitter alienation from Britain and Britain's ways on the part of not a few of our well-to-do Canadians. * * * Not from any abstract dislike to British connexion or Monarchy, but simply because their memories of Britain have been embittered by long and thankless servitude, during which they were not so much thought of by their masters and mistresses as the cows they milked or the horses they drove. And there is more of the same kind of treatment on this side the Atlantic than many are willing to admit. A good number have greatly improved in their outward circumstances and are able to employ servants now though they never were before. These are not found to be the most considerate and kindest of employers. The very reverse. On the contrary, many of these new and vulgar rich are intolerable in their airs and requirements, while others try to persuade themselves that they are still in the old country, and what was thought good enough for servants there is good enough here.

Had the writer of the above intended the latter sentences to apply especially to Mr. George Brown, and many of the master printers, and other employers, who are opposing the Nine-hour movement, he could not have chosen more fitting terms.

LABOR, THE CREATOR OF WEALTH. ENTITLED TO ALL IT CREATES.

(From the National Standard.)

The man who, with his hands, digs claims out of the seashore, or, climbing a tree, gathers apples, or one who fashions a box out of hard wood, is a pure, simple laborer, and is entitled to what he gets or makes. The man who makes such a box one day, and working with it the next day, digs twice as many claims as when he used his hands alone, is capitalist and laborer united. He works with a tool, which is capital, the result of past labor. He, too, is an honest laborer, and entitled to all he gets. The man who works a week, and makes ten such boxes; then joins nine less skilled men with himself, and they, the ten, share fairly the product of his hoes and their toil, introduces co-operation and a just civilization; a system which seems to hold within itself every possible safeguard against misuse, and to be full of the seeds of all good results. The man who, having made such a hoe, lets it to another less skilled man to dig claims, receiving an equivalent for its use, is a capitalist. Such a system has no inherent, essential injustice in it, and, if it can be properly arranged and guarded, serves civilization. The difficulty is to guard it from degenerating into despotism and fraud. The man who, getting possession of a thousand such hoes, sits with idle hands, and no mental effort but selfish cunning, and arranges a cunning network of laws and corporations, banks and currency, interest and "corners," to get seven out of every ten claims that are dug, is a drone. We mean by an honest system to starve him out and compel him to work. The man who sits in Wall street, and by means of bank credit buys up all last year's claims to raise the price—who, taking fifty thousand honestly earned dollars, makes a "Clam Digging Company"—bribes newspapers to lie about it—creates ten banks and locks up gold, or arranges a corner to depress its stock,—then buys up every share—makes ten more banks and floods the land with paper and sells out; retiring after a week of such labor with a fortune is a THIEF. Such thieves of the past we propose to leave undisturbed. Our plan is to make such thieves impossible in the future.—*WENDELL PHILLIPS.*

THE FIRESIDE.

It is as the focus of home fellowship and intercourse that we speak of the fireside—as the spot consecrated to the freest action and utterance of family sympathies and affections—where conjugal, parental, fraternal, and filial anxieties, hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, loves, resentments, confessions, forgiveness, are wont to be exchanged. There is no other place in which can be realized more thoroughly the weaving into one of several lives, each imparting and each receiving something from the rest. No other is so sacred to the memory of those who have been summoned thence into the wide world, who are, perhaps, afar off, or on the sea, or doing their allotted work amongst strangers, or removed to those more inaccessible shores where "the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary be at rest." Elsewhere the absent may be forgotten, but seldom, for long together, at the fireside. It is crowded with associations which touch the heart at some point or other of its surface, and make it thrill with affectionate emotion, in which every member of the family gathered round the hearth can take an appropriate share. No lessons leave a more abiding impression than those

which gently drop into the mind at the fireside. No fun is more tickling, or leaves behind it less regret. No history is purer, as a whole, than fireside history, and none lives longer or more lovingly in remembrance. He who cannot look forward with yearning desires to fireside enjoyments, as the staple enjoyment of life, is greatly to be pitied, and, if the cause be in himself, greatly to be blamed.

INVENTIONS MADE BY WORKMEN.—WHO OWNS THEM?

The rights of employer and employee, in respect to ownership of inventions, developed during the term of service of the workman, although settled, years ago, by the United States Courts, in various cases, has been lately revived in the Supreme Court, in the case of *Lawrence vs. Good*.

The latter was a foreman in the rope factory of the plaintiff, and, while so employed, made an improvement and obtained a patent for converting hemp into slivers. The patent was said to be worth at least fifty thousand dollars.

The plaintiff alleged the existence of an agreement, by which he was to furnish means for introducing the invention, and, in consideration thereof, was to be entitled to one-half of the patent when issued. This suit was brought to compel the defendant to assign the above share of the patent; and the plaintiff also contended that, even in the absence of an agreement, he was entitled to the benefits of the invention, the same having been made while the defendant was in his employ as a workman, the improvement being also in the line of such employ.

The Court decided that, while the plaintiff had a legal right to the services of the defendant in the line of his employment, he had no legal right to the results of defendant's intellectual labors, outside his ordinary duties; and that this invention was clearly outside of such duties.

This decision is in accordance with the rulings in previous cases, in which the following, among other points, have been established:

1. The employer is entitled to the patent, if he directs a workman, generally, what kind of an improvement to make; and the employer has the right to avail himself of the ingenuity and mechanical skill of the workman to perfect the invention or put it in practical form; and the employer has also the right, under the circumstances named, to include in his patent such additions or improvements as the ingenuity or skill of the workman may have developed or suggested.

2. On the other hand, the employer has no claim upon any independent invention made by his workman, although such invention may relate to the special business or trade in which he is engaged; the sole right to the patent for such independent invention belongs to the workman.

Complaint is made by employers, that some workmen are so mean as to make use of time, materials, and shop conveniences, belonging to the employer, for the purpose of testing inventions, without so much as a thank-you for the facilities thus surreptitiously obtained. This is neither right nor honorable; but it is not any meaner than for an employer to bring a suit, as in the foregoing case, and attempt to deprive a man of a patent simply because he is a workman.

THE FUTURE OF LABOR.

Passing through Rhode Island last Tuesday, we were made acquainted with facts which seem worthy of general consideration.

The rock of this part of the Atlantic coast, being mainly granite, affords fine quarries: one of which, at Westerly, has been extensively worked; the stone-cutters being paid \$42 per day. They had a protective society, one of whose regulations forbade the employment of more than a very limited proportion of apprentices—six, we believe, to every 100 journeymen. The employers were dissatisfied with this, and at length, in the dead of winter, disregarded it; whereupon the journeymen "struck," as was probably foreseen: since the employers collected such help as they could find, and went on with their work as they best could.

So far, we have the "old, old story"; but the next step, we cast a new order of things. Instead of idling for weeks or months, lounging around grog-shops, and cursing the tyranny of capital, the journeymen promptly formed a co-operative stone-cutting association, subscribed to its stock, elected officers, bought or leased a quarry, and resumed work on their own account; and we rode into Providence in company with their agent or treasurer, a good specimen of an intelligent, thrifty, wide-awake American artisan, who was taking down specimens of their workmanship, in the hope of obtaining orders that would enable them to keep their hammers going and their hearth-fires burning. And now, if anyone happens to be in want of granite, we venture to advise him to run over to Westerly, and confer with the proper officers of the Co-operative Stone-cutters' Association.

We should be glad to chronicle a similar outcome of any strike that may hereafter be resolved on. We hate wars of any kind; and strikes are simply declarations of industrial war. When a body of American workmen refuse the wages offered them and thereupon sink into idleness or stolid waiting for the bosses to give in, they seem to justify a low estimate of their general capacity. But when those who strike to-day contrive to set themselves at work to-morrow—no matter though they earn less than they were offered by their late bosses—we regard them with lively hope. Adam, expelled from Eden, did not sit down and starve because there was no one ready to hire him on his terms; on the contrary, he went to work; and we commend his inspiring example to all his descendants.—*N. Y. Tribune.*

THE WORKINGMEN'S VOICE ON THE NORMAL WORKING DAY.

TO THE EMPLOYER:—The article I sold you—my own working power—differs from the other crowd of goods by its use producing value, and GREATER value than its own cost. For this reason you bought it. What appears on your side as a profitable investment of capital, that is on my side a surplus expenditure of working power. You and I, we both know in the market but one law, that of exchange, and the use (consumption) of the article does not belong to the seller offering it, but to the purchaser acquiring it. The use of my daily power of work therefore belongs to you, but by means of its daily selling price, I must be able to reproduce it daily, and so to sell it anew. Without regard to the natural process of wearing out by age, &c., I must be able to work to-

morrow in the same normal state of strength, health and freshness as to-day. You constantly hold forth to me the gospel of economy and continence. Very well. Like a rational, prudent husbandman, I shall economize my only WEALTH, my power of work; and I shall abstain from foolishly wasting it. I shall turn to use, put in motion, convert into labor only so much of it daily, as is compatible with its normal durability and healthy development. By an excessive prolongation of the working-day, you can consume a greater portion of my working-power in one day than I can restore in three days. Thus your gain in labor is my loss in labor-substance. The use of my power of work and robbing me of it are two entirely different things. If the average period an average workman may live, with a rational limitation of work, is 30 years, the value of my working power, you may pay me from day-to-day is 1-305x30 or 1-10950 of its total value. But if you consume it within 10 years, you pay me only 1/10 of its value daily, and you defraud me daily of 9/10 of its value. You pay me one day's power of work, then and whilst using three days' amount. That is against our agreement and against the law of exchange. Therefore, I demand a working day of normal length, and I demand it without appealing to your feelings, because money matters are not matters of affection, and business is soulless. You may be a model citizen, perhaps a member of the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, you may even have the scent of sanctity and piety, but no heart beats in the bosom of the thing you represent toward me. What seems to be pulsating therein is MY OWN HEART'S BEAT. I demand the normal working day, because I demand the value of my article like every other dealer.—From the "*Kapital*," by Karl Marx.

THE NINE-HOUR MOVEMENT IN CANADA.

The Nine-hour movement is making considerable progress in the Canadian provinces, notwithstanding the fact that it has met with the most determined opposition from the conservative element—the old fogey folk, who would fain keep the workingman of to-day in the same position which his great-grandfather occupied years ago, ere steam and electricity had leveled down and smoothed over the mighty barriers that obstructed the onward march of Progress. Throughout the principal cities and towns of the Dominion the Nine-hour movement is talked over and the prospects canvassed wherever the workmen congregate, and the question is discussed with a zeal which must lead to beneficial results. Despite the counter opposition on the part of the manufacturers, builders, &c., of Hamilton, the organized workmen of that city have achieved an exemplary success, while Toronto is all aglow with excitement as to the result of the movement in that city. The "Toronto Iron Short Time League" is the name of a powerful combination organized during the past week, for the same purpose. At a mass-meeting, whereat the latter body was organized, the Chairman, a Mr. James Gibson, of the Society of Amalgamated Engineers, said in his opening address that the Nine-hour system was generally in force throughout England, and he saw no reason why it should not be introduced there; there was a Technological College in process of organization in Toronto, and he felt that unless the Nine-hour system prevailed, that the mechanics of the city, for whose benefit the College is about to be established, would not be able to avail themselves of its advantages. Mr. Gibson's logic is irrefutable on this point; mechanics who have to work too many hours per day, cannot possibly devote their evenings to hard study with any degree of success, and there is no doubt whatever but that the workmen, who are only expected to work eight or nine hours at most, would avail themselves of the opportunities which such colleges would afford them for their own improvement and intellectual advancement.

The Nine-hour movement, although it does not quite come up to our ideas of reform—we approve of the Eight-hour system—is still a praiseworthy effort, decidedly "a step in the right direction," and, as such, its supporters and projectors have our warmest sympathies.—*N. Y. Weekly Star.*

A THRILLING WAR SCENE.

Out in a certain western fort, some time ago, the major conceived the idea that artillery might be used effectively in fighting with the Indians, by dispensing with gun-carriages and fastening the cannon upon backs of mules. So he explained his views to the commandant, and it was determined to try the experiment. A howitzer was selected and strapped upon an ambulance-mule, with the muzzle pointing towards the tail. When they had secured the gun, and loaded it with ball-cartridge, they let that calm and steadfast mule out on the bluff, and set up a target in the middle of the river to practice at. The rear of the mule was turned towards the target, and he was backed gently up to the edge of the bluff. The officers stood round in a semi-circle, while the major inserted a time fuse in the touch-hole of the howitzer. When the fuse was ready, the major lit it and retired. In a moment or two the hitherto untroubled mule heard the fizzing back there on his neck, and it made him uneasy. He reached his head round to ascertain what was going on; and, as he did so, his body turned, and the howitzer began to sweep around the horizon. The mule at last became excited, and his anxiety grew more and more intense; and in a second or two he was standing with his four legs in a bunch, making six revolutions a minute, and the howitzer, understanding, threatening sudden death to every man within half a mile. The commandant was observed to climb suddenly up a tree; the lieutenants were seen sliding over the bluff into the river, as if they didn't care at all about the high price of uniforms; the adjutant made good time towards the fort; the sergeant began to throw up breastworks with his bayonet; and the major rolled over the ground and groaned. In two or three minutes there was a puff of smoke, a dull thud, and the mule—oh! where was he? A solitary jackass might have been seen turning successive back-somersaults over the bluff, only to rest at anchor, finally, with his howitzer, at the bottom of the river; while the ball went off toward the fort, hit the chimney in the major's quarters, rattled the adobe bricks down into the park, and frightened the major's wife into convulsions. They do not allude to it now, and report of the results of the experiment ever sent to the war department.

LABOR creates; interest steals; capital controls and pocket. A few thrive; the rest suffer.