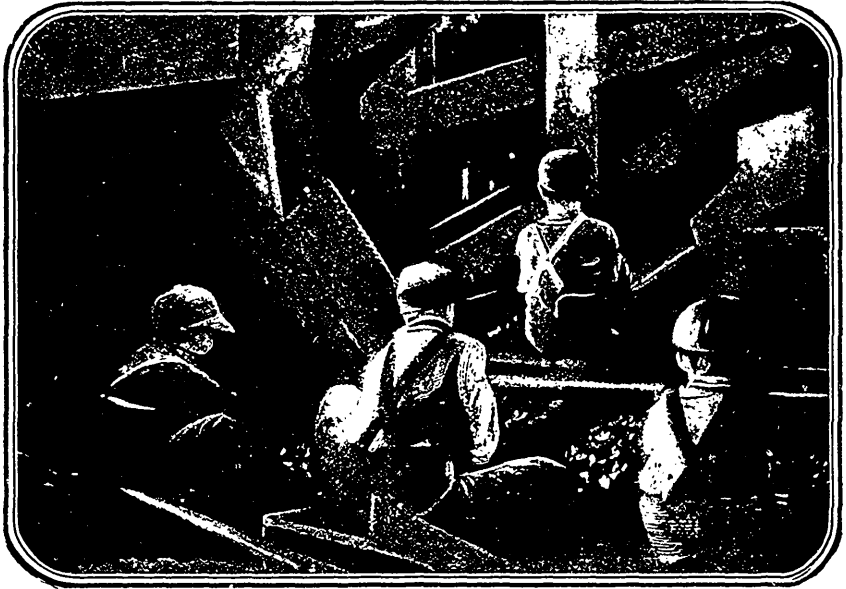


# Methodist Magazine and Review.

DECEMBER, 1906.

## CHILD SLAVERY.\*

BY EDWIN MARKHAM.



CHILD TOILERS IN THE BUNKERS OF A COAL MINE.



**I**N ancient Sparta every man felt himself responsible for the welfare of every child in the community. Had we in the United States such consideration for the good of the race as stern old Sparta cherished in her flinty constitution, we would tear out of our civilization the cruel and wasteful fungus of child-labor, a fungus that destroys the present and threatens the future.

Two and a half millions of children under fifteen years of age are now at long and exhausting work in the offices, shops, mills, and mines of the Republic. In Pennsylvania alone there are at least one hundred different kinds of work at which children are employed; and, unhappily, it is into the cheap and dangerous work that the children always swarm. They are doubled over the coal-breakers, breathing black coal-dust; they are racked in the cotton-mills, breathing damp lint; they are strained in furniture factories, breathing sawdust; they are parceled in glass

\* Abridged from the *Cosmopolitan Magazine*.  
Vol. LXIV. No. 6.