

respects. Living is cheap, and they never care, therefore, to live in a place that does not suit them. If in circumstances where they cannot, or dare not leave, and they are dissatisfied with either their work or their treatment, they are apt to become sulky and very impracticable. They are fond of a sort of gossiping relaxation, and will often leave off for a few minutes in the middle of their work, however well disposed to do it fairly, while they smoke and chatter. Their own people, who may be supposed to know by practical experience, how they may best get a good day's work for their wages, do not attempt to prevent this unless the license is much abused, when a sense of justice among the workmen would not be wanting to give effect to the master's remonstrance, or threat of applying a remedy.

The Chinese labourers are fond of holidays, and manage, in their own country, to make a good many. They spend much of their spare time in tea-shops; and wherever they may be in any number, it would be essential, I conceive, to establish some, where they could resort, drink their national beverage, gossip away their leisure time, and get, if desired, their frugal meal of rice and vegetables. They have the great advantage of being a very temperate race; and, upon the whole, are very easily contented, if well and discreetly treated, with some regard to their national habits and customs.