

HOURS OF LABOR.

Speaking about the hours of labor, apropos of the eight hour furor, a writer in the June number of *Old and New* says that the various classes of thinkers would be glad enough if they could limit their long-continued work to some shorter period; editors of newspapers, newsgatherers, book-makers, lawyers; ministers, with sermons to write, schools to examine, people to visit, funerals to attend; physicians, with the anxieties of endangered families upon their hearts, and the lives of patients in their hands, called up at any hour of the night—called to attend the day-laborer and his family at any hour, and to stay with them any length of time—kept up all day long, catching hasty and uncomfortable sleep; school-teachers, who, after six hours' hard brain-work, and heart-work, and severest trials of temper, study many hours more to learn what others have thought or have learned in regard to the best way of instruction. Can these, he asks accomplish their work if their time is limited to eight hours a day? But his greatest point is when he speaks of the eight-hour plan as fitted to household labor, saying that "it would be a shame for Michael, the hod-carrier, to demand that his wife should work sixteen hours a day, and be only half the time. How shall it be? Shall she get up in the morning, winter's morning, at six o'clock, make the fire, put on the tea-kettle, get breakfast, beginning a couple of hours before his day's work begins, give the children their breakfast, get their faces washed, their clothes made tidy, and send them off to school, and keep at washing dishes, cleaning house, getting meals, mending the holes in her husband's pockets, in Norah's frock, and Dennis's trousers, and so on all day; and at evening when Michael slips off for a stroll, with his pipe in his mouth, keep on at the same work as long as her strength will allow, till eight o'clock, nine, ten at night, or later? And is all this right, with only eight hours for the man? Or shall we limit woman's work to eight hours also? Tea-kettle on at eight in the morning, breakfast at nine or ten, novel-reading or the *Sorosis* from twelve to two, dinner ready at about four, tea at six, and the dishes left for washing till next morning; the evening spent at the opera, and Michael's, Dennis's, and Norah's mending left till next week. "Woman's work is never done," but the Labor Reformers surely will not limit themselves to the thought of Michael alone; they'll think of Maggie as much. If they limit woman's labor in the printing-office, book-binding, wallet-shop, shirt and collar establishments, and dry goods and fancy stores to eight hours, they will not let the dear mother of these poor girls slave all day, and half of the night too, will they? No. Eight hours is enough for house-work, if enough for street-work, shop-work, manufactories. Eight hours for women as well as eight hours for men." *Waverley Magazine*.

THE PICTURESQUENESS OF LABOR.

T. W. Higginson, in the *Atlantic Monthly*, in a eulogy on labor, says that "man himself is graceful in his unconscious and direct employments; the poise of a fisherman, for instance, the play of his arm, the cast of his line or net—these take the eye as do the stealthy movements of the hunter, the fine attitudes of the wood-chopper, the grasp of the sailor on the helm. A hay-stack and a boat are always picturesque objects, and so are the men who are at work to build or use them. Noisier stake-net, glistening in the morning light—the innumerable meshes drooping in soft arches from the high stakes, and the line of floats stretching shoreward, like tiny stepping-stones; two or three row-boats are gathered around it, with fishermen in red or blue shirts, while one white sail boat hovers near. And I have looked down on our beach in spring, at sunset, and watched them drawing nets for the young herring, when the rough men looked as graceful as the nets they drew, and the horsemen who directed might have been Redgauntlet on the Solway Sands."

NECESSITY.

We call necessity the mother of invention, but wonder why this particular mother does not show some clear way for every member to get to the place of duty when they are especially demanded. "Labor to keep alive in your breast that little spark of celestial fire, conscience," was one of the many maxims which Washington framed or copied for his own use when a boy. "His rigid adherence to principle, his steadfast discharge of duty, his utter abandonment of self, his unreserved devotion to whatever interests were committed to his care, attest the vigilance with which he obeyed that maxim." That spark was kept alive by him, and he made it shine forth as a star to be followed by all men and all nations. He kindled it into a flame which made glorious his whole life. No occasion was so momentous, no circumstance so minute, as to make him for a moment depart from the path lighted by its rays.

It is a popular saying, that every young American is working with the aim that he may some day be the President of the United States. Why not adopt that same motto that led our Washington to be called the "Father of his Country" as well as its President. We never heard of a wise, good and useful man who did not have some determination of purpose—some high aim towards which he ever strove, and which he reached when he shone forth

as one of the world's stars. Every degree of eminence is reached by effort after effort being made, and none was ever known to shine forth from the depths of ignorance and inaction. The human intellect is so constituted that it can only grow by its own action and free will, and by them it will certainly grow. Every man must educate himself; he may have helpers, but the work is his. An educated man has the ability to summon, in an emergency, all his mental powers in vigorous exercise to effect his proposed object; and it is only he who depends upon self-discipline that can do this.

"No man ever made an ill figure who understood his own talents, nor a good one who mistook them." We do not so often fail in the pursuits of life for lack of ability, as for want of study of the power of our minds. A moderate gift of intellect, well directed, will accomplish more than an indiscreet application of the most brilliant qualifications. We should, therefore, study ourselves, and aim to find out the average talent we possess, and by trying to make the best use of them, we can hardly fail to make a good figure in the world, and besides this we shall have the consciousness of being among those who live not in vain.

"Spare moments are the gold-dust of time." Then let us fill up the little spaces of life with something that will make its record glitter. Time is a priceless gift of God to humanity, and we should weigh well not only its minutes but its seconds. If we copy after Nature's great plan, we shall learn that not a moment need be unemployed. Our duty to our Creator, the employment of our talents, and the giving of charity to those less favored than ourselves, will call for our whole life. We cannot estimate the true value of hours and minutes, but we can compare it to the gathering of particles of gold, which, when collected, become valuable. So if we expect to be the happy reapers of the fruits of well-spent time, we must faithfully garner and cluster time's golden fragments. As the minute particles of gold-dust glitter in the sun, so shall our little acts shine forth at the scrutiny of a still Greater Power.

THE VICTORY OF LABOR.

How will the workingmen vindicate their positions and maintain themselves? They have claimed that the reduction of their hours of daily labor from ten to eight, would result in the use of the two hours gained for their employers for intellectual and social improvement. They have argued that their wages should not be lessened with the lessening of their hours of work, since they would do as much in eight hours as they had wearily plodded through in the exhausting ten. Well; they have skillfully taken advantage of the employers' necessities, and by sagacious combined action seem to have won. There are few masters in any branch of manufacture who resist the movement; and there is little positive, energetic combination among manufacturers to oppose the reduction demanded by the journeymen. The initial strike of the carpenters was short and completely successful; and of the score of unions of other trades which followed the example, nine tenths have obtained what they asked. Do they realize what obligations their success imposes?

We do not enter upon the theories. A surplus of labor is considered in many of the trades, by manufacturer as well as journeyman, not wholly an unmixed good. It happens often that an excess of productions is greatly to the disadvantage of the manufacturer, whose prices are thereby affected injuriously, as well as to the journeyman, who is sometimes discharged for the purpose of reducing the production and to sustain prices. The supply of labor has been greatly augmented of late years by improvement in machinery, and a reduction of labor hours practically helps, in some measure, to relieve the trades and the journeymen from the evil results of the tendency to over production. A journeyman cannot do as much in eight hours as in ten, and any one who accepts this declaration, which is just now frequently heard and read in its literal sense, believes an absurdity. But it is plausibly urged that a good journeyman of average intelligence can produce, to-day, with the advantages of the improved machinery and additional knowledge he has acquired, as much in eight hours as he did five years ago in ten.

Whatever difference, however there may be as to the result of the strike, all must rejoice over the manner in which it has been conducted. There was no violence of act, and little of language; non-society men have not been driven from the work they choose individually to continue at, indifferent to the general interest; there has been no bitter denunciation of the employers as the natural enemies of the employed; and, happily, there has been heard nothing of the old cant or drivell about the antagonism of Labor and Capital. These facts, and more particularly this latter one, give us the greatest hope of the movement, and fullest assurance that the hours gained by the workingmen will be well and wisely improved. They have demanded this reduction as a right of labor, and have had it conceded them by the employers in the general belief that mutual benefit would arise. It is incumbent upon the journeymen, therefore, to demonstrate, as we trust they can and will, their higher right, socially and mentally, to these conceded hours of relaxation. Let them show that to nine-tenths—we trust to ninety-nine hundredths of journeymen—these hours will be in every sense blessed relief, giving renewed strength and higher culture, from both of which must

come larger production and superior workman-ship. And last, but chiefest of all considerations, let these two hours gained serve to enlarge and improve their home-life. So may they vindicate the arguments on which they have preferred and won their claim; so only may they make their triumph permanent.—*N. Y. Tribune*.

MONARCHISM.

The late speech of Mr. Disraeli at Manchester sets effectually at rest, for many years at least, the question of the relative cost of the monarchy of England and the Democracy of the United States. Over and over again has it been stated by the advocates of Republicanism, that the cost of the English monarchy was intolerably oppressive; and that the working of their system was light and insignificant. These statements have been believed by the masses. The knowing, thinking and investigating portion of mankind, have been, however, convinced long since that the very reverse was the case. Mr. Disraeli has taken the pains to go into figures, and a synopsis of his results we give below respecting the relative cost of the working of the two governments. That statesman remarked in his speech at Manchester:—

"There are independent States in the United States, each with a Sovereign Legislature. Besides these, there is a Confederation of States to conduct their external affairs, which consists of a House of Representatives and a Senate. There are 285 members in the former and 74 in the latter, making altogether 359 members of Congress. Now, each member of Congress receives £1,000 sterling per annum. In addition to this, he receives an allowance called "mileage," the aggregate of which is about £30,000 per annum. That makes £389,000—almost the exact amount of the Civil List. Every member of every Legislature in the 37 States is also paid. There are some 5,010 members of State Legislatures, who receive about \$360 per annum each, making \$1,753,000 or £350,700 sterling a year. The immediate expenditure for the Sovereignty of the United States is, therefore, between £700,000 and £800,000 a year."

Thus the cost of working "the model government" is shown to be about double what the charges to the people of England are for the entire expense of maintaining the Royal family, and managing all their State affairs. In a monetary point of view, then, Republicanism is, and must be condemned in England. Nor has the model Republic anything to recommend it in reference to its ability to present and perpetuate peace, virtue and good order among its inhabitants. Some of the American writers themselves are becoming disgusted with this everlasting Yankee swag-ger. In reference to the great effort that is to be made to celebrate the hundredth year of their "Independence," the *New York Tribune* asks:—

"What part of the exposition is to be set apart for the exhibition of the working of republican freedom in South Carolina? Where will the Ku-Klux find a place? Or the Oneida Free Lovers? Will they stand as specimens of pure domestic life? Or the Emancipated Women? Or Brigham Young and his eighty wives? All these items need a very careful sifting before the eyes of the world are drawn by self-satisfied clamor towards a national system which in truth had better sit silent and ashamed until it be radically reformed."

Then, again, it is to be remembered that in England, at half the cost, there is perpetuity in reference to the chief ruler. The quinquennial election for President in the United States entails upon the nation incalculable additional expense—besides the turmoil, agitation, corruption and change; change almost from the highest officials in the land to the lowest, on the commencement of every new Presidency. Every Post Master and Tide Waiter shakes in his shoes, when a new President is appointed, if he is not of the same school of politics with himself. What England seems not now to have discovered we in Canada have always believed. United States Republicanism has no charms for Canadians.

AMERICAN WONDERS.

Silver Spring, Florida, says an exchange, is one of the greatest curiosities in the South. It bursts forth in the midst of the most fertile county in the State; it bubbles up in a basin nearly one hundred feet deep, and about an acre in extent, and sends from it a deep stream sixty to one hundred feet wide, and extending six to eight miles to the Acklawawaha River.

In the spring itself fifty boats may lie at anchor—quite a fleet. The spring thus forms a natural inland port, to which three steamers now run regularly from the St. John's, making close connections with the ocean steamers at Palatka.

The clearness of the water is truly wonderful. It seems to be more transparent than air; you see the bottom eighty feet below the bottom of your boat—the exact form of the smallest pebble, the outline and color of the leaf that has sunk, and all the prismatic colors of the rainbow are reflected.

Large fish swim in it, every scale visible, and every movement distinctly seen. If you go over the spring in a boat you will see the fissure in the rocks, from which the river pours up like an inverted cataract.

STOP THE INTEREST.

Daniel Webster once dined with an old Boston merchant, and when they came to the wine, a dusty old bottle was carefully decanted by Peter and passed to the host. Taking the bottle he poured out Mr. Webster's glass and handed it to him. Then pouring another for himself he held it up to the light, and said, "How do you like it Mr. Webster?" "I think it a fine specimen of old Port," said the host. "Surely not," said Mr. Webster, "I only know that it is excellent." "Well now I can tell you, for I made a careful estimate the other day. When I add the interest to the first price, I find that it cost me the sum of just one dollar and twenty-five cents per glass!" "Good gracious! you don't say so," said Mr. Webster; and then draining his glass he hastily presented it again with the remark, "Fill up as quick as you can, for I want to stop that miserable interest."

LOWEST TYPE OF HUMANITY.

On the island of Borneo has been found a certain race of wild creatures, of which kindred varieties have been discovered in the Philippine Islands, in Terra del Fuego and in South America. They walk usually, almost erect on two legs, and in that attitude measure about four feet in height. They are dark, wrinkled and hairy. They construct no habitation, form no families, scarcely associate together, sleep in caves and trees, feed on snakes and vermin, on ants' eggs, and on each other. They cannot be tamed or forced to any labor, and are hunted and shot among the trees like the great gorilla, of which they are a stunted copy. When they are captured alive, one finds with surprise that their uncouth jabbering sounds like articulate language. They turn up a human face to gaze at their captors, and the females show instincts of modesty; and, in fine, these wretched beings are men.

Sawdust and Chips.

Dolly Varden neckties for gentlemen have appeared. Well, a Dolly Varden around one's neck isn't bad to take.

"What are you doing there?" said a grocer to a fellow who was stealing his lard. "I am getting fat," was the reply.

They are growing a new variety of grape in Waterbury, Conn., and the editor of the *American* says that the skins are useful for umbrella covers.

A widow being cautioned by her minister about flirting, said that she knew it was wrong for unmarried ladies to flirt, but the Bible said "widow's mite."

A drummer went mad at Indianapolis lately, and puzzled his employer in New York by telegraphing to send on immediately one barrel condensed beef, thirteen steamboats, one medium white elephant, and ten gross of June bugs (assorted).

"Boys," said a school teacher the other day, "what is the meaning of all this noise in school?" "It's Bill Smith, sir, who is imitating a locomotive." "Come up here, William," said the teacher, "if you are turned into a locomotive, it is high time you were switched off."

A KIND HUSBAND.—An Arkansas husband pursued his runaway wife nearly two hundred miles, and when he overtook the terrified fugitive, it was found that he wanted to hand her a set of false teeth, which, in the excitement of her flight, she had forgotten to take with her.

"Tatoes!" cried a darkey peeller in Richmond. "Hush dat racket—you distract de whole neighborhood," came from a colored woman in a doorway. "You kin hear me, kin you?" "Hear you! I kin hear you a mile." "Thank God for dat—I's hollowin' to be heard. 'Tatoes!"

A New York editor thinks from the manner in which shirts are made in that city there ought to be an inspection of sewing. He says he went to the expense of a new shirt the other day, and found himself, when he awoke in the morning, crawling out from between two of the shortest stitches.

"Now, my boy," said a committee-man. "If I had a mince pie, and should give two-twelfths to Isaac, two-twelfths to Harry, and two-twelfths to John, and should take half the pie myself, what would there be left? Speak up loud—loud, so that the people can hear." "The plate!" shouted the boy.

An outside passenger by a coach had his hat blown over a bridge, and carried away by the stream. "Is it not very singular," said he to a gentleman who was seated beside him, "that my hat has taken that direction?" "Not at all," replied the latter; "it is natural that a beaver should take to the water."

A youth who had been courting for a long time, but was too bashful to pop, at length, fearing that he should be supplanted, got his courage up to the popping point, and put it in this way:—"I say, Jerusha, ain't it 'bout time to talk over matters and things?" Jerusha took the affirmative view of the question.

A Paris correspondent tells of one lady in the city, during the siege of the Prussians, who was so overcome by her appetite as to eat her beloved lap dog. After a hearty meal she looked down at the little heap of bones; tears fell from her eyes. "Poor Bijou!" she exclaimed. "How he would have enjoyed them!"

ASTONISHING A CREDITOR.—"Well," said an old gentleman, the other day, "I have been forty-seven years in the business, and can say what very few can after such experience: In all that time, my friend, I never disappointed but one single creditor." "Bless me, what an example for our young mercantile community!" replied the person addressed. "What a pity that one time occurred! How was it?" "Why," responded the old gentleman, "I paid the debt when it became due, and I never in all my life saw a man so astonished."

A party of gentlemen in a saloon, disputing over the question whether the American system of treating or the European system of not treating was preferable, couldn't settle the matter by talking, so they went to work testing it by practice. First, each man took a drink by himself. Then each man invited a single friend to drink. After that, each single friend returned the compliment. And finally, each man in the party—there were six of them—asked all the rest to drink. When all that was accomplished, not a soul in the room could tell where the discussion originated, or what it was about.

A Danbury, Conn., gentleman came home late one night. His wife, who was in bed, heard an unusual noise below, and going down, found her lord on his knees to her best set of furs. He had a gun in his hand, and a look of intense anxiety upon his face, the instant the door opened he hastily exclaimed: "Sh-Sh ole woman, don't scare 'em." "Scare what, you old fool?" murmured his wife. "Moths," he hysterically whispered; "I'm goin' for 'em, old woman; the first moth what shows his head out of them furs will get his limbs shattered, or I'm—." Sick at heart and humiliated beyond description, the miserable woman dragged herself back to bed.

Grains of Gold.

A knowledge of our weakness creates in us charity for others.

Wisdom and virtue make the poor rich, and the rich honorable.

Scatter diligently into susceptible minds the germs of the true and beautiful.

Never take a crooked path while you can see a straight one.

Mr. Alcott says he calls a man practical who can make another see his own ignorance.

Liberality is the best way to gain affection; for we are assured of their friendship to whom we are obliged.

The great man is he who chooses the right with invincible resolution, who resists the sorest temptation from without and within, who bears the heaviest burdens cheerfully, who is calmest in storms and most fearless under menaces, and whose reliance on truth, virtue, and Heaven is unflinching.

To have a clear and possible Ideal Self, as our mental mirror, is a great gain to poor souls, and a precious aid to self-respect and a right line of life.

"Don't shiver for last year's snow," a saying of Archbishop Whately's, is peculiarly applicable to those who make themselves miserable over troubles that are past.

As the bosom of earth blooms again and again, having buried out of sight the dead leaves of Autumn, and loosed the frosty bands of Winter, so does the heart, in spite of all that melancholy poets write, feel many renewed Springs and Summers.

BIRTH.

On the morning of the 7th inst., the wife of Mr. Henry Dudley, printer, of a daughter.

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