

been taken. The fact that a workman knowingly loads cases on a crane in a dangerous manner may, however be used as strong evidence against him; but the judgment in this action will no doubt act as a warning to all employers of the risks they run when they allow their foremen to carry on business in a reckless or negligent manner.

MR. GLADSTONE'S trumpet has given out no uncertain sound upon the subject of Free Trade at all events. In one of the speeches at Leeds, he compared at length the statistics of trade of the various countries of the world with results that were at least gratifying to our mother country. Speaking of the neutral markets of Asia, Africa and Australia, in which the trade may be supposed to be open to all countries alike, the Premier showed that the exports to those countries from America amounted to but £4,751,000, as against £78,000,000 exported from the United Kingdom—"I do not say it with satisfaction or sympathy," says Mr. Gladstone, "but I say I regret that she has been committing, in the matter of commerce, the errors of which we had set her the example, and the result was that puny competition of America in the neutral markets of the world. What I will say is, that so long as America adheres to Protection your commercial primacy is secure. So long as she is content to fetter her strong arms by Protection she will not be able to compete with us in the markets of the world; and the advocates of Fair Trade may rest satisfied that there is not the least fear of their slumbers being interrupted by American competition, or of our losing commercial primacy." These are strong words and the figures make them stronger yet. In 1879—the fatal year, according to Mr. GLADSTONE, of commercial anarchy—England's trade amounted to £612,000,000, and there was only a falling off of £80,000,000 in a population of thirty-five millions. Comparing this with the returns of the other great countries of the world, we find that France had £313,000,000 of trade, with 36,000,000 of people; Russia had £183,000,000 of trade, with 80,000,000 of people; Holland had £116,000,000 of trade—a good deal of which is transit trade—with about 5,000,000 of people; the United States and France, with a population of 900,000,000 combined, had a trade of £610,000,000; whilst the United Kingdom with a population of 35,000,000, had a trade of the value of £612,000,000.

NEW YORK is awakening to the fact that the lager supplied to her thirsty citizens is not all that it should be. Without meddling at all with temperance matters we may consistently argue that good beer is superior to bad, and prefer the beer made in St. Louis or Cincinnati to that which is supplied to patrons of the popular beverage in New York. And now the murder is out. The revenue officers have unfathomed the mystery. They find there is scarcely any honest beer made in New York. On overhauling the books of the principal brewers, it was discovered that the materials used were glucose, grape-sugar, rice-spirit and corn, but very little malt was employed. This stuff is fortified by some powerful drug which chemistry cannot detect, as it fails in its analysis of vegetable poisons. In Germany, New York lager would be promptly seized by the police and poured into the gutter. This question of adulteration of intoxicating drinks is one over which the fiercest

war will have to be waged before the so called temperance question is decided. If non-abstaining societies would set themselves in the first instance to war against the poisons introduced into the liquor trade they would do far more service than by unreasoning opposition to the use of liquor good and bad. The effect of the prohibition of the liquor traffic in several of the States has been to produce a large increase of adulteration. Here, in Canada, much of the liquor sold is absolute poison. Such horrible ingredients as lye even are introduced to give a "bite" to well watered alcohol. Whiskey *per se* may or may not be a desirable beverage, but lye and water is a deadly poison. For ourselves we believe in encouraging the sale of malt liquors, placing a prohibition duty upon alcohol, and making adulteration a felony in law.

Educational.

EVENING SCHOOLS IN NEW ENGLAND.

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Evening schools for the benefit of mill operatives and mechanics' apprentices have come to be an established institution in the greater number of New England manufacturing cities and villages. They meet a demand of the times; they have come to stay, and therefore educators of the young must recognize them as an important factor in the educational system,—a factor that should not be overlooked or neglected. In fact, those who have to deal with them should at once and for all time disabuse their mind of the idea that their existence is for the purpose of dodging the law, where education is made compulsory, and devote themselves to the task of developing methods that shortened the relative position to the evening school that made it practical and complete for the day school. Before proceeding, however, to point out some of the necessities of the evening school, as they appear to our understanding, it will be interesting to many, no doubt, to know why it exists, and something of its personnel as it appears to one who has had experience as a principal.

The evening school has its existence (1) because of a law that requires children under a certain age, who are employed during the day, to exhibit to their employers a certificate that they have attended school twelve weeks in the current year, and (2) because of the necessities of families. The first is the law of the State, and the second is the law of necessity. The law of the State is well understood as compulsory education, and the law of the necessity of the case is found in the fact that in large families—where there is a constant strain upon all members to procure food, fuel, and clothing—sickness sometimes adding its weight to the burden—the children must work, or go ragged and suffer hunger. To the verdict under this law there is no appeal, and the state confronts vexed questions when it sets up its law of compulsory education against it, in that it compels the members of families to suffer for the things whereby they live, or seek relief of the overseers of the poor of the town, city or county. Now, if we believe that the law is not justified in compelling pauperism upon the people and if we take into consideration that other well-known law of nature that people who have an honest pride will suffer terrible sorrow before they will compel themselves to ask alms—then we have readily solved the problem, "why evening schools exist."

The scholars,—we must presume that there is little or no difference in localities—vary in their ages from ten to twenty years. Those who are under fifteen years of age are driven, in most instances, unwillingly, and those who are over fifteen "ask in" because of a commendable desire to obtain an education, or because some stern parent, who knows the advantages to be derived, compels their attendance. The first-mentioned are usually well disposed, but, being fatigued by the labor of the day, often sleepy; and having no opportunity of study except such as the hour and a half in the school-room offers, generally make slow progress. They are tired and restless, and therefore the strict discipline of the day school cannot be reasonably enforced. The second class—those who ask the privileges of the school—are very attractive scholars, and it is always a satisfac-