

hastily pushed upon the market and the harvest reaped at once. When the mistress finds her ornament copied in her maid's fire-gilt, she hastens to discard it, and seeks for a greater novelty. The same thing obtains throughout the country. A traveling man finds it not worth while to show the same goods twice, however beautiful and artistic they may be. "Why, this is old! Haven't you brought anything new?" exclaims commercial Athenian out West. When the Castellani collection was in this country there was one great ornament, beautifully iridescent, which excited the admiration and curiosity of the guild, nothing having ever been seen like it before. At length one gentleman, by much labor and repeated endeavors, discovered the secret of this iridescence to lie in sweating layers of gold one on the other. But such zeal as this is only possible for the man who can indulge his love for his trade, as no pecuniary good can be reaped from it.

The second difficulty is more immediately objectionable, and at the same time could be more easily remedied. Artistic debasement is a subtle quality, but fraud is a tangible fact. Against this at present the public and the honest dealer have absolutely no protection. There is a large number of unscrupulous dealers who make a business of selling gold jewelry which contains more copper than conscience, as it has been excellently put, and, strange to say, the laws as at present framed sustain them in it. To give a case in point: A man bought a gold watch of one of these men. Finding himself swindled, he had the dealers arrested, and the case came to trial. It was discovered that the watch-case contained but four pennyweights of gold; the rest was brass or other alloy. Nevertheless, the Judge decided that inasmuch as the cost of the four pennyweights of gold exceeded the cost of alloy, the watch was to all intents a gold watch. The ways in which these frauds are perpetrated are numerous and most ingenious, and the important branch of the business is watches. The most desirable watch-case is of eighteen-karat gold, it being susceptible of higher polish, and is more easily kept clean. A person wanting to buy a watch with a case of eighteen-karat gold will as often find that the back of the watch alone is of the required purity, and that the value will degenerate until the run will probably be of eight-karat gold. But the purchaser will

pay all the same the full value of eighteen-karat gold. The customary way of trying a watch is to ask for a fifty, sixty, or whatever desired number of pennyweight case one may want, for which the price is probably \$1.50 a pennyweight. Now, in buying of any but a well-known, honest house, the probability is that a man is buying twelve or thirteen pennyweights of steel spring, which he has paid for as honest gold. The ingenuity with which watches are hollowed out for the introduction of this spring would accomplish good and worthy end in some other direction. A watch has been sold to contain thirty-six pennyweights of gold which actually contained thirteen pennyweights of steel spring. In other instances the stem is but a shell of gold filled with brass. Against such swindles the purchaser has no protection but to buy of houses of established reputation. The honest houses have absolutely no redress against these men who are injuring the jewelers' trade, except that which comes from their own consciences void of offence, which is satisfactory as far as it goes, but which, unfortunately, does not go far enough.

The favorite proceeding is to engage rooms on Maiden Lane, which is known as the jewelers' street all over the country, and to advertise from their respectable surroundings their fraudulent wares. Jewelry purporting to be of eighteen or fourteen karat gold will be really of eight-karat gold, colored to represent eighteen-karat gold. A distinguished public man wearing a handsome pair of sleeve buttons was asked by a gentleman interested in these matters to allow him to have his buttons assayed, promising to return him a duplicate pair. The price paid for the buttons was eighteen dollars. On assaying they proved to contain but five grains of gold, when they should have contained at least five or six pennyweights of gold. Often the fraud is much more base. The American wedding ring, which already has dropped from the English twenty-two karat ring to eighteen-karats, is often but a shell of gold filled with brass. The great advance made in coloring gold has aided these practices. Formerly only eighteen-karat gold would take a Roman finish; but now even brass masquerades as Roman gold. The passion for ornament, which must be gratified at any cost, does not leave a sufficient margin for caution, and there are not a few people who are

delighted at buying eighteen-karat gold for eight-karat prices.

These same facts hold good in silver, and will account in many instances for the marvelous premiums set forth with circumstance by precarious weeklies, accompanied by ornate cuts. A little silver has the advantage of spreading itself over a large surface, and a handsome set of spoons, in a case such as one often sees offered, can be bought for eighty cents a dozen in the case of the manufacturer. For all this there should be a remedy. If goods stamped eighteen karats fall short of their value, the dealer deserves to be prosecuted for forgery; but to this end a law requiring this stamp to be affixed is needed. Of all the plans which have been considered by the men who have found their business cut from beneath their feet by these dishonest practices, the most effective, in their judgment, is a Government recognition of a standard for wrought gold, with penalties for the debasing of the standard such as hold in debased coin. Some of them think that Congress has power to pass such a law, but in reaching this conclusion due account probably has not been taken of the constitutional limitations of the power of Congress. Thus, for example, Congress has just refused to regulate to the use of trade marks in domestic trade. Relief is more likely to be obtained from the State than from the Federal government. In other countries the people are protected in this way. The humblest seller of the most trifling piece of gold jewelry in Italy, for instance, can be required by law to give a written guaranty that it is what it purports to be, and liable to arrest if it is not. Some efficient means certainly should be provided, compelling dealers to stamp their articles so that purchasers may be assured that in buying eighteen-karat gold they are receiving eighteen-karat gold and not fourteen karats (if not eight).—*New York Evening Post.*

LABOR vs. CAPITAL—THE RELATIONS BETWEEN MASTER AND MAN.

Nobody is quite satisfied with the business relations between master and man, and the same social antagonism ever obtains. The master laments the degeneracy of the times, in that the working men are not what they used to be—not as they should be. The man is equally dissatisfied; saying the master takes all the