

Ottawa a memorial urging upon the Dominion Government that it be made compulsory to provide all Canadian ships with inextinguishable lights, for use in such cases as are above suggested.

EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYED.

We have received a communication from a writer signing himself M. G. M., which deplores somewhat bitterly the isolation of employers from those whom they employ; the carelessness of the average merchant or manufacturer as to what becomes of his clerks or other workers after they have done that for which he hires them; the insistence of the employer upon faithfulness and proper demeanor at all times on the part of his employees without, however, the recognition of any duty on the part of himself towards them, other than the payment of wages.

"It is a deplorable truth," asserts M. G. M., "that the great majority of employers throughout the country treat their assistants in a manner devoid of respect for their feelings or opinions." This is a heavy indictment against the bulk of our employers, and one which we are unable to believe true. While it is the case that a number of them are short-sightedly careless as to the physical health of those whom they employ, and while too many are negligent of their moral well-being, these are different things from the deliberate brutality of trampling upon their feelings. We know of too many instances in which the contrary is the case to permit us to subscribe to what would, if true, be "a deplorable truth."

The experience of our correspondent must have been exceptionally unpleasant, or else he must be particularly sensitive, to lead him to conclude that "many a man who has entered into the service of another, fully determined to serve him to the best of his ability, has had his temper ruined and been pronounced an ungrateful good-for-nothing, because he was unable to tolerate the lofty, over-bearing air, the authoritative tone, the unnecessary tasks and numerous impositions heaped upon him by his superior." It has happened to us to witness not a few instances of youthful aversion to discipline, growing into self-assertion and insubordination, on the part of clerks. And we are aware that numbers of factory hands—thanks partly to trades unions—spread themselves as thorough mechanics whereas they have neither the manual skill, the theoretical knowledge, nor the self-control which a first-class mechanic must possess to render him worthy of the name. Together with the modern idea of "the rights of labor," that phrase which comes so trippingly from the tongue of many a "botch" or a lazy demagogue, there has come a disposition to shirk work or at least to slur it, an impatience and a lack of thoroughness, in the place of old-fashioned industry and constancy to one's calling. There is scarcely an employer of hands in a factory who has not to contend with the spirit we have described; and its existence may well tend to extinguish in the breast of the "opulent merchants" or the "wealthy autocrats" instanced by M. G. M. that respect which, he says, they fail to show towards those they employ.

If a man's behavior is such as to deserve

respect he rarely fails to command it, whether he be a weaver at his loom or a merchant prince. And while there doubtless are specimens amongst us of the heartless rich man as well as the methodless and mischievous operative, there is no more reason for classing "the great majority of employers" in the first category than for placing all factory hands in the second.

"M. G. M." adduces, in support of his accusation against employers, an anecdote of "a member of a prominent firm in one of our large cities which has earned the reputation of working short-handed and keeping their limited number of employees occupied to the fullest extent, both early and late, and grudgingly acceding to them the privilege of observing the not-too-frequent public holidays." This man, our correspondent tells us, was recently heard to remark that "there were far too many holidays nowadays, and business hours were altogether too short." The complaint that business hours were too short savors, it is true, of the money-grubber of a former day, who looks upon his servants as his money-making machines, without souls to be saved or minds to be enlarged beyond their lathes or desks. But we are not sure that the complaint is not well founded that holidays are too numerous. The nation which observes the most holidays—and our French Canadian friends have been mentioned in this connection—is at a disadvantage, political economists tell us, compared with nations which have more working days in their year. And there are to-day would-be Felix Holts who aim to raise the status of "the workingman" without possessing either the diligence or the sturdy common sense of that radical hero.

Nobody likes to work, declared the Country Parson, "no one at least whose tastes and habits are in a natural and unsophisticated condition." We should be sorry to think M. G. M. averse to labor; the tenor of his letter implies that he is a willing worker, unto whom the lines have not fallen in pleasant places, and who has been outraged by having seen or experienced overbearing lordliness on the part of some employer. Still, we believe that the lot of the worker is to-day easier and freer than ever before, and that more trouble arises from the impatience and unreasonableness of operatives than from any spirit of injustice or oppression on the part of employers of labor.

TRADE WITH GERMANY.

The aggregate trade of the Dominion of Canada with Germany amounted, in the fiscal year ended 30th June 1884, to \$2,171,346 a sum which exceeds that of 1883 and is double that of any one of nine years previous to 1882. Of this total imports represented \$1,975,771 and exports only \$195,575. The exports were the largest for a dozen years. The products of Canada exported consisted of the following:—

EXPORTS.

Field products.....	\$75,019
Animals and their produce...	56,868
Manufactures	50,119
Forest and Mine.....	1,320

Total produce of Canada \$183,326

The remaining \$12,249 represented American or other foreign goods. The manufactured articles were ships, one of 1,301 tons \$39,000, tobacco cuttings, musical instruments and other machines. The field products were 54,993 bushels rye from Quebec, valued at \$38,496; 32,497 bushels peas from the same province, valued at \$29,247; seeds, from Ontario, \$7,273. We are now told that the German Government has placed so high a duty on Canadian barley that we are not likely to increase our shipments of it thither. The produce of animals was Ontario furs. The other items were planks from Quebec and coal from Nova Scotia. The goods from Germany entered during the year were bought by the provinces as under:

Ontario	\$ 476,990
Quebec.....	1,288,001
Nova Scotia	136,493
New Brunswick.....	62,070
Manitoba.....	5,074
British Columbia.....	7,143

Total.....\$1,975,771

We tabulate the leading items. Iron and steel, leather, sugar, glass, earthenware, furs, woollen goods, buttons and gloves, will be seen to be the principal.

IMPORTS FROM GERMANY.

	Value.
Iron and steel goods	\$191,499
Leather goods	80,381
Tin goods	9,888
Brass goods	8,529
Copper goods.....	2,203
Paper goods	34,888
Silks and velvets	20,908
Cotton goods.....	16,123
Sugar, 15,389,279 lbs	535,545
Cigars and cigarettes, 55, 183 lbs...	40,322
Wood goods	29,738
Woollen cloths, 34,895 lbs.....	29,464
Underclothing, 39,346 "	55,767
Buttons	50,070
Dressed furs	97,917
Undressed furs.....	67,694
Tobacco pipes	13,922
Paints and colors.....	18,112
Aniline dyes	12,573
Shawls	17,482
Earthenware and china	49,213
Glass and glassware.....	92,022
Hops, 55,529 lbs	21,704
Gloves and mitts	40,725

Subdivisions of the above items, with others of less consequence, will be found in the subjoined list: Brushes, \$2,562; jewel cases, \$1,786; cement, \$3,094; chicory, \$544; combs, \$4,332; seamless bags, cotton, into Quebec and Ontario, \$25,912; spool thread, \$1,229; clothing, \$4,640; velveteens, \$1,377; Acetic acid, \$7,900; glue, \$5,660; glycerine, \$12,861; saltpetre, \$10,253; embroideries, \$17,593; laces and trimmings, \$50,925; toys, \$17,766; other "fancy goods," including fans, beads, boxes, artificial flowers, feathers, &c., \$33,139; felt, \$3,691; linen duck, \$6,084; fur goods, \$8,289; glass and glassware, \$92,022, of which \$39,918 was for plate either silvered or plain, and, \$11,251 window glass, purchased by Ontario; gold and silver leaf, \$19,437; India rubber goods, \$9,989; hair cloth, for furniture, \$9,164; printing ink, \$770; iron goods, \$102,849; the largest items being car wheels, \$20,118; boiler and other tubings, \$30,864 and wire, \$20,805; steel pen knives, \$5,283; other cutlery, \$14,466; engine tires, \$12,390; fire arms, \$7,173; tools and instruments, \$4,333; other iron and steel goods, \$45,005;