

cobbler stick to his last," is true and correct, and you will no doubt say, in the present instance apropos, yet I will ask you to permit me to suggest the fact that no discovery of importance was ever made by those in whose special domain it lay. I will give a few illustrations. Watt, the inventor of the steam engine as we see it, was a repairer of mathematical instruments. George Stevenson, that made railways a success, filled the lowest and poorest paid situation in a coal mine, and learned to read when by mending shoes and such like he got money enough to send his boy to school, and the boy taught the father. A. G. Bell, who made the telephone a success, was a teacher of deaf mutes, and so I might go on interminably. The amateur is generally the discoverer, because he is bound by no previous training or pre-conceived opinions. He trusts solely to his observation, reasoning and experiments built thereon, and having no fear of the pitfalls on his way very often stumbles or lights upon a foundation of fact that would not be seen by those travelling in the beaten path. I need go no farther than our own province for an apt illustration. Judge Weatherbe, with the enthusiasm and rashness of an amateur, is now developing ideas in orchard growing that will very likely, in this province at least, revolutionize our methods of tree planting and orchard culture. I only bring these things to your attention as an excuse,* I would not say justification, for my departure from what should be my proper department. Occupying the position of a free lance I have the liberty of attacking the problem at any part, and will start from a wide base of action.

If we take a general view of the diverse methods adopted by mankind to make a living they can be divided into five classes. The nomads we will dismiss with the name, as they are not a practical issue if we exclude the genus *tramp*, that society will be forced to annihilate. We have,

First.—The Professional classes.

Second.—The Working classes.

Third.—The Manufacturers and Miners who convert natural into finished products for special uses.

Fourth.—The Merchants and Middlemen.

Fifth.—The Farmer, including in this term those that furnish the direct products of the soil.

Fishermen we will not now consider.