

MARITIME MONTHLY" as may not have met with the book sharers in the pleasure I have felt in reading it. The writer is Sir Arthur Helps, Secretary to Her Majesty's Privy Council, the well known author of "Friends in Council," and numerous other works which have taken rank among the standards of English literature. "By permission," Sir Arthur dedicated his *Life of Thomas Brassey* to Her Majesty, Queen Victoria. In the dedication he says, "I desire so to dedicate it, because I do not know any one who has a deeper sympathy with the labouring classes than your Majesty, or any one who takes a more heartfelt interest in every thing that concerns their habits, their education, and their general welfare." This is no empty compliment from Sir Arthur Helps, but the statement of a simple truth regarding our good Queen. The author adds, "Your Majesty will find that the late Mr. Brassey was an employer of labour after your Majesty's own heart: always solicitous for the well-being of those who served under him; never keeping aloof from them, but using the powerful position of a master in such a manner as to win their affections, and to diminish the distance, which is often far too great, between the employer and the employed."

We may be sure that the man of whom Sir Arthur Helps could write to the Queen, in such terms, must have been no common man. And in truth, if a man is to be estimated by the amount of useful work he does in the world—work which subserves the best interests of mankind—then we must form a very high estimate of Thomas Brassey, and number him among the world's benefactors. He led the way in those vast industrial enterprises which have now covered much of the civilized world with a network of railways, and have done more than anything else to transform the face of modern society, and advance the cause of civilization. The great pioneer in these gigantic undertakings,—the man whose skill, energy and enterprise carried to completion many of the most extensive and important lines of railway, over which thousands are now whirled every hour, with speed and safety, was Thomas Brassey. From 1834, when the establishment of railways, on an extensive scale, first commenced in England, till 1870, Mr. Brassey was engaged, in conjunction with others, in the construction of railways in various countries; and the amount of work thus accomplished by him was enormous. Six closely printed pages of his biography are occupied with a list which contains