

I venture, moreover, to assert most fearlessly, that a majority of those who now keep open late, are thoroughly convinced of the undesirableness of the system, and express their willingness to close at once, if so and so will do so. In fact, just now, I believe, one whole street in this city suffers from the determined obstinacy of one individual, and all would shut at seven if he would, and in some particular trades the same feeling pervades. Well, if neither argument nor example—if neither regard for health nor morals—will induce these parties to come in, time, patience, and, above all, constant appeals to enlightened public opinion, ultimately will. And there remains no doubt, but constant and persevering efforts on the part of the clerks, in a respectful and legitimate manner, will surmount any obstacle which, without any reference to reason and justice, may be persistingly thrown in their way.

The subject, so far, has been treated on very general grounds; and my remarks, though not directly addressed, I wish to bear on the retail merchants. But before I conclude, I have something to say to the clerks, and for it I desire especial attention from them. In enlisting the sympathy of the public and securing the advocacy of your employers, and the active co-operation of others not directly interested in the success of your agitation, you undertake and involve yourselves in a responsibility of no ordinary character. Not only is your own character as clerks suffering from an injustice now happily wearing away, but the character of your abettors and supporters is also at stake. It is for you to see to it that no mistake is made. With you combination must not stop in action for emancipation; it must continue in exertion for