

rich. But she should never be asked to take the lead, or the rear, in an act of spoliation. Besides, a dead social level is abhorrent, and all efforts in this direction deserve to fail.

Another phase of the question is the contention for

SHORTER HOURS OF LABOR.

It would not be difficult to show that undue length of toil prevails in highly organized trades; but much more so in trades where there is no organization to voice the sufferings which result, and to demand redress. Ten hours a day in factories, amid the mad rush of machinery, with the constant fear of fines and bad work, flanked by the worrying and vigilance of the foreman, are too severe a strain upon all but the very robust. But when we add to these, the unhealthiness of the buildings, and the extreme unhealthiness of some of the labor, such as that among paint, white-lead, fur-pulling, glass-blowing, plumbing, &c., the evils are intensified to an alarming extent. The hours of farmers, seamen, and those in domestic service, are practically unlimited. Railway-men, and especially those in the freight department, often work eighteen hours a day, the Sabbath included. Many dry goods clerks, grocery clerks, bartenders, &c., work from fourteen to

seventeen hours out of the twenty-four. Few, except city missionaries, and Bible-women, and ministers of the poor man's parish, can lay bare the horrors of the "sweating" system, in which the accumulated terrors of oppression, avarice and disease run riot. The dull drudgery of the victims, for so many consecutive hours, must inevitably result in their physical, moral and mental deterioration. Dr. Richardson and other writers have sufficiently shown this to be the case. If, from long hours of labor, men have not time for necessary reading and thinking, the faculties will languish from inanition. Nor must we forget that ignorance, in a free country, is a great public danger. Democracies are only safe when they are intelligent and moral. Again, the countless thousands, whose only day-story is bed and work, are robbed of the higher joys of our civilization, and are doomed to only the degrading pleasures. Domestic life, too, of which we profess to be so sacredly jealous, partakes of the general injury. How many parents, among the working classes, have leisure to discharge rightly the sacred duties of fatherhood and motherhood? Many fathers seldom see their children out of bed, except on the Sabbath. When