

The clerks swarm in ever-increasing numbers, till their wages are driven down to starvation-point, and they declare themselves incapable of living under a competition which seems to have no bounds. There are trades, we believe, now, in which the clerks pay their employers. Some of the peoples of the continent are penetrated with the notion that instruction is fatal to willing labor. Mr. Hamerton, in his wise book on France, declares that the peasants think a son who has gone to school outside the village is lost to their work, and believes that in the main they are right, the lads who have been instructed revolting against the unbroken toil, the penury, the calculating thrift, essential to the peasant life. English dealers of the lower class say a lad must be taken young, or he will never succeed; and in one trade at least, that of a sailor, the rules in favor of beginning early are made immutable, the old hands knowing from experience that the life is intolerable to most of those who have tried any other.

On the other hand, no dislike of work, and especially no dislike of agricultural work, which is at once the roughest, the most continuous, and the worst paid, has appeared among two of the best-educated races. The Scotch, who have been taught for two hundred years, and are now more thoroughly trained than the English national-school boys, show no disposition to avoid labor, but are, on the contrary, remarkable for persistent and fairly contented industry. There are thousands of Hugh Millers among them, though without his genius. The Prussian peasants, who are as educated as the English will be twenty years hence, work exceedingly hard, and in the country, where their holdings are their own, show none of the resentment at their fate which is no doubt manifested in the towns in the form of socialist aspirations. Gardeners, who all over Great Britain are the best instructed of manual laborers, work, more especially when working for themselves, with unusual diligence; and it is matter of constant observation that a laborer who happens by any accident to be a "bit of a scholar" can be depended upon when work presses and every man is required. The people of Rome, who can read and write, are far more diligent than the Neapolitans, who cannot; and the best workmen in Italy are those who have passed through the army, and so obtained what is practically an