

Her funeral was numerously attended, and the solemnity of the occasion improved by an exhortation to her surviving relatives, "not to sorrow as those which have no hope." Though suddenly, I trust she is removed to the Rest which remaineth for the people of God.

WM. CROSCOMBE.

Windsor, 12th Dec. 1839.

Original.

SATURDAY NIGHT'S WAGES.

THE system frequently pursued in manufacturing towns in paying the wages of mechanics, is not, perhaps, calculated to give to these all the advantages which they should derive from their hard earnings.

It is the custom in many factories to pay the wages of the week at a neighbouring public-house, on Saturday evening, after the labours of the day are over. This duty, in a large establishment, is a work which necessarily occupies some time; and the most sober and well-disposed, the most anxious to take their earnings home to their families, cannot obtain their money in time for procuring Sunday's meat before the usual hour of rest. After a hard day's labour, spent in domestic cares, and in rendering the dwelling in a fit state for the coming day, the weary housewife would gladly seek repose. Under this arrangement, she is obliged to encroach on the period which should be devoted to sleep, in order to make her requisite purchases, or to invade the quiet of the Sabbath morning with the petty cares of life, which, for that one day at least, should be laid aside.

This, in itself, is a great annoyance to the female part of the community; but it is light as air to them, compared with the more serious evil which the system carries in its train, and which they would gladly exchange for any personal inconvenience which they might be called upon to endure.

Workmen of the most abstemious habits consider themselves in a manner constrained to take some refreshment in the house where they have just received money; and though they may spend but a trifle, that trifle would have been better bestowed in assisting to minister to the wants of those nearest and dearest to them. But what a temptation is held out to men of a less temperate character. Here the love of noisy fellowship is nourished, unfitting the mind for the quiet enjoyments of home. Here the habit of intoxication is gradually acquired and confirmed. While wives are anxiously waiting at the door of the house for those supplies which will enable them to furnish necessities for their families, husbands are too often rioting within, forgetful of those ties which should prevent such a waste of time and money in selfish and degrading enjoyments; and when, at length, the expecting female does obtain the residue of the earnings which should have been appropriated to the support of her family for the ensuing week, she finds the sum fearfully diminished and inadequate for the purpose.

Many a watchful mother has had to mourn over the

prospects of a beloved son, whose first deviation from right was the loitering at the public-house on Saturday night; his former habits gradually turned into those of selfishness, and all its lamentable consequences. Many an affectionate wife has had to grieve at this wreck of her early happiness, first invaded by the Saturday night's temptation; while she is either left to struggle, neglected and alone, through the miseries of life, or called upon to endure more active ill-treatment from her inebriated partner.

It may be said, we are rather exaggerating the picture, that a large proportion of those who gain their livelihood, by working as mechanics, are respectable, intelligent, and virtuous members of society. Most happily this is true; but we think a still farther number might be ranked in the same class, if the payment of wages were better regulated; while the comfort of the artisans, and that of their families, would at the same time be materially increased.

There can be but little doubt that, were proprietors once convinced of the bad effects which arise from this plan, they would adopt one more conducive to the comfort of those by whose labour they are benefited. A walk in a manufacturing town, at twelve o'clock on a Saturday night, would sufficiently expose the evils of this manner of payment. The shops are then still open, and harrassed females are seen flocking to them; and many women, with looks of distress, are still lingering at the doors of the pay-houses, in the vain hope of alluring home their truant husbands. The whole continues a scene of noise, bustle, and confusion, long past the hour of midnight, and but ill-befitted to usher in the day of rest. How unlike the holy, soothing repose of the cotter's Saturday eve, so beautifully described by Burns.

If payment of the week's earnings were made on the respective premises, instead of at a drinking-house, and on the Friday, instead of Saturday, evening, all these evils might at once be avoided.

The men would have no temptation given them to spend their earnings away from their families—the women would be enabled to make their purchases on Saturday, at the time most convenient for the purpose, and for instance,—if we refer to the Jews, on that day they make preparations for the Sabbath—and the woman would have one chance less for unhappiness. Two objections may be made to this proposed alteration—the one, moral, the other, practical.

It is said that, with a well-furnished pocket, a man not very industrious, may be induced to indulge himself in idleness during the ensuing day; but this would evince so total an absence of fore-sight and prudence, that the individual capable of such conduct would, we fear, when paid on the Saturday, in the like manner take his holiday on the Monday, or just so long as his money might last.

The other objection may arise from the mode in which the wages are paid in large establishments. The required amount of money is in the first instance deposited in the hands of the confidential foreman, who does not pay each individual workman, but divides the whole in classes, and to a responsible man