

works, during which undertakings of far more colossal dimensions than formerly were projected, and required to be rapidly carried into execution. The extension of the railway system called for larger docks and harbours, and enormous buildings of all descriptions. This opened a new field for the contractor, who is an inevitable product of civilization and its consequent division of labour. It is very easy to see how great advantages arise from doing work by contract, and through the agency of a practised contractor; because you thus command the knowledge and experience of a trained body of men fitted for special work, and you have the services of a Captain of Industry, whose specialty is the organization of labour, and the direction of such works. The great contractor finds it to his advantage to sub-let portions of his contract, which are further sub-let to smaller men; by which means individual skill and exertion are gradually developed to the uttermost. The system of doing work by contract is sure to increase extensively in the future; and it is well that it should be so. The great contractor who undertakes to execute an extensive work, in any country, carries thither bands of skilled workmen who gradually instruct the natives of those countries in methods of skilled labour, and make them more useful citizens than they were before. An amusing instance of this is related in connection with the construction of a railway in Jamaica. The Negro labourers were supplied with wheel-barrows from Britain, for the purpose of removing earth. Poor Sambo, however, had no idea of the mechanical advantages of the wheel-barrow, and having filled it with earth, he hoisted it to the crown of his woolly head. The intense astonishment of the English foreman may be imagined, when he saw a score of darkies marching in single file, each bearing a barrow on the top of his head. It was not without great difficulty that he induced them to try the effect of placing the barrow on a plank, and wheeling instead of carrying the load. But then a few trials convinced even Sambo of the advantage, and he would know better ever afterwards.

When in any new country a railway is contracted for, the first thing is the arrival of a small army of navvies—men with such thews and sinews, such brawny arms and broad chests, and such powers of work and endurance that the natives stare in astonishment as they gaze on their stalwart forms. The very sight of such men, with their hands hairy and brown, every one with his