

ing means for his intellectual and moral development."

TRADES UNIONS.

The recent establishment of Trades Unions has been productive of pecuniary benefit to the working-classes, but has destroyed the good feeling that previously existed between them and their employers, and has lately given rise to protracted but fruitless strikes. The increase of wages and the slight reduction of the hours of labour which has taken place of late years has not been so advantageous as might have been expected; and there would seem to be less disposition among the men engaged in the building trade to attend evening schools and avail themselves of the opportunities for self-improvement than was to be observed when their pay was lower and their labour longer. It is, however, affirmed, on the other hand, that this deterioration is not so much to be found among the natives of Hamburg as among the strangers who have been attracted here in large numbers from the interior by the higher pay that is generally to be obtained.

RUSSIAN TREATMENT OF FOREIGNERS.

Recent Russian resolve requires all Russian enterprise to employ no foreigners or foreign material if they can be avoided; and it is notorious that foreigners are only sought where and when the Empire fails in supply, and then the most binding contracts are useless once the foreigner's art is learnt tolerably well by natives, who are quick at imitation; the smallest pretext is made an excuse for dismissing the foreigner; he is arbitrarily dismissed, and his only hope for even moderate redress lies in the influence and pains-taking of his Consul, who, in nine cases out of ten, refers the applicant to the civil tribunals, where no sane man would venture a lawsuit unless he resolves to settle down in the country ten or fifteen years to await an uncertain issue. It is upwards of ten years since an Englishman, who, with a Russian partner, set up a fine flour mill in this town, which, once in working order, the Russian tried to buy him out of; finding this impossible, the Russian dragged the Englishman into the tribunals; the mill was closed with everything perishable and imperishable in it; the doors were sealed, and so they remained up to this morning, when I drove past the establishment, and so probably matters will remain for another ten years; in the meantime, the unfortunate Englishman, who, believing the power of his adversary was in the fact of his nationality, became a Russian subject, and, after spending his last penny on his suit, has been reduced to the purchase of a donkey, and, assuming the garb of a Dulcamara, travels from fair to fair, selling bread and soap-pills as a specific against ague. I could quote volumes of

cases of unfair and arbitrary treatment to which Englishmen, decoyed out of England, in some instances with capital and families, have been subjected. Mr. Geo. Furness' case is too recent and well known to require further comment than the passing remark that he was quarrelled with the very moment the Russians learned to pave the streets of Odessa for themselves; and he is now in the Russian tribunals, adding to his ruinous losses daily, with every right on his side, but not the same conviction as to the final redress which will be awarded him.

Mr. William Millar, the son of an English General, who has for more than twenty-five years instructed, as superintending engineer of the Nicolaiev arsenal, nearly every one of the engineers and engine-drivers attached to the Black Sea naval force,—resides at this very moment a few doors from me in quasi poverty, having been shelved on the reduction of the naval establishment here in 1866, to make way for his foreman, received the scanty bounty of £65, and that only on the kind request and assistance of Her Majesty's Ambassador, and considers himself most fortunate (after being upwards of a year without employ, without means to get to England with his family, and actually lacking bread for it) to have obtained a temporary Government job at something short of £25 per month, and that too fast drawing to a close. Engineers, ship and boat builders, millers, tin-plate layers, boiler constructors, plumbers, farriers, stud-grooms, jockies, farmers, dairymen, painters, bookbinders, and in one instance even a lot of French colonists, men, and respectable men of all classes and calling, have, during my long sojourn in this country, applied to me, smarting under treatment such as I have described. With every possible will to aid them, beyond a compromise, in which my applicants, as a rule, have come worst off, nothing was possible; and though I consider that there is a vast opening for the introduction of labour from without, I should indeed be sorry to recommend any one to immigrate, however binding he may make his compact upon a Russian employer. Only very recently I refused, for the very reason I have mentioned, to assist Russians to obtain Englishmen for iron-shipbuilding, on a concession made of promises at Odessa; and my experience of shabby and scanty treatment palmed off on Englishmen and foreigners still more recently caused me to refuse to aid a plan for bringing out some plumbers, farriers, and wheelwrights, whom it was desired to bring out to South Russia to replace Prussians who had to return home consequent on the war.

In Odessa we learn there is a great demand for English governesses, nurses and servants. In Saxony and other parts of

Germany, free trade, that is, the abolition of the guilds of labour, is said to be most beneficial. In Sweden during the last six years there has been a great decrease of drunkenness consequent of education, restrictions on the sale and use of spirituous liquors, and on the acts for regulating the employment of children and persons under adult age in factories. The following we earnestly recommend to the consideration of masters and men. It refers to the

SUPERIORITY OF THE SWISS WORKMAN.

One of the many advantages possessed by the Swiss working man over his fellow-competitors in other lands, especially in England, is that, owing to the education he has received, he is able to find in a variety of rational pastimes that necessary relaxation from work which the others are unfortunately but too often reduced to seek in vacant indolence or low debauchery. To provide him, therefore, with the means of spending his leisure hours at least pleasantly, if not usefully, and thus to save him, as far as possible, from falling into vicious habits, is the self imposed task of numerous societies, not a few of which are founded by workmen themselves. Under their auspices local circulating libraries have been formed in many parts of the country, even in some of the most secluded rural communes, the works of which they are composed being carefully selected in order that they may suit the taste and position of those for whom they are more particularly intended. In 1869 the Canton of Geneva already possessed forty-three of these libraries, with 39,000 volumes, and that of Lucerne forty-one. The number in the remaining Cantons has not yet been ascertained. There are, moreover, numerous other public libraries, containing works of a much higher class, as well as museums in all the principal towns. Almanacs, reviews, and newspapers are likewise published for the special use of the working classes, and many of the daily papers give out on Sundays an extra sheet with the object of affording them additional reading matter. Lectures on the social and political questions of the day, and other attractive subjects, are frequently given, not only in the great centres of population, but also in the remote communes, where, in the absence of regular lecturers, the village clergyman or schoolmaster, and sometimes even ordinary workmen, undertake this task. There are innumerable working men's associations, which have some regular place of meeting, where books, periodicals, games, and refreshments, are provided for the members, whose time is chiefly engaged in debating, getting up dramatic performances, and acquiring a knowledge of modern languages, book-keeping, drawing, arithmetic, history, &c. Much attention is also devoted to