

the moral nature, and lowering man to the condition of a brute." Then it would seem that the evil which political economy has wrought greatly overbalances the amount of good that has been derived from its influence. The great evils that have sprung from the science within the last fifty years, are mainly due to the abuses of the means employed to achieve its mission. A little investigation soon reveals that the main sources of these evils are, the too minute division of labor, and the indiscriminate introduction of machinery. Such has been the calamitous effect of the former that the economist Sismondi in a fit of indignation went so far as to exclaim, "In spite of all its benefits in the social order, one is sometimes tempted to curse the division of labor, and the invention of manufactures, when one sees the state to which they have reduced beings who are our fellow creatures. Animals do nearly all the agricultural work of man, and machines do his work in nearly all the operations of manufacturing." It might not be uninteresting to investigate some of the evils which Sismondi cites down with such vehemence. The first and perhaps most deplorable inconvenience arising from the too minute division of labor is, that it tends more and more towards the undermining and neutralization of man's noblest faculties. For can it be denied that when a workman spends his whole time in performing some trivial mechanical operation, that his intellect must necessarily become deteriorated from lack of exercise? Who will say that mental development can proceed in one whose daily occupation is the sharpening of the point of a needle? Such labor for day after day, and year after year, makes man a mere machine, and he becomes so proficient in his occupation, that it requires no mental exertion whatever. The evils which will inevitably arise from this continual disuse of the rational faculties of the working class, can be easily imagined and no other explanation is necessary, to account for the awful outrages of socialism that have been perpetrated in the great manufacturing countries of the world. But there is happily a remedy for this evil and Christian economists who know their duty are urging its adoption. They suggest that previous

education, both secular and religious be required of all workmen before they can become operatives. Thus when a young person's intelligence has been sufficiently developed, there is little probability of it ever afterwards becoming debased by monotonous labor.

The hours of labor might also be shortened, and thus the workman would have more leisure time at home amidst family joys, during which he could cultivate his intellectual faculties. Operatives should not have to work more than ten hours a day at any kind of labor, and even nine hours is thought sufficient by economists. But some will say that by thus shortening the hours of labor, production must necessarily be lessened. Those who argue thus are none other than sophists, for it has been proven that in those countries where operatives work between twelve and fourteen hours a day, production instead of increasing has decreased.

The fact is evident when we compare England with Russia, the one, the foremost industrial country in Europe, the other the most backward. In England employees work on an average about fifty six and one half hours a week while in Russia they labor eighty hours per week and yet no one will say that Russia is the richer for it. This fact is admirably exposed by Lord Macaulay in his famous speech on "The Ten Hours Bill" delivered before the British Parliament in 1846. He says, "You try to frighten us by telling us that, in some German factories, the young work seventeen hours in the twenty-four, that they work so hard that among thousands there is not one who grows to such a stature that he can be admitted into the army; and you ask whether, if we pass this bill, we can possibly hold our own against such competition as this? Sir, I laugh at the thought of such competition. If ever we are forced to yield the foremost place among commercial nations, we shall yield it, not to a race of degenerate dwarfs, but to some people pre-eminently vigorous in body and mind."

Another grave difficulty which arises from the division of labor carried to such extremes as we witness at the present day, is that it makes slaves of the workmen; in as much as they are unable to make an entire article by themselves, but can only