

Our Betters

However, my theme is not mice, but men. Union among men is one of the burning questions of the hour, and here I may allow myself the indiscretion of touching upon the great question of Trade Unionism, a question upon which I can speak with some little experience.

I suppose that every new movement, if successful, brings in its train a certain amount of tyranny. "In righting wrong, we sometimes wrong the right." The great struggle between Capital and Labour which is now going on is but the result of education. Education has placed a weapon in the hands of the democracy. It is a two-edged weapon, and its right use can only be taught by a yet greater, a higher education. Liberty gives birth to new tyrannies, and there can be no doubt that a certain amount of injustice must accompany all great reforms. So it is that the individual may for the time being suffer from the tyranny of Labour. But in the long run the individual will assert himself—the freedom of the individual to fulfil himself is the strength of the State. Each must be free to work on his own economic salvation. The liberty which cripples the efforts of the fittest is but another form of tyranny—the tyranny of the weak over the strong. We have the new liberty, for instance, which dictates compulsory closing on Thursdays,