

but we fancy they must be something akin to those of their class in Canada; and from close personal study we can speak positively and say that the Canadian working classes, both men and women, are determinedly opposed to Sunday labor. In Canada, therefore, Sunday is truly a day of rest—the saloons are closed, and street cars, if run at all, make only one trip for morning and a second trip for evening church services.

In speaking of intelligent workingmen, Miss Cutler says, "Do not deny them a Sunday afternoon in a quiet place relieved from the distractions of the home." Now it is our belief that if those men who have homes would stay at home more than some of them do, and help to brighten that home with cheery words and pleasant ways (not forgetting to mind the baby occasionally and thus relieve the too often fagged-out wife!), the "distractions of the home" would practically disappear. No, the intelligent workingman does not want the library open on Sunday, as he wants to spend that day in the bosom of his family, and in fulfilling religious duties; but what he does want is shorter hours of labor during the week, so that he can spend an hour or two of an evening in the library and perhaps the whole of Saturday afternoon, if he is studying up some special subject. The wives, too, ought to have something to say on this point, and we cannot think they would favor the opening of libraries on Sunday.

Of course, the man or woman who works ten or twelve hours a day the week round, is not able to enjoy the benefits conferred by free libraries; but as eight hours is now generally accepted as a day's work for library assistants, surely librarians should be among the staunchest advocates of short hours—say six days a week and eight hours a day—not only for mechanics but for *all* workers. Then the people would have more time to use the library intelligently, and there would be no agitation for opening on Sundays.

As for the large number of unmarried men in all large cities—well, every library is open

late on Saturday night, and those who *would* read on Sunday can take a book home with them on Saturday night.

For ourselves, we are free to confess to the somewhat selfish opinion that the librarian and his assistants who run a library from say 8 a. m. to 9 or 9.30 p. m. six days in the week, are well entitled to absolute rest from attendance at the library on the seventh day. We are quite aware that this opinion runs counter to that of men eminent in library circles; but we are still emphatically of the opinion that free libraries can and will do a great missionary work without opening them on the Sunday.

We know some people say, "But I can't go to the library during the week day, and I don't care about going to church or reading my Bible on Sunday, but I *would* go to the library if it was open." Dear, dear, poor people! Well, there are a good many young people who have to leave school before they have learned much more than the bare rudiments; and after they are working, many of them discover that they it would be much better for them if they were better scholars. They cannot go to school in the day time, but do the school boards open the schools on Sunday for their benefit? No. But they open night schools, and thus give all a chance to improve themselves. Library boards long ago recognized the fact that people who were working in the day time could not use the libraries unless open in the evening. All free libraries, therefore, in large cities at any rate, are now open for six days in the week from early morning until late at night.

Miss Cutler does not advocate the opening of the circulating department on Sunday, except for use in the building, saying: "I see no argument for general circulation on Sunday." And yet if there is one thing plainer than another to us, it is the fact that if it is once admitted that it is right to open the reading room and reference department on Sunday, it is simply a question of time when the circulating department must also be thrown open. And Miss Cutler's statistics