

established; and it comes to be understood that from this time forward there are to be no more "vacant Sundays"—the name of this church can be removed from the list of weak and dying churches! And if any church thinks this is "only a theory," let them write to us privately, and we will show them the *church* and the *man* to help them, on the conditions named!—EDITOR.

THE LABOR PROBLEM.

The Labor party are becoming political, just as the Temperance party are becoming political. And it seems both just and logical. If a principle is right, it seems just that its rightness should be recognised and protected by the law; and if it is wrong, its error will all the sooner be detected in the fierce light of public opinion. Now in saying that we are pleased to see Labor coming more to the front in politics, it does not necessarily follow that we are "Eight-Hours" men—which seems to be the most conspicuous motto on the banner of "Labor" at this moment. We greatly wish "our bread could be given us, and our water could be sure," with eight-hours' labor on our own part! Mr. Blue testifies, in his Ontario labor statistics, that the extra time of the "Eight-Hours" men is on the whole well-employed. We are glad to hear it. But the problem is yet unsolved, "How the labor of eight hours is going to be made appear to the employer as valuable as the ten hours?" If it can be done, there will be no more to say. It is the workman alone who must make the demonstration. And when they *do* make it, some over inquisitive employer may ask, "Was it honest of you then, to work one-fifth *slower* than you do now?" For the demand is—not simply "eight hours for labor"—a very popular and logical "strike" could be made on that—but "the present ten hours' pay for the proposed eight hours' work."

In New South Wales the Labor party have elected 30 members for "the House." And they have so influenced the voting of the House on motions of "confidence" and "no confidence," as to precipitate a change of ministry. In England, the party have passed resolutions severing their connection with the Liberals. And now the Conservative leaders have put their heads together,

and determined to throw the "eight hours" overboard.

Every man has a right to vote, and to be represented in Parliament. If he sells his vote, let him be disqualified for a long term of years, and bear the disgrace of it.

Every man has a right to sell his labor in the dearest market; if one employer won't give him "enough," he has a right to negotiate with another. If he interferes (whether personally or through a "Union") with the right of every other man to do the same, he does a wrong.

Every boy has a right to learn any trade for which he has aptitude and inclination. Any interference with this right is injustice.

Immigrants who came ten or twenty years ago to the country, have no right to prevent others following their example. Sixty years ago, the native laborer of New England thought he was going to be crowded out and ruined by the Irish immigrant. What was the result? The native workman, much more intelligent, skillful, and educated, was *pushed up*, by the Irishman getting below him! The American left the less-desirable and poorer-paid labor to the foreigner, and got higher wages for himself at more skilled labor.

There is a grand field for the Labor-Reformer. He has the best sympathies of the country with him. He must try to elevate the workman to be worthy of his franchise; just in his estimate of employers; kind to his brother-workman, who has three or four boys to whom he wishes to teach his own trade; convincing in his demonstration (that of actual experiment) that eight hours are really as valuable as ten hours used to be; courteous as to the rights of others; as just to the rights of women, to freely labor, and freely negotiate for labor, as to men. And when a class has once got equal rights, to keep on (exclusively and aggressively) to labor for that class, is to perpetuate that most odious of all governing mistakes, "Class Legislation."

OUR HELPERS.—We point with pride to our contributors this month; and we have seldom or never had such an abundance of church news. We feel thankful and encouraged. Make articles and items numerous; send them promptly; keep them short.