

hope that Ottawa, the metropolitan city, as well as Toronto, Quebec, Hamilton, and London, may speedily be induced to reorganize defunct Associations, or organize new ones, to unite in powerful systematic efforts to obtain for the employés and laborers on the canals emancipation from harassing compulsory labor on the Lord's Day.

#### BAKEHOUSES—NIGHT WORK.

Efforts have been made by your Committee through their Secretary to obtain for journeymen bakers in this city what they have an undoubted right to—the hours of the night for rest and sleep, and the hours of daylight for labor; but they regret to say these efforts have not hitherto been crowned with success.\* This want of success is attributable chiefly (it is apprehended) to the erroneous views taken by some of the master bakers upon the subject, and their prejudices in favor of night work from the long habit of turning day into night, into which they have been led without clearly seeing the evils which must inevitably result from it to themselves as well as to their servants.

At a meeting convened by your Secretary, held on the 19th of October, attended by five master bakers, and the representative of one, the question was imperfectly discussed. The chief objections against the proposed change from night to day work seemed to be the following: In the event of journeymen bakers residing at a distance from the bakehouses, there would be difficulty in securing their attendance at an early enough hour in dark winter mornings; that there were men who preferred night work, (one master baker had left it optional with his servants to have night or day work—they preferred the former); recently baked bread could not be obtained at such an early hour in the morning as to meet

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\* This movement originated in a report of the Secretary to the Committee in April last, respecting the hardships endured by journeymen bakers being obliged to work during night. He was requested to make more particular inquiry into the matter, and correspond with the Secretary of the Scottish Sabbath Alliance respecting the success of the movement understood to have been carried on in Edinburgh to relieve bakers from night work. By a letter from that gentleman, the Rev. J. N. MILLER, in reply to your Secretary, it was found that the movement in Edinburgh was not as supposed, but for the purpose of discovering a method of accelerating or retarding the process of fermentation, so that all labor on the Lord's Day in bakehouses might be dispensed with. But Mr. MILLER kindly stated in his letter as follows:—"I think the bakers here commence work at 3 or 5 A.M., and drop at about 5 P.M." It is to be regretted that the endeavors to discover a method by which "the fermentative process would take from Saturday night to Monday morning to ripen the sponge, or so to accelerate it, as that this end could be obtained in the course of a very few hours, have not been successful." In many instances the sponges were destroyed, and the risk of failure to obtain good bread was so great that the attempt was abandoned by all but one baker, who in June, 1866, still professed to practise the new method.\* The bakers to whom the question was submitted here, gave it as their opinion that good leavened bread could not be obtained without setting the sponge on Sabbath evening. It is understood that this process occupies about one hour.\*\*