

A large employer of skilled labour in Yorkshire told me last week, that his men spent on an average twenty shillings in drink every Saturday night, and Sunday; and one of the largest employers of labour in this neighbourhood tells me that not one-tenth of his men are at their work on the Monday morning.

With these facts before us, no wonder that the late Canon Stowell has said that the Sunday traffic turns the Lord's day into a day for the devil, and that it was a question whether many of the working-men would not be better without a Sunday at all. Indeed, I know that thousands of the women of England dread the approach of Sunday, because of the intemperance of their husbands; and sons; while the employers of labour regard the recurrence of that day as one of their greatest difficulties.

Then there is the second reason for the absence of children — the indifference on the part of the parents. What is the cause of this? As a rule the working-men of England have strong home feelings, and an ardent love for their children. How is it then that they have so degenerated, that the interests of their children are, in many cases, altogether neglected, and that a law has been necessary to enable society to compel them to have them educated? The answer was given the other day at Halifax by Mr. Goschen, when he said, "Drink so degrades the mental tastes, and perception, and so steels the heart, that the education of the children is sacrificed to the sensual appetites of the parents."

In proof that this is correct, I don't hesitate to say that, after years of close intercourse with the working-men of this country, I am certain the compulsory power will never be brought to bear upon an abstainer. Two men shall live in the same street, and work at the same shop, and earn the same wages, and while the children of the one are ragged, and neglected, the children of the other will be well clad,