

their own terms for labour. However premature the eight hour labour movement may have been, this much is to be inferred from it, that the working classes are almost the sole arbiters of their own affairs, much to the oppression of the other factor of industry. So great has been the demand for hands, as to necessitate the employment of thousands of women and children. Nothing serves as better evidence of the financial thrift of labour than the acknowledged prosperous condition of the Savings Banks. Hence the domestic state of the working classes is infinitely superior to and beyond all comparison with that of their trans-Atlantic order. In fact the humblest labourer here finds himself in the possession of enjoyments which would be estimated as luxuries in Europe. However imperfect the tenement houses may be when compared with the dwellings of the wealthier classes, still they are comparatively spacious, well-lighted and accessible to current ventilation. The food of the working classes is bounteous and wholesome, and there are very few families but have animal food at least once a day. Copious water supply to tenements ensures all facilities for cleanliness; and public baths are accessible to all at a moderate rate. A glance at the attire of our industrial classes on a Sunday, gives us volumes of proof of the comparatively easy circumstances by which they are surrounded. What might have been anticipated *a priori* from their superior conditions is confirmed by practical observation, viz., that our industrial classes exhibit a better general health, a robust appearance, and none of those excessive forms of nutritive derangement which are comprised under the collective term of strumous disease. The contrast existing for instance between the populations of New York and Vienna can scarcely be overdrawn. In the Austrian metropolis almost every person one meets looks sallow, anemic, attenuated, physically impoverished, afflicted with swellings, ulcerations, and cicatrices of the cervical glands, of which in our midst there is hardly a trace.

The comparison to which I have drawn your attention, gentlemen, is between Europe and the United States, with which I am best acquainted. Whether my remarks apply equally to your prosperous Provinces, you can decide best.

Notwithstanding the superior advantages, facilities, and prosperity of our industrial classes, and notwithstanding the fact that scrofulosis in general has found amongst them but a limited ground of development, we meet, at least in the Northern States, with numerous cases of articular diseases for which constitutional causes cannot be assigned. What therefore is plausible for Europe is inadmissible with us, and this very circumstance was the first shock which unsettled my belief in the theory of strumous causation. In defence of the old theory it may be urged