

it directly employs. Every dollar spent in this way would be repaid in the increased efficiency of a contented and well-used staff. Doubly important at the present moment is it, when the long deferred reform of the service is at last to be realized, that it should not be launched under conditions that will inevitably act like a ball and chain upon its chances of the success which it deserves.

THE KING AND HIS SERVANTS.

AN OLD AWATTO BALLAD.

The King who reigned at Awatto
Was seated on his throne,
When up came all his servingmen
And made a bitter moan.

"The shilling that you gave to us
As guerdon for our deeds
Has shrunk so grievously, O Liege
It cannot serve our needs—

"For he that bakes the penny-loaf
Asks twopence for the same;
The dairy-keeper skims the milk
That once was rich in cream;

"And he that sells the herbs to heal,
And he that binds the wounds,
And he who hollows out the grave
To house us underground,

"Have all with one intent combined
To make the penny less.
We pray thee, therefore, use thy might
And give thy men redress."

The King took counsel and replied,
"Did you not all engage
To serve me for the shilling-piece
Which is your daily wage?"

"Then wherefore do you come to beg?
But, since I love the right,
Three judges will I set to work
To bring your wrongs to light."
Then through the land these judges went
To question and cajole.
And sat them down when all was done
And wrote upon a scroll:

"The vineyard of the gracious King
Is chocked at spots with weeds;
But this we find, your servants lack
The bread to serve their needs."

His Majesty withdrew to think,
And after many days
Returned an answer to his men,—
That he their wage would raise?

No, that the vineyard first must have
New boundaries and range,
And two new rulers he would name
To make the needed change.

"Now as to what is cause of all
The lack of bread and cheese,
I grant the headmen instant help
Their dire want to ease;

"But ye that hew, and ye that draw,
And ye that turn the hay,
Will get in time, if ye but live,
A farthing more a day."

And thus the King Awatto
Found favour with his men;—
And they that patched their pants last year
Put patches on again.

Mercutio.

THE CIVIL SERVICE BERNARDO

With apologies to Mrs. Hemans.

The Civil Servant bowed his head
And keeping down his ire,

He begged and prayed the Minister
To make his salary higher.

"The winter's coming on," he said,

"And everything's so dear
I can't afford to eat," he said;

"And keep warm too, that's clear."

"Rise! Rise! Even now a bill is drawn

Which will take care of you;

Even while we speak of it

It may have been passed through;"

Then lightly rose that trustful clerk,

His face no longer sad,

And hied him to the House to see

The bill to make him glad.