

It is notorious that these very classes, from whose ranks have sprung so many who have invented large numbers of our most valuable labour-saving contrivances, are not much benefitted, comparatively, not so much as they should be, by the large amount of such machinery now in use. The few proprietors and capitalists get wealth more rapidly, while the thousands of daily labourers work as long and as hard every day as they did before such machines were invented. And with many, too, their occupation is more laborious, more incompatible with health; their *life* is considerably shortened instead of their hours of labour. Look, for example, at the agricultural laborer who follows the reaper and thresher, and at certain factory workers.

It is quite probable that a certain number of healthy, happy, and vigorous men could do as much at many sorts of work in eight hours as the same number less healthy and happy and vigorous could do in ten. It has been found that the amount of labour men will perform is affected in a marked degree by causes which one would hardly suppose could produce any perceptible effect. For example, according to Dr. Carpenter, it has been ascertained by actual experiment, that brickmakers who drink beer do not make so many bricks by nearly one-twentieth as those who do not drink it. It has also been found that if the quantity of fresh air introduced into a mine by the ventilating apparatus be considerably reduced, there is soon a decided diminution in the amount of work performed by the men. There would therefore probably be but little if any loss to the employer through shorter labour hours.

It may be urged by some, that a large proportion of employees of all sorts would not avail themselves of an hour or two daily, if it were given to them, to attend to their health and to mental and physical development, to seek happiness in legitimate ways, but that they would spend the time unprofitably, perhaps in the tap-room, or in some manner incompatible with their own welfare or the public good. It might not be a safe experiment to give suddenly to all labourers, uneducated and educated alike, to spend as they might see fit, a fifth part