

plementary labor to household work, by which 4s. to 8s. may be gained, average, 5s. a week. 400 men warpers, 25s.; 300 men moulders, foundrymen, and superintendents of machinery, 35s.; 60 carpenters, 30s.; 350 porters, 17s.; 120 carters, 20s.; 90 watchmen, &c., 20s.; 260 steam engineers, 22s.; 150 bleachers, 20s.; 100 male dressers of lace, 8s. to 30s.; 1,000 female white menders, 12s.; 500 female lace folders, 10s.; 1,000 paper-box makers of both sexes, 7s.; 450 warehouse women, 12s.; 250 female overlookers, 15s.; 100 draughtsmen and designers, 40s.; 1,300 warehousemen and clerks taking salaries. There are employed in each finishing lace warehouse from 6 to 600 females, as the size and nature of the business may require. The number cannot be known except by actual census. They are taken from outdoor hands in brown mending and other employment on lace. The hours are 8 A.M. to 7 P.M., and the wages are about 9s. on an average; over time is paid for."

"The kinds of work must be seen to be understood, but are in general more wearisome than heavy. In some of the factories and workrooms in lace houses, and in dressing-rooms, the heat is sometimes oppressive. In general, ventilation is provided for, but hands do not always care to make use of it. There is a far greater number of females employed, sometimes from a too early age, in the houses of 'mistresses,' often their own mothers, upon drawing, scalloping, carding, &c., processes light and simple enough upon goods which have been obtained from finishing houses. These young people must exercise care and cleanliness on the goods, or they would be spoilt. When returned to the warehouse the mistress receives a price, out of which she takes a portion for her labor, risk of damage, fire, light, house room, &c. Some of these persons employ twelve to twenty young girls. The total number cannot be known accurately except by census."

"About 1840 an emigration set in Nottingham from all the districts within fifty miles to supply the increasing warehouse and outdoor female laborers required in both the lace and hosiery trades. There has thus been added to the already surplus female population of the place 13,000 within the last twenty-six years. In these three classes are computed from 90,000 to 100,000 females, which, added to the 38,000 above enumerated, makes a total of about 135,000 employed in the lace trade of Nottingham in 1865. The materials worked up cost about £1,715,000; the wages and profits amounted to £3,415,000 or thereabouts, and the net returns may be stated at £5,120,000. In the hosiery business of Nottingham there were at work in 1865 11,000 narrow hand machines, employing domestically 7,500 men, and 3,500 women and youths, at wages from 6s. to 20s., averaging by the statements of the accounts of the hands themselves 40s. 6d. weekly; also 4,250 wide hand machines, likewise domestically employing 4,250 men, from 10s. to 30s., averaging according to the workmen's statement, 15s., weekly wages. These 15,250 hand frames were placed in 5,620 shops, in eighty parishes spread over the county of Nottingham. The entire average wages of 24,000 frames in 1844 was about 6s. a week only. These two classes of hand machines, it is computed, give employment to about 20,000 women and girls as winders and seamers, earning 4s. each on an average."

Mr. Felkin went on to show that the supply of female labor to the manufacturing districts had a tendency to increase rather than diminish, owing to its comparative cheapness; but the prevalence of female labor was attended with serious evils, of which one was the heavy rate of mortality at an early age, and another the high rate of illegitimate births, always observable wherever there was an excess of women. In Nottingham, illegitimate children constitute ten per cent. of all the births."

SYSTEMATIC CHILD MURDER IN FRANCE.

The Paris correspondent of the London Star tells this horrible story:

A subject of deep interest is now discussed at the French Academy of Medicine, to which I have already alluded, namely, the frightful morality among French children, according to the fashion of this country put out to nurse. Every year twenty thousand babies are sent out of Paris under the care of peasant nurses, and of that number five thousand on an average are returned to their mothers, the other fifteen thousand having died of cold, starvation, and bad treatment. Since 1846 it has been calculated that in the neighborhood of Paris some three hundred thou-

sand of the nurslings have died in the hands of their foster mothers. Why should such barbarous murder be allowed to depopulate the country? It is entirely owing to the bad management of the *bureau de nourrices*, over which government has till now not exercised a proper amount of surveillance. These offices receive indiscriminately every woman who applies at them for employment."

A frightful trade is carried on by speculators of the lowest class, denominated *meneurs*, who enroll the countrywomen in their pay, convey them to Paris in carts justly called 'purgatories,' obtain for them babies whose mothers have applied at the offices for a nurse for their child, and convey them and the children back to the country. The horrors that take place during the journey to Paris and back in the vehicle of the *meneur* are of so startling a nature that one could hardly believe them to be true were it not for the undoubted proofs which have been laid before the Academy of Medicine. Thus the countrywomen make no scruple in exchanging the babies entrusted to them, and several among them undertake to nurse two or three children at a time. 'I have seen,' exclaimed M. Chevalier, addressing the Academy, 'one woman professing to nurse seven infants, and yet she herself had neither milk nor a cow.'

Fed with bad broth, exposed to every species of dirt and neglect the miserable infant sickens and dies. The nurse, however, writes to its mother that her baby is prospering, that it had grown out of its clothes, and required a fresh supply. The mother naturally spends her months wages in supplying her child's wants, and goes on paying its board for months after it has been lying in the village cemetery. A considerable number of nurses come annually to Paris and carry back a supply of children, and not one has ever been known to bring a child back to the capital. In their charge the children simply appear and disappear. Dr. Brochard cited in his speech to the Academy two communes of the Eure et Loire Department, where the nurslings invariably die."

It appears there are women among the nurses whose reputation is well known, and these nurses are specially sought for by certain ill-famed houses. Entrusting a new-born infant to one of them is tantamount to infanticide. Dr. Brochard read several copies of the lying letters written by nurses to the children's parents, describing in pathetic language the rosy cheeks and increasing charms of their infants, dead weeks before the epistle was indited. The doctor also gave several curious details of the annual pilgrimage to St. Criard, in the department of La Perche. St. Criard, he it remarked, is the real name of the place, and not a calembourg. On a given day, late in Autumn, it is the custom of the country to bring every infant in the vicinity before the painted image of the saint, there to do him homage. The said statue happens to be in a chapel at the top of a steep hill, exposed to all the winds of heaven."

The country itself is bleak and the climate peculiarly cold at any time of the year. Naturally, this long pilgrimage at the worst season of the year to the top of a great height proves fatal to all the delicate infants who are carried in the procession; and the amount of deaths from bronchitis which ensue in the course of the week following is something incredible. These horrible facts are highly discreditable to the mayors of the various villages where these infants are nursed."

THE SHOCK OF AN EARTHQUAKE.

Paris and its environs were visited Sep. 14. by an extremely rare phenomenon in that country, an earthquake consisting of five or six distinct oscillations. Further particulars tend to show that the commotion was much more serious than was at first supposed. At Paris it was chiefly felt in the 16th *arrondissement* (Passy), where No. 4 in the Rue Moliere was so alarmingly shaken that the inmates ran out into the street in a fright. The house has since been reported in a dangerous state. At Boulogne and Auteuil the floors communicated a rocking motion to the beds, and glasses and plates were knocked together. At Montretout (St. Cloud), Ville d'Avray, Sevres, Suresne, Yerres, Brunoy, Mongeron, Creteil, &c., similar disturbances were experienced. But from the accounts that have now reached us it would appear that the commotion was felt all over the west of France. If a line be drawn on the map from Paris to Clermont, and thence to Perigueux, it would mark the limits of the phenomenon pretty nearly, com-

prising, besides those towns, Orleans, Tours, Angers, Nantes, Rouen, Le Mans, Vendome, Angoulême, &c. In Paris the direction of the shocks is presumed to have been from east to west; weather cloudy in the east; the barometer fell six millimetres, thermometer unchanged. In the departments the shocks are variously stated to have been from west to east and from east to west. At Angoulême the waters of the Charente fell five centimetres at the moment of the shock, and did not rise again to their usual level till an hour later. Several accidents are reported to have taken place. At Clermont the walls of the powder magazine are said to have been overthrown. At St. Marc, in the Loiret, a milk woman and a costermonger were thrown down by the violence of the shock; window-panes were broken, some tiles fell here and there, and several doors were forced open. At Limoges a piece of a cornice, from the top of a house fell into the street, and a coffee house keeper in that town found all his beer had turned. In connection with the phenomenon of the 14th, it may be stated that on the 1st inst., an earthquake was experienced in the department of the Deux-Sevres. Altogether, considering that the Paris basin does not present any very volcanic characteristics, it is not impossible that this presumed earthquake was only a commotion of the atmosphere in a highly electric state. This supposition is the more probable from the statement that M. Schœnbein's ozonometric iodized test paper assumed a deep blue tint during the phenomenon, and that in those houses where birds were kept the latter were highly excited before the commotion, and made efforts to escape from the cages. The phenomenon with which we have just been visited cannot be compared in intensity to any of those on record even in our days. The most violent earthquakes of later years are those of the Neapolitan province of Basilicata in 1857, and that of Mendoza, in South America, which in a few seconds caused the death of 10,000 persons."

THE GREAT "LOCK-OUT" IN THE IRON TRADE OF THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

We are afraid that the working classes in general are not alive to the extent or importance of the arduous struggle which has been waging between the iron-workers and the iron-masters of the North of England. Yet this battle, now being fought, is one on which important issues, not only to the immediate combatants, but to the laboring classes all over the kingdom, are directly dependent. For the cause of labor, a most important and vital principle is involved in the contest. That principle is this: whether the masters, by a preconcerted resolve and simultaneous movement, have a right, or rather the power, to reduce the wages of the men; not because the state of the iron or labor market justifies such a reduction, but simply because the masters think that in virtue of their own superior organization, and the comparative weakness of the men, they have the power to effect such a reduction."

In other words, though the iron trade is in a perfectly healthy and flourishing condition, and though there is no surplus of iron operatives in the labor market, the iron-masters—most of whom are among the most gigantic capitalists in the kingdom—determine to reduce the wages of the men to the extent of ten, twenty, and in some branches, we are assured, even fifty per cent., because they have come to the conclusion that the workmen are not in a condition to resist so serious an inroad on the means of their own and their families' subsistence. In this case, the combination of iron-masters act upon the principle that the workman's necessity is the masters' opportunity, not for exhibiting the magnanimity, chivalry, or generosity which we are told is always latent in English heart; but, on the contrary, for the display of the most sordid and heartless dispositions of a depraved and diseased humanity."

However, in this, as in other instances, the masters are likely to find out that they have been acting upon a twofold mistake—to have underrated the resisting strength of the men upon the one hand, and to have exaggerated the compelling power of the iron-masters' Association on the other. A few days since, and the masters were laying the flattering unction to their souls that the men were just on the eve of yielding. The semi-starvation of the wives and children of the iron operatives were assumed to have impressed the fathers and husbands of those suffering ones with a due sense of the power, if not of the goodness, of the iron-masters."

The history and principle of this war may be very briefly stated. About three months ago the price of money was very high. The Bank of England's rate of discount was ten per cent.—that is to say, for every £100 borrowed from the bank the borrower had to pay £10. Taking their stand upon this financial fact, the iron-masters said to their men, "You see money is very dear. The Bank of England charges £10 per cent. We cannot, therefore, pay you the same wages that for some time previously we have been paying."

To this the men, in effect, replied: "We are very sorry that the price of money should be so high, but as you are not dependent on the Bank of England—as, in fact, you, as a class, being many of you money-lenders, profit by the high rate of discount, and as the state of the iron trade is healthy and prosperous in a high degree, we cannot see how the reduction of our wages can be justified on the grounds which you have advanced."

"No," replied the iron-masters, "that is not the case. The iron trade is not in a flourishing condition."

"Very well," answered the men; "in that case you may be justified in proposing a reduction of our wages. But before we consent to the proposed reduction, we must be satisfied that the iron trade is in the depressed condition which you represent."

So the iron workers of the North of England, through their energetic and indefatigable chairman, Mr. John Kane, procured the Board of Trade returns, by which it was shown that the iron exports for the six months of the year in which the reduction of wages was attempted to be enforced, were considerably in excess of the exports of the corresponding six months of the previous year."

This statistical fact, though conclusive as to the question of the condition of the trade, exasperated rather than mollified the iron-masters. So the men, because they would not submit to the reduction, have been "locked out."

This period of enforced idleness has now lasted for about three months. The number of men directly deprived of work is nearly ten thousand. The number of human beings directly and indirectly dependent upon these virtually "locked out" operatives is not much, if any, short of seventy thousand. The lock-out extends over the district comprehended between Beddington, in Northumberland, and Middlesbrough and Cleveland, in Yorkshire, and embraces all the great iron-works in the valleys of the Tyne, the Tees, and the Wear."

The sufferings of the men have been of the most agonizing kind, and have been only equalled by their heroic resolve to endure the utmost extremities of cold, hunger and starvation rather than submit to what they justly consider to be an arbitrary attempt on the part of the masters to dictate unrighteous terms to the men."

In many instances the dwelling-places of these workmen have been denuded of every stick of furniture in order to procure for their wives and children the necessaries of life. Though the liberality of certain classes of their fellow-workmen is in the highest degree creditable to them, many of these iron-workers have had to put up with the beggarly and starvation pittance of one shilling and sixpence a week!

Now, this must not be. These men are fighting the battle of British labor. If they should be vanquished, the common enemy will be encouraged and prompted to commit further encroachments."

It is, in fact, the old story. The sticks, as a bundle, cannot be broken. But take away the band of union, the girdle of co-operation, common sympathy and mutual help, and every stick can, and shall be, broken in detail."

The moral, then, is obvious. The working classes of the whole empire, in sheer self-interest, and independently of any chivalrous or Christian feeling, are bound to do all in their power in order to enable the cruelly-treated and hard-pressed iron-workers of the north of England to withstand the gigantic conspiracy against which they are now contending.—*Reynolds's Miscellany.*

THE London Pneumatic Dispatch Company, in their report, state that one hundred and twenty tons of goods can be passed through the tube per hour, at the rate of eighteen miles an hour, at the cost of under 1 penny a ton per mile."

THE employment of steamships in the whaling service is likely to prove a success. The steam-whaler *Vigilant*, cruising off the coast of Iceland, has already taken 1,000 barrels of oil and will probably take 500 more before the season closes."