

able to the laborers. They seem to have been more anxious for limitation of hours than any rise in wages. In this respect they are of the same opinion as their fellow craftsmen in other parts of the world. In fact, it seems to be conceded generally that in this particular industry fewer hours are necessary for the well-being of the men. Eight hours of coal mining is as much as any human being should, with our modern ideas of humanity, be asked to do. When the golden age, "the good time coming," which the poets describe, shall arrive, nobody will be expected to over-tax his hands or his brains. But the millennium is not here yet. Whether the shortening of the hours of labor will increase the opportunities for labor is a question about which there is some dispute. The Unionists have got Lord Randolph Churchill on their side, even if such men as Lord Salisbury still profess to be in the dark.

The influenza epidemic still occupies a great share of public attention throughout Europe, and it is worthy of note that in 1837—the year of Queen Victoria's accession—a similar epidemic raged throughout Europe. It is said that from January 20th, 1837, the average number of burials in London exceeded one thousand each day. The churchyards were all bustle and confusion. Groups of mourners with corpses were obliged to wait for their turn till the officiating clergyman could perform the funeral service. At a meeting of the Westminster Medical Society, Dr. Johnson stated that the influenza had been more violent in its character and universal in its extent than the cholera epidemic of 1833. From present appearances we may conclude that the epidemic is not so violent as it was fifty-three years ago.

A great change is taking place in the political feeling of Europe. In the beginning of 1886 the republic of France seemed tottering to its fall. Boulangerism was in the ascendancy, and republicans of every shade of opinion feared the consequences. Today it is different. Republicanism is no longer on the defensive only; it wields an influence in every monarchy of Europe. The recent revolution in Brazil will certainly have an influence on all the Latin nations of Europe. A popular uprising in favor of a republic, both in Spain and Portugal, would be a surprise to no one. Italy also wishes a larger liberty. It is only the fear of Papal supremacy and the need of a strong central government that prevents her from attempting a federal republic. Then would Sardinia, Savoy, Lombardy, Venetia, Tuscany and Naples realize their political dream, while at the same time they would be conferred for mutual protection.

As an instance of the change of political feeling may be noted the rapid sale of a book of travels which has lately been translated and republished. In 1786 Sir Arthur Young, a famous Englishman in his day, traveled over France, and wrote a book concerning its condition and institutions. It is this book, which so terribly sets forth the con-

dition of France before the Revolution, that is now republished, and it is with pride that Frenchmen point to the progress they have made. According to this work, Paris, a century ago, had "narrow, dirty streets, without foot pavements, and no well dressed persons could traverse the streets without injury to their clothing." What a contrast to the Paris of today, with its sunny boulevards and exquisite gardens—the paradise of good Americans and the despair of patriotic Londoners! Then there was no Madeleine, no Arc d'Etoile, or Rue de la Paix or Rue de Rivoli, or Palace d'Elysee. The Pantheon, the Louvre and the Luxembourg were not yet finished, and not one Boulevard in ten had an existence. But this is not all; in the country the changes are equally great. The traveler of that day "never saw such poverty and neglect." It reminded him of Ireland. The state of the people was even more dreadful than the desolation of the farms. From north to south, from east to west, he found "men without proper shoes or clothes, and women crushed by toll into hideous savages." Such is the description given by an English peer, the friend of Channing, Burke and Pitt. A hundred years have passed since then; and what a change. The waste places have disappeared, on every side millions of acres have come into cultivation by peasant owners. The land overflows with milk and honey, fruits, vegetables, oil, wine and grain. The people as a rule live in good houses. The desolate land with its numerous forests, where formerly the nobility hunted the foxes and boars, is now a vast garden, and millions of happy landowners rejoice in their homes. What has caused this change? It would perhaps require a long story. The Frenchman believes that it was the revolution and the establishment of the republic.

"The world moves for all that" were the words of Galileo after his terrible ordeal before the Inquisition, and similar words might be applied to that terribly slow-moving institution known as the Ottoman Empire. Its progress is now visible even with the naked eye. During the last month the Sultan has issued his decree prohibiting the importation of African slaves into his dominions. The prohibition of the negro slave trade by Turkey is a considerable step towards the final abolition of slavery in the Empire. In Turkey slavery is modified in many ways. A white slave in the harem of a Sultan or a Pasha may become herself the mother of a future prince or lord. The black slave has no such chance. What was called "chattel" slavery in America practically does not exist. There are no auctions, no public sales of mothers torn from their children, nor wives from their husbands; nor is there a traffic in white women with the negro taint in their veins. These horrible commercial incidents of the institution of America are unknown in the east. It is not often that we find

Turkey setting a good example to the so-called Christian nations of Europe, but the statesmen of France may note with advantage that according to the terms of the new decree English, German and American commanders are allowed to search vessels suspected of carrying slaves even if they fly the Turkish flag, while Turkish captains are allowed similar privileges in regard to other nations. To the present time France denies all nations the right of search. For half a century Great Britain and America have been at work for the suppression of the slave trade. Germany and then Italy at length came over to the side of humanity. Portugal also has ranged herself on the side of right, and it now remains for France to do her part. Her explorers have done good work, and her new territories on the Congo give her an unquestionable interest in the matter. She can hardly lag behind now that Turkey has joined the movement against the curse that still makes Africa the Dark Continent.

Another important epoch in the history of Turkey has just been passed. A telegram from Constantinople announces the fact that track-laying has commenced on the long-talked-of railway which is to connect the Asiatic shore of the Bosphorus with the great cities of Asia Minor and Syria. In a few months it is expected that the first section between Constantinople, or rather Scutari, and Angora will be completed, and trains will be running up among the far-famed hills of Cilicia—the native land of the Apostle Paul. The completion of the whole line to Damascus and Bussorah is only a question of time, and no great time either, for in spite of the supposed stagnation of everything under the dominion of the Turk, there is a good deal more commercial activity and a great deal more progress during the last twenty years than many people are inclined to believe. This railway will traverse the famous range of Mount Olympus, passing through a region that was civilized and populous a thousand years before the Ottoman Turks had made their appearance on the stage of history. The construction of so important a line is an undeniable indication of progress in Asia Minor, and goes far to prove that even in the Asiatic dominions of the Turk the world still moves.

J. H. WARD.

EUROPE, Jan. 13th, 1890.

LETTER FROM ENGLAND.

Since my arrival in England on the 2nd of November last I have had the opportunity of noting many items of interest.

That a vast improvement has taken place in the general condition of the working classes is beyond doubt. Wages in nearly all the branches of industry are considerably higher than was the case when I left England twenty-eight years ago. The commodious tenements erected show an evident desire on the part of the owners to make the occupants comfortable.