THE DIGNITY OF LABOUR QUESTION.

We hear much from time to time on the dignity of labour. It has long been a favorite theme with more than one class of writers, popular, or seeking to be popular; and it is a capital stock-subject for the perambulating lecturer's platform, and a good card to play, when you want to trump your adversary's suit in the game which comes off on the hustings at electioneering times.

I lay pondering this question the other night long after the echoes of the last footfall had died out in the street below; next morning, it still lingered in my thoughts; and when I sat down to the desk in my three-pair back, after breakfast, and began mending my pen, it remained uppermost. So I resolved to devote my scraps of time to saying something about it; and, looking out of the window, over the roofs and among the chimney-stacks, for an idea to start with, my eyes lighted on a spectacle, than which I could have desired nothing more suitable for a text.

My window, which is elevated some thirty feet, overlooks, at a distance of about twenty yards, the flat roofs of a row of two story houses, perhaps a dozen in number. The roofs are all on one level, and covered with lead, with a low wall or battlement on either side. The leaden roof got out of repair; and a party of plumbers, four in number, had emerged from a trap-door in the central house, and, armed, with a brasier, a melting-pot, a few lumps of lead, a few planks, and sundry soldering-irons, &c., addressed themselves to the performance of the necessary reparations. But how did they set about it; I shall record their proceedings, *seriatim*, conceiving that they have something to do with the dignity-of-labor doctrine, and may throw some useful light upon it. First, the brasier was fixed upon the planks, the melting-pot mounted in its place, and a fire lighted under it—a couple of irons being placed to heat in the fire. While the lead is melting, two of the men walk up and down the roofs, apparently in search of the defective spots to be repaired; and these they mark with chalk. A third turns the cover of the trap-door over, and chalks upon its inside a large square, divided by cross-lines into nine smaller squares. This he places in a convenient spot, against a central stack of chimneys, chalking off a line distant from the board exactly seven paces. The fourth man now produces from his pocket a small bag containing nine drops or dumps of lead of a few ounces each; and the whole four, having tossed up for partners, commenced playing the game of pitch, each throwing the dumps in turn, and scoring what numbers he made on his own side of the chimney. The squares appeared to be near the same numbers as the cups on a bagatelle-board, the centre square counting double. For two hours the game goes on, the only work being an occasional replenishing of the fire. At eleven o'clock, the balance of the game is struck, and one man goes off with the winnings to purchase beer. During his absence, some small ladles are dipped into the melted metal, and on various parts of the roof, and by the aid of these and the application of the hot iron, a number of shining demonstrations are soon visible. But the messenger is back in a quarter of an hour, bringing a gallon can with him; and the party spend the next three quarters in discussing its contents, comfortably seated on the sill of the trap-door. At noon they resume work, and continue it in a leisurely way for nearly an hour, when it is time to go to dinner, and they disappear.

For three days more, this farce continued, and the job was supposed to be finished. That everything done might have been done in a single day, and that with ease, I do not hesitate to declare: but this perhaps the dignity would not allow.

Were this exploit of the gambling plumbers a solitary instance in my experience, of the way in which working-men sometimes plunder their paymaster, or defeat his purposes, I would not have set it down here as an evidence against them; but I have in my own time seen so much of the working of the same spirit—I have seen such direful mischiefs resulting from it, as well to working-men themselves as to their employers—and I am so well aware of its prevalence at the present moment, and the danger attending it, that I do not feel justified in refraining from any exposure which may draw down upon it the rebuke it merits. Not long ago, a case come to my knowledge in which the foulest wrong and injury were inflicted upon a generous and benovolent man, because he could not be induced to submit to extortion. The case was this: wishing to add a sheet of ornamental water to the garden grounds of his country seat situated on the skirts of a village, he had half an acre of his land dug out to form the pond, and a brick culvert constructed, from a rivulet nearly a mile off to feed it. The culvert ran under a neighbor's grounds, and beneath his own lawn. He employed the laborers of the village and neighboring district to the whole work, and paid them liberally; but he would not allow them to drink, as they chose, at his expense; and in revenge, while taking his money, they contrived and carried out a plan for ruining his undertaking, and flooding him out of his house. It succeeded well, that it drove him from the place for ever. He sold his land and residence, and transferred his enterprise to another county. He lost a heavy sum by their treachery, and they lost the advantage of his capital and enterprising spirit, which would in all likelihood have provided employment for them and their children for many years.

A builder of my acquaintance contracted to execute a certain piece of work within a given time. There was no difficulty about it, and not the slightest necessity for hurry. He placed the usual complement of hands upon it, and kept them at work the usual hours. The work proceeded prosperously, and was advancing towards completion, when the men by accident arrived at the knowledge that the employer was bound in a considerable sum to get everything done by a specified time. They immediately relaxed in their exertions, and evinced a determination to defeat his object; he threatened legal punishment, but they knew he was at their mercy, and still dawdled on. It was, at last, only by bribe of a supper and drink, that they could be roused to sufficient energy to make up for lost time, and save him from the ruinous penalty.

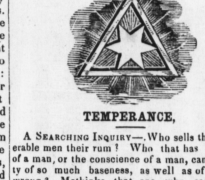
The belief that a Congress will be held to define the succession to the Greek Throne grows confirmed. The refusal of Prince Adalbert to allow his children to adopt the Greek faith renders a settlement of the question imperatively necessary. It is said the Congress will assemble in Lonodn.

It is understood that a warning has been given to King Ferdinand of Naples, that if any outbreak takes place in his dominions, he is not to look to foreign assistance from any quarter for its suppression. Austria has joined in this warning.

EVACUATION OF KARS BY THE RUSSIANS.—A letter, dated Erzeroum, July 29, says :—Colonel L. Meiclel, Chief of the Staff of the Russian forces at Kars, arrived here on Sunday last, the 27th inst., with his staff. In a few days he returns to Kars to give that place up to the Turks. Hussein Pacha is to be sent to take over the place from the Russians The same Hussein Pacha was chief of the staff at Karsunder Shukri Pacha, and was sent away by General Williams for drunkenness and debauchery, and now that General Williams has left, they send him back honorably."

The Grain markets throughout the country have generally been well supported; the state of the weather exercising considerable effect upon business. Notwithstanding the unsettled and boisterous state of the weather, we do not see the many reports of damage of consequence to the Grain crops; the latter portion of the harvest not being like to become general for ten or fourteen days is less susceptible of present injury, and with a good season in September, may be well gathered The returns of sales of British Wheat, in the *Gazette*, for this week, are:—40,805 quarters at 68s 9d per quarter; corresponding week, 1855, 71,104 quarters at 73s 7d. At to-day's market, Wheat was 1d to 2d per bushel cheaper than on Tuesday. Good brands of American Flour commanded late rates, but generally prices were irregular for the lower descriptions. Indian Corn improved 6d per quarter, and was the favourite article at market.

The lighting apparatus, which is to be erected on the Isle of Serpents, has been sent off from Paris. It has been made for the account of the Turkish Government, which has also ordered a considerable number for all the coasts of Turkey in Europe and in Asia.



TEMPERANCE.

A SEARCHING INQUIRY.—Who sells these miserable men their rum? Who that has the heart of a man, or the conscience of a man, can be guilty of so much baseness, as well as of so much wrong? Methinks that one who can do it, would sell the very bones of his father for gain! I know not who does it, I care not to know. But I stand in amazement, that in a civilized and Christian community, such things are suffered to be done.

THE DYING YOUTH.—A few years since, a young man sent for me to visit him, in the fall of the year. He was in a consumption: which, he acknowledged, while his sobs choked his utterance, was brought upon him by excessive drinking, and consequent exposure. Winter came on; and the charities of the town consigned him to the care of a man who *had* been thriving and comfortable, but who had undertaken to keep a grocery and sell rum, and had fallen a victim under its power. Character, comfort, and property, were at this time well nigh gone; he dragged out a few years of sorrow and poverty, and then sunk into the grave. At the house of this person, some two miles north of this place I visited that sick, and broken-hearted young man. In a cold, unfinished chamber, on a thin bed of straw, whose covering he had vainly tried to eke out by throwing over it his wearing apparel—there, without a fire without an attendant, I found him on the coldest day of a severe winter. There for the last time I pointed him to the Saviour, and prayed with him; and that night he died.—*Dr. Hall's Sermon.*

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS AT BRUSSELS.

A Congress of a remarkable character will assemble at Brussels on the 15th of the present month. Its discussions will embrace a variety of topics connected with the social, industrial, and moral interests of society. Among the subjects which will specially interest our readers is the one indicated in the following extract from the programme:—

"Means of diminishing and preventing the abuse of strong drinks, regarded from the double point of view of the loss of nutritive substances employed in their manufacture, and of their influence on the health and the morality of the working classes."

The question of the prohibition of the sale of strong drink is also put down for debate, and we learn that the committee of the United Kingdom Alliance have appointed an influential deputation to represent that body at the congress. For want of space we are compelled to be brief in our extracts. The following about "remedies" leads, as a natural consequence, to the interference of the manufacture and public sale of the article:—

"But if we are agreed on the evil, we are not equally agreed on the nature of the remedies to oppose to it. These remedies may be ranged in two categories, the one dependant on individual action, the other on collective or governmental action. Personal abstinence—temperance,—is a habit, or rather a virtue, which cannot be sufficiently recommended. If it were generally practised and entered deeply into custom, restrictive or repressive measures would be useless. But we are yet far from the time when we shall be able to rely on the effect of education, on the free action and spontaneity of individuals to 'conjure' an evil which unhappily makes so frightful progress particularly in certain localities, and among certain classes of the population. In presence of this incontestible fact, the necessity has been acknowledged in certain countries, of recourse to means more prompt, more energetic, more immediate whether it be thought seasonable to supress the abuse at its source, or to adhere only to the diminution of its effects."

The conclusions of the assembly of men composed, as we have no doubt it will be, of some of the most distinguished philathropists and patriots of the world, will be looked for with deep interest, and we trust, that they will be all that reasonable men can expect in the present state of public opinion.—*British Temperance Advocate.*

MAINE WHEELING INTO RANK AGAIN.—We are highly gratified by the glorious intelligence from Maine, that the Hon. HANNIBAL HAMLIN, the staunch supporter of Prohibitory Law Legislation and Maine Law Candidate has been elected Governor by the splendid majority of FIFTEEN THOUSAND!

This is a grand instalment of retributive justice We glory that the noble State that flung her banner in the breeze "*Dirigo*," in this prohibitive movement has manifested a determination to overthrow the Rum despotism which for a time gained ascendency, and that that determination has been consummated in supreme success. *Three Cheers for Maine.*

Royal Agricultural Society's Cattle Show for 1856.

THE Queen's County Cattle Show will be held in Charlottetown on WEDNESDAY the 24th SEPTEMBER, 1856.

PREMIUMS:

Best Entire Blood Colt, foaled in 1844,	£2	0
2d do do	1	0
3d do do		10
Best Blood Filly, do	1	10
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10
best Entire Colt for Agricul. purposes, do	2	0
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10
best Filly do	1	10
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10

CATTLE.

Best Bull, dropped since 1st Jan. 1854,	£2	0
2d do do	1	10
3d do do	1	0
4th do do	0	10
best Bull of any age do	1	10
2d do do do	1	0
3d do do do	0	10
best Cow of any age, giving milk,	1	10
2d do do do	1	0
3d do do do	0	10
best Heifer, dropped since 1st Jan. 1854,	1	10
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10

His Honor Judge Peters offers the following Prizes, to be competed for at the same time:—

Best Heifer, calved in 1855,	£2	0
2d do do	1	10

SHEEP.

Best pen of 3 Ewe Tegs, (Leicester breed)	£2	0
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10
best pen of 3 Ewes of any age,	1	10
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10
best pen of 3 Ewe Lambs, do	1	0
2d do do	0	15
3d do do	0	10
best Ram under 3 years, (lambs excluded),	2	0
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10
best Ram Lamb,	1	10
2d do	1	0
3d do	0	10
best Ram of any age, (over 2 years).	1	0

PIGS.

Best sow, having reared a litter this season,	£1	10
2d do do	1	0
3d do do	0	10
best Boar,	1	10
2d do	1	0
3d do	0	10

REGULATIONS.

No imported Stock of any description will be allowed to compete.

No person will be allowed to exhibit Stock in competition unless he be a Subscriber to the Society, or to one of its Branches.

All Animals must be *bona fide* the property of the Exhibitor.

No Prize will be awarded, unless there be, in the opinion of the Judges, sufficient competition.

No Animal allowed to compete in more than one class.

All Animals intended for competition, must be entered and on the ground before 12 o'clock, otherwise, *they will positively be excluded.*

A FARMER'S DINNER at the Globe Hotel at the hour of 4 o'clock on the day of the Show. Prizes to be paid after Dinner.

W. W. IRVING, Sec'y.

Com. Room, Aug. 15, 1856.

The following STOCK will, along with many others (pure and half-bred Durham, Ayrshire and Leicester SHEEP), be offered for Sale on the above day:—

By JUDGE PETERS—

1 two-year old HEIFER, by Durham Bull 'Sweet Lad,' out of the half-bred Alderney Cow; has been served by the newly imported Durham Bull 'Prince Edward,' this Spring.

1 two-year old HEIFER, got by Sir Alexander Bannerman's imported Ayrshire Bull out of a Galloway Cow.

2 pure Leicester RAMS,

1 RAM, (half Southdown and half Leicester.)

By HON. GEO. COLES—

4 two-year old DURHAM HEIFERS,

4 one-year old ditto

By GEORGE TWEEDY—

1 two-year old BULL, by 'Sweet Lad,' out of Col. Gray's half-bred Durham and Ayrshire Cow.

Victoria Cloth and Carding Mills.

THE Subscriber begs to return his sincere thanks to the public generally, for the very liberal support given to the above mills, for the last five years, and would intimate that he is now prepared to take in Cloth and Wool, and return the same with despatch. The above Mills having undergone a thorough repair, parties may depend on having justice done to anything they may please to forward.

JOHN HENDERSON, Brackley Point Road.

Agent, Messrs. Haszard & Son, Charlottetown.

August 12, 1856.