

The Dignity of Labor.

Sir Hiram Maxim, in a published interview, indignantly rebukes British workmen who are ashamed of their occupations. He is gathered from his remarks that large numbers of them seem to consider that they wear "the badge of infamy" because they use their hands, with the result that while they very often lose their self-respect and the desire to do better for themselves, they endeavor to make their sons "gentle" by turning them into clerks earning a precarious livelihood. In consequence of what he terms this snobbishness, the ranks of clerks are crowded with half-educated youths, whose almost unskilled labor reduces the general run of wages to almost starvation point. Snobbery, he declares, is the great danger to the British nation, and a contrast is drawn between the British and the American laborer, to the great discredit of the former:

"The false shame of laboring with one's hands is losing to this country a most important class, a class that is sending America ahead by leaps and bounds." This is a severe arraignment. It is to be hoped for the credit of manual labor the world over that the reflections on British workmen are undeserved. It is no wonder that British workmen who revolt from this attitude of labor in their own country should recruit the "great class of happy, well-to-do mechanics and artisans such as there is in America." That there is anything degrading in useful labor of any kind is a lamentable misconception. If it prevails anywhere, nothing but harm can flow from it. Samuel Smiles, in one of his in-

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Black's Pen Picture.



Quotation from Mr. Black's Speech.

"The fate of nations is still decided by their wars. You may talk of orderly tribunals and learned referees; you may sing in your schools the gentle praises of the quiet life; you may strike from your books the last note of every martial anthem, and yet out in the smoke and thunder will always be the tramp of horses and the silent, rigid, upturned face.

"Men may prophesy and women may pray, but peace will come here to abide forever on this earth only when the dreams of childhood are the accepted charts to guide the destinies of men. Events are numberless and mighty, and no man can tell which wire runs around the world. The nation basking today in the quiet of contentment and repose may still be on the deadly circuit and tomorrow writhing in the toils of war. This is the time when great figures must be kept in front. If the pressure is great the material to resist it must be granite and iron."

spiring and uplifting chapters on the dignity of labor, notes that the early teachers of Christianity ennobled toil by their example. "He that will not work," said St. Paul, "neither shall he eat," and Mr. Smiles adds that St. Paul glorified himself in that he labored with his hands and had not been chargeable to any man. It is noted that when St. Boniface landed in Britain he came with the gospel in one hand and a carpenter's rule in the other.

Thomas Jefferson rejoiced that every honest employment is honorable. He himself became a nailmaker, a fact upon which he greatly prided himself. He exultingly exclaimed that his new trade of nailmaking was to him what an additional title of nobility or the ensigns of a new order in Europe. In one of his letters he finely remarked that "our ancestors who migrated hither were laborers and not lawyers." Manual labor is respected and honored in so far as it is self-respecting and self-honoring.

The doctrine that the professions and callings which Sir Hiram Maxim says so many of the British workmen regard as the exclusively "genteel" occupations are more respectable than the trades is not accepted by well-balanced minds. It is gratifying to be told by such an eminent authority as

Sir Hiram Maxim that the mass of American workmen do not cherish the foolish illusions entertained by very many British artisans.—Philadelphia Ledger.

Doubt.

"Certainly, I am sure it's a counterfeit note," said the receiving teller. "It has one very noticeable flaw; it's in the paper."

"But, my dear man," protested the depositor, "in these days you can't believe everything you see in the paper."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Cutting Him Off

"You?" snorted Miss Sharpe. "Marry you? Why, you're only an apology for a man."

"But," protested Mr. Small, "will you not—"

"No; I will not accept the apology."—Philadelphia Ledger.

Safe Plan.

"What are you doing in a literary way, now?"

"Splitting rails to get money enough to publish my next book."—Atlanta Constitution.

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