

appreciate,—is truly beneficial to the labouring portion of the community. We shall pick out, by way of specimen, the case of a single party of about twenty workmen, engaged at from twenty-four to twenty-seven shillings per week, most of them young unmarried men, in the vigour of early manhood. Remember, we are drawing no fancy sketch. Fully two-thirds of that number were irreligious, and in a greater or less degree dissipated. They were paid by their employer regularly once a fortnight, on the evening of Saturday; and immediately as they had pocketed their wages, a certain number of them disappeared. On the morning of the following Wednesday, but rarely sooner, they returned again to their labours, worn out and haggard with the excesses of three days grossly spent, and without a single shilling of the money which they had earned during the previous fortnight. And such was the regular round with these unfortunate men, until the crisis arrived, and they were thrown out of employment in a state of as utter poverty as if they had never been employed at all.

There was a poor labourer attached, with a few others, to the party we describe, whose wages amounted to about half the hire of one of the mechanics. His earnings at most did not exceed fourteen shillings per week. This labourer supported his aged mother. On Sundays he was invariably dressed in a neat clean suit; he occasionally indulged, too, in the purchase of a good book; and we have sometimes seen him slip, unnoticed as he thought, a few coppers into the hands of a poor beggar. And yet this man saved a little money. We lived nine months under the same roof with him; and as we were honoured with his confidence and his friendship, we had opportunities of seeing the character in its undress. Never have we met with a man more thoroughly a Christian, or a man who felt more continually that he was living in the presence of Deity. Now, in the ordinary course