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THE MINOR WORKS OF DOCTOR JOHNSON.

Johnson, as is familiarly known, was a copious writer for the old fashioned English magazines, from a very early date. Many of his contributions, including some of his characteristic and perhaps invented reports of parliamentary debates, are now undistinguishable in the mass; but a number of his hackney pieces have been collected and made public. His fondness for biography, of which he was to become the most noted subject in modern times, was early remarkable. Not to speak of his 'Lives of the Poets,' which we exclude, as belonging to his greater productions, there are a number of truly valuable sketches, which retain all the importance they ever possessed. Such are his memoirs of Father Paul, of the prodigy Barretier, of the great navigators Blake and Drake, of the great physician Boerhaave and Sydenham, of Ascham, Sir Thomas Browne and Frederick the Great. These may now be read with much instruction. Their moral tone is high from the very first, and they abound in those sagacious observations on life and manners, which afterwards won for Johnson the name of the British Moralist. At the same time they are singularly free from that affected balance in the periods, which reached its maximum in the Rambler.

MACHINERY AND LABOUR.

All who have mingled much with the labouring classes have heard bitter complaints against labour-saving machines, as abridging the profits and even destroying the livelihood of working men. Thus I have known angry and resentful strictures to be made on the steam-lifting process in the United States Bonded Warehouse, as taking the bread out of the mouths of poor porters. If these charges were just, the prospects of labour were dark indeed: for there never was a time when mechanical inventions were more abundant or when there was a more certain prospect of their increase. It is very important that this matter should be placed in its true light; and if the dangers apprehended by honest toil are imaginary, it would be well to make this appear.

Bodily labour is plainly an evil. No man gratuitously increases it. Every man in his senses chooses that way of doing his task which involves the least toil. The saving of labour is not therefore an evil in itself. It is true, the introduction of a machine does, as its first effect, throw some natural labour out of the market, and this is an inconvenience. The same effect in kind would be produced if the muscular power of any workman could be doubled or trebled. In comparison the same advantage is gained by any man of uniform health and unusual strength, over his fellows. Yet all men wish for health and muscular ability.

The common argument against machinery proves too much. It would banish a thousand implements which are common, and awaken no jealousy. The progress ought to be observed. An ingenious artisan invents an instrument which enables one man to do the work of three. The momentary effect is to throw two men out of work. But shortly the machine comes into general use, and the two who were complaining provide themselves with it, and proceed to do the work of four men. Every plow, cradle and wheat-

fan is a labour-saving implement. Time was, when these operations were done by the naked hand, or by insufficient and rude utensils. Every windlass, fire-engine, and grist-mill is a labour-saving machine: the only peculiarity they have is that they have become common. We must distinguish between the proximate inconvenience of a new invention, and the wide and lasting benefit arising from its general employment.

The labouring man sees a machine doing what he might have done; but he does not see that by the same system a thousand things are done for him, which he could not have done for himself. The stockings on his feet, and the domestics which he wears, come to him for far less than if they were knit or woven in the old way: he thus gains by the stocking-loom and steam-engine. The dollar which he earns is worth ten times more than if there were no machines. Every day he and his wife are deriving profit from the cotton-gin and spinning-jenny. His bread is much cheaper, because the farmer's grain is brought to market by steam.

It cannot be denied, that the introduction of machinery causes capital to seek new channels; but these channels it actually provides. At the instant of such transfer there may be loss and embarrassment; but new arrangements rapidly take place. Suppose a ruder and barbarous trade or employment is superseded: other trades rise up, which are less wearing and more profitable. The very manufacture of engines produces hundreds of new trades, including some of the very ones which are supposed to be destroyed. This may be seen in the shops and yards of any sugar-house or engine-factory. Let an extensive iron-establishment be set up in any neighborhood, and a population immediately gathers round it, employing more hands, even in unskilled labour, than all who have been pushed aside by its machinery. It is utterly vain to seek any escape from this, except into utter barbarism. Compare a savage and a civilized country, and you see in one a people without the pump, the pulley,

and the crane, and in the other thousands of men gaining a livelihood from the steam engine and the hydraulic press.

There is a fallacy in the expression *labour-saving*. For consider *whose* labour is saved? It is your own. If you are not debarred from using the new auxiliary, you henceforth do that in one day which you formerly did in two, Each day becomes equal to two. The time thus gained may be made to add to your gains or your repose. Every steamboat, which diminishes your outlay of time, muscle and money, is a labour-saving machine; and the very horse you ride, though not a machine, as really saves your strength as if it were a lifeless combination of wheels and pinions. By all the inventions of art more labour is brought into market. The machine not only saves, but creates labour. Compare the England of our day with the England of the Heptarchy. The productive power of the country is multiplied and capital is increased, and with it grows the aggregate amount of subsistence.

Machinery is the friend of the poor. It has made those things common, which were once the luxuries of the rich. The day is past when fine linen or purple was the badge of a Dives; or when Queen Elizabeth could consider a pair of stockings a royal gift. The poor type-setter, who once strained his eyes beside a dipped candle, now composes under the blaze of gas. The poor man's locomotion is cheapened, and thus he gains a month in every year. The sempstress has better needles and incomparably better spool-cotton, at a tithe of former prices, and wears, for a shilling a yard, prints which a few years ago cost a dollar. The cartman or porter reads his news and his volume, by means of machine paper and power-presses. Trades are multiplied a hundredfold, offering diversified employment to the children of the poor. The use of coal alone, as connected with machinery, has given employment to hundred of thousands. The luxury of manufactures engenders new wants, which cause new demands, and repay new labours. Can it be pre-

tended that human power is driven out of the market? Why there never was such a cry for extra labour! Thousands are sometimes employed by a single contract. And this demand is greatest just at those focal points, where there are most mechanical improvements. Think of that great labour-saving affair, a railroad! How much hewing, quarrying, blasting, delving, wheeling, carrying, mining, smelting, forging, levelling, draining, joining, mending and tending does it produce! John or Thomas is mad, if he complains that he is not carrying sacks of coal or ore on his back, like the miners of Chili. To be consistent, he ought to declare war against every wagon, cart, barrow, crow-bar and axe. There was a time when each of these came into rivalry with the hard hand.

How vain is it to strive against progress! Workmen should think of this, before they undertake the unequal contest. Other parts of progress run parallel with mechanical appliances. If one hand can be made to do the work of ten, the nine are left free to add the same sort of work, or to turn to something else, or to rest, or to read. Dwell on this thought. Saving of labour is increase of leisure. Here is a charm for the working man, helped by machinery, to bestow on intellectual advancement hours which he never could redeem before. This ought to make him pause, before he tries to compete with machines; which, after all, is just like running a race with a locomotive. To exterminate or even repress machines, is impossible; the only true course is to employ them, or to fall into the ranks of that new labour which they create. There are scores of such trades. At this moment, who are giving employment, with high wages, to the greatest number of hands? The men whose business requires the greatest amount of machinery.

If you are ever tempted to grumble at what machines have taken away, look around at what they have given you; among which are things which monarchs did not enjoy of old. You have better fires, better time-pieces, better food;

your matches, your gun, your thermometer; and, on occasions, your steam-chariot, and your telegraph. None of these things could be produced but by manifold labour-saving inventions. Surely you would not go back to the condition of the Camanche Indian and the New Zealander. In every civilized country, the whole labouring population is daily rising to a level of greater comfort, by this very cause. The evidence of it is in every bed-room, cellar, and kitchen, in the land. A little enlarged thought, reaching beyond one's little self to the great brotherhood, will cure a man of these narrow and paltry prejudices. The resources of a country, especially of small states, cannot be brought out without machinery. Where the great staples of commerce cannot be raised, they can yet be handled over and turned to use. There is more in a land than its soil and crops. To agriculture there is a limit; but to manufactures, that is to the use of machinery, there is none.

The upshot of all is, that he who quarrels with machines, runs a tilt against a windmill. Every new contrivance, which really saves labour, may be so managed by you, as to give you a lift in the world. You will have more money, more time, and abundantly more comfort.

C. Q.

THE PERSIAN LANGUAGE.

Persian and Arabic are almost always named together, as if they were dialects of one great language. Their connection is historical, though not in general correctly understood. It rests upon two facts, both relating to the Arabian conquest of Persia in the seventh century of our era. The first is, that since that time Persian has always been written in the Arabic character, with a few modifications and additions.