

LOOKING BACKWARD.

The old man, the conference visitor, told the story.

Fifty two years ago he was apprenticed to learn the shoemaker's trade. During the five years of the apprenticeship, he was in the shop seventeen hours a day. The apprentices were out of bed at 5:00 o'clock in the morning, and were allowed to go to bed at 10:00 o'clock in the evening. Meals were brought into the shop and eaten hurriedly. The beds, in tiers, were usually in the shop. Sunday was the one holiday; but on that day the shop had to be cleaned before anything else could be done.

"My present work is not bad", said the old man, "I work only the normal day of eight hours, and when I feel inclined to hurry the world along, I think of the seventeen hour day of my apprenticeship. That always improves my temper". With a twinkle in his eye he added: "You know, if anyone had talked in my old shop of a normal day of eight hours, we should have thought him crazy. It seemed impossible".

The difference between the candle-light of our grandmothers day and the incandescent light of our day, is no greater than the difference between the conditions of the industrial workers of half a century ago and those of today.

It does good to look backward once in a while, and to feel the warm sense of gratitude for the progress of the world. If the day of toil has been shortened and the day of play lengthened, then the duty of the world is to make the hours count for more in the performance of the necessary work of the world. If the day of

work has been shortened, it simply means that upon each hour has been placed more intense effort, and upon each worker a greater dignity as a necessary part of our "far flung" civilization.