

and the king's enemies, by 'the sword which the said King William wore at his side when he entered Northumberland, and which he gave to the said Robert.' But, alas for the instability of all human greatness! this illustrious family, dignified with the titles of baron and earl, was on its wane ere the Russells had yet risen into importance upon the spoils of the church. The last but one of their male descendants in the direct line kept a chandler's shop at Newcastle, but, failing in this humble occupation, he was glad to accept the office of keeper of St. Nicholas' workhouse, in the same town, where he died, and left his widow with a son and daughter utterly destitute. Fortune, however, at this dark moment, before turning her face from them for ever, shed a passing gleam upon their extinction. Their sad story came to the ears of the Duke of Northumberland, who generously allowed a small pension to the widow, and, after educating her son, procured for him a midshipman's appointment. In due course of time, John Umfraville rose to the rank of captain; but he left no issue, and with him expired the illustrious race of Umfraville.

"By a yet greater declension, the last of the Conyers, a race at one time so celebrated, ended his days in a workhouse; the noble blood of the Rokebys in Yorkshire ebbed out with a carpenter during the last century; and at the beginning of the present, the heir of the eminent and ancient family of CASTLETON, and the twelfth baronet of the name in succession, was a breeches-maker at Lynn, in Norfolk. The 'Universal Magazine,' of 1810, thus records his decease:—

"Died at Lynn, aged fifty-eight, Mr. Edward Castleton. He was the last lineal descendant of Sir William Castleton, of Hingham, Norfolk, who was created a baronet in 1641: the family and title are therefore now become extinct. He died a bachelor, and never assumed the baronetcy. He for many years followed the very humble employment of breeches-maker in Lynn, but latterly lived on a small patrimonial inheritance."

The last example Mr. Burke gives of the "vicissitudes of families" is the most striking of them all, that of the PALÆOLOGI—"the illustrious race so honourably commemorated by Gibbon, which furnished eight emperors to Constantinople, and were the last of ten dynasties, exclusive of the Franks, that reigned over the Greek Empire.

"Mighty indeed were these Palæologi; mighty in power, dignity, and renown: yet, within less than two centuries from the heroic death of the Emperor Constantine, their direct descendant, Theodore Palæologus was resident, unnoticed and altogether undistinguished, in a remote parish on the Tamar, in Cornwall.

"This parish was Landulph, about two miles from Saltash, a locality already associated with the Courtenays, another family of Byzantine celebrity. The ancient church of Landulph has many curious memorials; but there is one monumental brass of surpassing interest, inscribed with the name and genealogy of the last of the rulers of Constantinople. This inscription is surmounted by the imperial arms of the Greek empire.

"Of Theodore's sons, the eldest, named after his

father, was at one time a lieutenant in Lord St. John's regiment, and died without issue; the second, John, fell at Naseby, fighting under the royal banner; and the third, Ferdinando, escaped after that same disastrous fight, in which he was also engaged *ex parte regis*, to the island of Barbadoes, where he inherited an estate from his grandfather, Bales, and where he married and settled, calling his distant home 'Clifton Hall,' in remembrance of his native Landulph. There he closed his life in 1678, leaving an only son, Theodore Palæologus, who died soon after, young and unmarried. Thus expired the male line of the Palæologi. But many a long year after, so late as the last war of independence in Greece, a deputation was appointed by the provisional government to inquire whether any of the family of Palæologus existed. This deputation proceeded to Italy, and various countries, where the Palæologi had become refugees, and, amongst other places, to Landulph; but, as I have shown, no male Palæologus existed, or else the descendant of Theodore, the humble resident of the Cornish village, might have ascended the restored throne of Greece."

#### SEEKING WORK.

THE necessity of seeking employment is one which is pretty sure to occur to every man who lives by his labour, whatever that labour may be, at some time or other. The supply of work for the worker is rarely equal to the demand, in any place, for a period of long continuance, and when it fails in one locality it has to be sought after elsewhere. The search is by no means a pleasant task, and the candidate who carries his energies into the market, and, so to speak, hawks his personal services, is apt to receive at times rather rude rebuffs, which have the effect of depressing his spirits, and rendering him in very deed that "melancholy spectacle" which political economists have described him. This ought not to be. The right and the rightness of demanding employment is admitted on all hands, and is founded on the feeling prevalent in the public mind that the industrious have a claim to it; and further, that it is to the advantage of society that they should have it. The provision made towards meeting this demand, not only in our own country but on the continent, presents one of the most interesting phases of modern civilization; but it is one that does not obtrude itself, and would have to be sought out rather closely and curiously by him who would thoroughly investigate it in all its bearings.

Both in Paris and in London there are "houses of call" for different denominations of artisans, which in the former are wine-shops or restaurants, and in the latter public-houses, where persons wanting employ may at all times be either seen or heard of. There is this difference, however, between the institutions of the two capitals: in Paris the applicants are duly registered on a list kept by the "mother of the house," who, by the way, may be, and often is, a brawny fellow with black beard and whiskers; and each candidate is located in his turn, so that a master in want of a journeyman must take the man at the top of the list, or none;



whereas, in London, there is no such register, and the employer can take his choice of the candidates. Again, there is in the French capital another resource both for employers and employed. In certain open spots well known to those interested, men wanting employ will congregate early in the morning, where employers will seek them out and come to terms, independent of the "mother" and the register. Men whose names are low on the list will have recourse to this method to get an engagement, merely striking their names off the register when they have obtained one. In London there is nothing of this kind; and, indeed, such a plan could hardly be adopted in a London climate.

In both capitals there is a constant influx of workmen from the provinces; but, for the most part, the French provincial comes to town with a very different idea in his head from that which actuates his English compeer. The French artisan generally lives and dies a workman; he does not feel the weight of class distinctions, and is not goaded by it to scramble for a higher status. When he has saved a little money, he is seen returning to his native place, where he will buy a rood or two of land, and settle down on it for the rest of his life. The English worker, on the contrary, aims at least at becoming an employer, and if he succeeds, he sticks to the capital and prosecutes his fortunes.

The English agricultural labourers and domestic servants, ever since the period when they ceased to be serfs attached to the soil, have been hired or hireable at definite annual periods, varying in different localities. The season of a great mop or fair, the date of which may vary according to the district, or may be determined by the readiness of the staple merchandise for the market, is the season of hiring. Scenes as demoralizing as they are sometimes curious and ludicrous, may be witnessed at the autumnal statutes held in the midland counties, at most of the small market towns or villages of farming districts. We have seen the candidates handled and poked and thumbed, and "touched in the wind," like beasts at a cattle-show, by sagacious farmers in want of a much-enduring, little-exacting ploughman or carter. Nay, we have seen a cautious husbandman exploring the mouth of an expectant hedger and ditcher, though what sort of information he was seeking in the poor man's jaws is more than we can say. When the hiring is concluded, earnest-money is given; and it is the custom of spending this on the spot that leads to dissipation and immorality ere the night has closed. Some laudable efforts have been made by the country clergy, within the last few years, for the abatement or total abolition of these statute-meetings, though with what success does not appear. We remember a like endeavour to put them down, which was made in a southern county more than thirty years ago, but which failed from the opposition of those who would have benefited most by its success—the labourers themselves.

Perhaps the most curious thing connected with this subject, is the existence of that immense and apparently inexhaustible class of supernumeraries in the industrial army, who, lying *perdu* in ordi-

nary times, are sure to start into action when their services are indispensable. Such are the Welsh and Irish harvesters, who inundate the grain-growing lands just as the corn is beginning to ripen; such are the gangs of navvies, who swarm without beat of drum upon the line of a new railway contract; and such are the hordes of hop-pickers, who drop down in clouds upon the hop-gardens of Kent, when the crop is ready for gathering. The hiring of these periodical multitudes is, in the northern counties of England, an occasion of great scandal, inasmuch as it takes place generally on the Sunday afternoon, commencing soon after the close of the morning service. During the whole of the forenoon, the wild Irishmen are pouring into the towns, and assembling in the market-place; here, if the harvest be just commencing, they cut but a sorry figure, being generally more than half-starved, and ragged and dirty beyond imagination; if, however, the harvest be somewhat advanced, and they have earned a little money, they appear in better condition, and are then as riotous, quarrelsome, and disorderly, as they were before downcast and depressed. The farmers generally drive in to the hiring by two or three o'clock, and the business goes on pretty briskly until the bells begin to ring for the evening service, and in places where there is no evening service until dusk or dark. When the bargains are concluded, it is too often the case that the Sunday night is passed, up to a late hour, in drinking and fighting. The most fearful affrays sometimes take place, and it is always necessary, for the safety of the inhabitants, to have a strong force of police on the spot, or close at hand, during the Sundays of harvest. On these occasions it is the single men, notoriously, who are the rioters; the married being either kept in order by their wives, who accompany them, or refraining from the expensive and exciting drink for the sake of their families at home. On some of the farms, lying near the western coast, the same fields have been reaped by the same Irish hands for a score of years consecutively; these regular visitants are known to be mostly themselves *tenants* of small holdings in Ireland, where they will live all the year through upon a diet of potatoes, and pay the rent of their own land out of their earnings on those of the Englishman.

The position of the multitudes of supernumerary labourers is as sad as it is anomalous. Supposing, what we believe to be really the fact, that the majority of them are industriously disposed, and anxious to get an honest living by the labour of their hands, they really ought not to be subject to the conditions under which they exist; and the fact that they are so subject, points to a radical defect in our industrial system. How to remedy this defect is a problem which yet remains to be solved, notwithstanding all that machinery and emigration have yet done towards equalizing supply and demand in the labour market. We shall not pretend to strike the balance, but commend the matter to the grave consideration of our industrial friends, upon whose personal conduct, after all, it mainly depends whether they shall belong to the regular or the supernumerary class of workers.