

FACTORY GIRLS.—This term has sometimes been applied to a respectable and interesting portion of our population as a term of reproach. It has been thought, and so said by some, that the labors of the factory tend to the depression of the mind and the degradation of morals; and fears have often been expressed, that, as the country increases and the population becomes more dense, the influence of manufacturing establishments would produce the same state of things in this country, that now exists in England and other old countries. These views are, however, beginning to give place to more just and correct sentiments. Experience has abundantly shown, that no such evils as exist in England, are necessarily dependent on manufactories. A traveller journeying through the manufacturing villages of Rhode-Island, and writing to the Editors of the New-York Observer, on the moral and religious condition and privileges of the manufacturing population, thus speaks:—

“There are, however, very many young men and women in the numerous manufacturing establishments of this State, who are attending Sabbath School, and are arranged in Bible classes. In this respect, as well as in regard to opportunities of attending religious worship, the manufactories of this State, as at present conducted, possess great advantages. And I have never seen any where a more interesting, intelligent, and well-behaved class of young women and men than I have seen in the factories of Rhode-Island. Many of them give good evidence of piety. And as long as they are conducted as they now are, instead of being as those of England are represented to be, schools of vice as well as destroyers of health, I am persuaded they are and may always be, schools of virtue and piety. By the way, I must here advise you, that I am not a *tariff* man; so that you must not think I am incidentally advocating this system.”

Factory Labor — These remarks are selected from the Hattford Review, and derive no small importance from the truth they exhibit and feelings, which pervade them.

“With respect to the reason of our females preferring the weavers’ room of the manufactory to the kitchen of the gentleman, we would say, that in our opinion it is referable to a correct and chastened taste, and the inherent desire of turning their labor to the best advantage for their comfort and respectability in life, a desire common to the understanding and intelligent males and females of our community. Society and association, also, contribute to strengthen this preference. The factory girl mingles in better society than the kitchen maid. The fruits of her industry and labor, enable her to even outstrip the city belle in elegance of dress, and her early rising and exercise give to her spirits a cheerfulness and vivacity, and to her countenance a beauty not found in the kitchen maid of the city gentleman, or even his daughters, on whom she attends.