

they should at all times be ready to render him any assistance in their power to make his visit pleasant, agreeable, and instructive." How our friend King's shirt front must have swelled with pride!

THE Eight Hours' Movement seems progressing as favourably as might have been expected, in spite of the difficulties that lie in the way, and, not to be too prophetic, is within measurable distance. Several important firms have determined upon granting what has been asked, subject to conditions that it will be easy to carry out, and it is to be hoped that others will soon see their way clear to adopt the same course. By a united movement on the part of the employers, it should be easy to obtain such an amended list of prices that would be an improvement upon their present position, and if they will work towards that end, with our help, I fancy some of them will in the future see more good in trade unionism than they have ever been able to see in the past. In Hans Andersen's beautiful story, "The Snow Queen," you will remember the bad goblin's mirror which was shattered, and some of the fragments flew about in the world and stuck in people's eyes, and those people saw everything wrongly or had only eyes for the bad side of a thing, for every little fragment of the mirror retained the power of the whole glass, which contracted beautiful things and made the worthless and ugly more prominent and worse than ever. It required a lot of hot tears to get those pieces of glass out, but I am sure the employers have sobbed enough over the ruinous schemes of the workmen to have got some of the pieces out of their eyes by this time, and there are evidences that some of them are able to see better for the removal of those pesky little bits of the bad goblin's mirror with which they have so long been afflicted.

I AM sorry to have to correct an error in last month's number. Mr. Morrell has given time and a quarter for all overtime after 57 hours, not 54 as stated in last month's issue. *Mea culpa! Mea culpa!*

OUR next issue (June) will close this volume. With the new volume, we intend to commence a History of the Trade Societies, and, in order to make it as exhaustive and as exact as possible, a great many old documents will have to be consulted. Unfortunately, these things are widely scattered and not easily obtainable. If any of our readers have by them any matter relating to the trade at any date, but especially concerning its earlier history,—manuscripts, pamphlets, books, or engravings,—and would be willing to lend them, they will be conferring a great service upon their very grateful servant. Everything lent shall be carefully preserved and returned at the earliest moment. Dear reader, just have a look, and, if you will, please drop a line to

WILL O' THE WISP.

Books made of Clay.

FAR away beyond the plains of Mesopotamia, on the banks of the River Tigris, lie the ruins of the ancient city of Nineveh. Not long since huge mounds of earth and stone marked the place where the palaces and walls of the proud capital of the great Assyrian empire stood. The spade and scraper, first of the French and then of the English, have cleared all the earth away and laid bare all that remains of the old streets and palaces where the proud princes of Assyria walked and lived. The gods they worshipped



CARVED IVORY BOOK COVER.
(Ninth Century).

and the books they read have all been revealed to the sight of a wondering world. The most curious of all the curious things preserved in this wonderful manner are the clay books of Nineveh. The chief library of the city was contained in the Palace of Kanyunjik. The clay books which composed its contents were sets of tablets covered with very small letters. The tablets are all oblong in shape, and when several of them were used for one book the first line of the tablet following was written at the end of the one preceding it. The writing was done when the clay of the tablet was soft; it was then baked to harden it. Each tablet was numbered.