

Document E

Editor's Valedictory. & Editorial: The Ten-Hour Movement.

It has been the object of the editor to encourage the cultivation of talent, and thus open and enlarge the sources of enjoyment in the midst of a toilsome life. . . . We hoped ere this to have seen a spacious room, with a library, &c., established on each Corporation, for the accommodation of the female operatives in the evenings. The example, we trust,

will shortly be set by the Merrimack. And why should not bathing-rooms be fitted up in the basement of each Mill? The expense would not be felt by the Company, and the means of health and comfort thus provided, would be gratefully acknowledged. We suggest, in addition, a better ventilation-of the boarding-houses. Diminution of the hours of mill-labor, and the entire abrogation of premiums to Overseers, should also be included in the list of improvements.

swifter or yields
It seems to have been generally conceded that the time allotted to meals is very short-where the operatives have tolerable appetites: and this is usually the case with persons who work so regularly and uninterruptedly. Why not have compromised then with the petitioners, and allowed them one hour for dinner through the year, and three-quarters of an hour for breakfast? The dinner hour is given in some manufacturing places, therefore the plea with regard to competition is not unanswerable. We believe also that Lowell is expected to take the lead in all improvements of this nature, and, should she amend her present system, it is more probable that she would be imitated than successfully contended against. . . . Source from Lowell Offerings, Series II, Vol. II (1842) p. 380; Series II, Vol. V (1842) p. 96.

9 What are the author's opinions of the working conditions in the Lowell Factory?

ANSWER ON YOUR OWN PAPER

Document F

Letter from Mary Paul

Lowell Dec 21st 1845

Dear Father

I received your letter on Thursday the 14th with much pleasure. I am well which is one comfort. My life and health are spared while others are cut off. Last Thursday one girl fell down and broke her neck which caused instant death. She was going in or coming out of the mill and slipped down it being very icy. The same day a man was killed by the cars. Another had nearly all of his ribs broken. Another was nearly killed by falling down and having a bale of cotton fall on him. Last Tuesday we were paid. In all I had six dollars and sixty cents paid four dollars and sixty-eight cents for board. With the rest I got me a pair of rubbers and a pair of 50 cts shoes. . . . I get along very well with my work. I can doff as fast as any girl in our room. I think I shall have frames-before long. The usual time allowed for learning is six months but I think I shall have frames before I have been in three as I get along so fast. I think that the factory is the best place for me and if any girl wants employment I advise them to come to Lowell. Tell Harriet that though she does not hear from me she is not forgotten. I have little time to devote to writing that I cannot write all I want to . . .

This from

Mary S. Paul

Bela Paul

Henry S. Paul [recipients]

Source from Thomas Dublin, ed., *Farm to Factory: Women's Letters, 1830-1860* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1981), pp. 100-104.

10. How does the author feel about working in the Lowell Factory and what insight does she provide about working in the factories?

ANSWER ON YOUR OWN PAPER

YOUR ASSIGNMENT:

Now that you've gone through all the documents write a summary or create a venn diagram comparing your life to the life of a factory worker. You must include at least 2 differences and 2 similarities.