

BUTLER ON CHILD LABOR IN MILLS.

John Swinton's Paper publishes a letter written by Gen. B. F. Butler, April 24, 1883, in which he said: "With sufficient time given for the education of a child in each year, I think it would be inexpedient to pass any law that children should not work in the mills. Their work may be the only support of a crippled father or mother, or of their still more helpless young brothers and sisters, and in a properly constructed and ventilated mill it is not unhealthy for a child to work not too many hours a day. The laws of Massachusetts require children to go to school a certain number of months in the year, which affords quite as long a term of education each year as was received by the majority of children when I was a child, unless they were sent to some private school. And it was that kind of education that made the men of New-Hampshire, who stood in the country the peers of the men of any other State, and some of them without peers. The labor of the children of the family might be the very means of keeping the family together, so that the child would be brought up under proper influences, instead of being thrown upon the world or sent to an alms-house or some reformatory institution, which is the very worst place in the world to send them to, in my judgment, for, as a rule, institutionized children are of no use to themselves or the country."