

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive orders of interest per-
sonal to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion
of publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries
of Unions, etc., are invited to send us news relating to
their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

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We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not
hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspond-
ents.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all ques-
tions affecting the working classes. All communications
must be accompanied by the names of the writers, not
necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of good
faith.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order—
Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Carpenters, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
K. O. S. C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Gigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1873.

AN IMPORTANT MOVEMENT.

One of the most cheering symptoms
of the present social system of England
is the newly-developed tendency towards
the amalgamation of classes, and also
towards what might be termed a national
plan of amelioration, rather than one
founded wholly on class considerations.
Certain of the movements that are now
taking place in the Mother Country
contain a promise of mighty results,—
and the day of small things is not to be
despised. The tendency in question is
noteworthy, as being directed against
mere class or faction; indeed, as an
exchange puts it, anything of a national
character will never authentically con-
cert with the narrowed views of facti-
ous placemen. It is a saying that almost
amounts to a truism, measures are of
more immediate and more vital conse-
quence than men; and long years ago,
the immortal Swift effectually settled
the notion of a great nation being gov-
erned by the method of factious conten-
tion, when, in "Gulliver's Travels," he
satirized the great English parties
under the names of Big-endians, and
the Little-endians. After an experience
of well nigh three hundred centuries,
the English people are beginning to
discover that Party Government is
nothing but a gigantic failure. It is
found that what are wanted are mea-
sures for the benefit of the entire peo-
ple,—and it is also found that these can
only be attained by national co-opera-
tion.

It is, therefore, cheering to find peers,
clergymen and the toilers of the land
all uniting for the furtherance of a
noble, philanthropic and national cause.
An English paper says:—"Such a com-
bination has happily been witnessed in
regard to the important question of the
education of the workmen, alike in
scholarly and in technical matters. For
centuries the higher education, or,
indeed, lower education also, of the
masses of the English people was
shamefully neglected. National igno-
rance was our national reproach. Not
that it was recognized as a reproach;
on the contrary, the inane men of the

old, school, and especially the clergy,
were wont to maintain that the three
R's were quite enough for the common
people, nay, that ignorance was a blissful
advantage, in that it served to render
the populace more obedient to the de-
spotic yoke. All that pretension has
been discarded now, and Whig and
Tory, Churchman and Dissenter, are
endeavoring with commendable ardor
to promote the higher education of the
people."

It is well known that among the
people of Scotland the best possible
education—classic and philosophical—
has been fully thrown open to the en-
tire people. Long years ago, it is stated,
the humblest of the inhabitants of Ed-
inburgh were accustomed to read the
Psalms in the Latin version,—and in
the present day it is no uncommon
affair to find Scotch workmen conver-
sant with the economy and philosophy
of Hume or of Adam Smith. Something
of the same privilege is now being en-
deavored to be provided for the men of
England, and the Workingmen's Club
and Institute Union, chiefly by the
energy of the Rev. Mr. Solby, have
boldly taken the initiative. We re-
produce, in another column, the pro-
ceedings of a meeting of the associations
named, where the scheme was pro-
pounded. The scheme may well be
termed a splendid one; and if it
fairly be carried out, cannot fail to be
the beginning, socially, of a new and
better era. The idea of this Guild of
Learning, with the view of promoting
the delivery of lectures, and the forma-
tion of classes, to assist members of
trade societies and other skilled work-
men in acquiring a knowledge of his-
tory, political economy, and technical
education, as well as literature, science,
and art generally, and then connecting
it with those founts of learning—the
historic universities of the country, is so
admirable, that the scheme implies its
own best commendation. Thus, for the
first time in England, an endeavor has
been initiated with the view of bringing
the highest education within the reach
of every Englishman. The movement
recommended by Mr. Solby, by Lord
Lyttelton, by workmen, in a word by
good and philanthropic patriots of every
class, is essentially a national one, and
as such deserves the cordial support of
the nation.

THE BALLOT.

On Thursday night Mr. Tremblay's
Ballot Bill was up for its second read-
ing. Quite a number of the members
took part in the debate, the usual *pros*
and *cons* being advanced. The general
tone, however, appeared to be in favor
of the ballot system. The main objec-
tions offered were that the ballot system
had failed to accomplish the purposes
designed by its introduction, and had
not tended to secure purity at elections,
and protection to electors, the United
States being instanced as an example.
It was also maintained that the ballot
system would not prevent an employer
exercising his influence and power over
his employees, because although he
could not follow each man and see how
he voted, he could note the votes in
the district where he could control,
and when the votes were summed up he
would be able to tell pretty clearly how
his men had voted, and be able to deal
with them accordingly. The parties
who would gain by the ballot system
were those men who had no particular
views, and who were ready to work for
a candidate who was willing to pay.
An assertion had been made that the ex-
pense of conducting the election would
be greatly lessened by the ballot system,
but it was maintained was a mistaken
argument, because under the open sys-
tem of voting a candidate knew who
was his friend, and would only treat
him, whereas under the secret system
he did not know his friend and would
treat all round. These objections, far-
fetched and extreme as they are, were
met by several members, and Mr. Wit-
ton, our representative member, in a
lucid and forcible speech, placed before
the House weighty reasons why the bal-
lot system should be adopted. We have
elsewhere re-produced Mr. Witton's re-

marks, feeling quite sure they will be
read with the greatest interest. On mo-
tion the debate was adjourned till Mon-
day next.

OUR EMIGRATION AGENTS IN ENGLAND.

Very frequently during the session
of the Local House, was the question
raised by the Opposition as to the fit-
ness of the Chief Emigration Commis-
sioner for Great Britain—the Rev.
Horrocks Cocks—for the position to
which he had been appointed. Nothing
definite was done while the House was
in session to secure an investigation
into the charges that had been advanced
against him. The *Mail* of Monday last
contains the most astounding develop-
ments respecting the Rev. gentleman (?)
and his assistant. The information thus
laid before the people not only makes
out that Mr. Cocks's antecedents are of
the most disreputable kind, but paints
his assistant, one C. J. Whellams, in
the light of a defaulter, a deserter, a
thief, and a swindler of the very first
water. It may be remembered by some
of our city readers that last year this
same Whellams was present at a meet-
ing of the Trades' Assembly, and gave
considerable information respecting the
agricultural laborers' movement, with
which he professed to be in active sym-
pathy; and by his plausibility and good
address insinuated himself into the good
graces of some of its members. But if
even one tithe of the charges advanced
against these men in Monday's *Mail* be
true—and we cannot believe such charges
would be made unless there were the
strongest proof of their truthfulness—
neither the Chief Commissioner nor
his assistant are fit associates for honest
and honorable men. Surely this matter
will be strictly investigated by the On-
tario Government, and if the charges
are not false, these foul blots upon our
Emigration Bureau be at once re-
moved.

THE ST. LAWRENCE BANK.

We are pleased to notice that the St.
Lawrence Bank has opened a Savings
Branch in Yorkville, to receive deposits
and transact other business (except dis-
counting) on behalf of the Institution.
This will be a convenience to the in-
habitants of the village, and will help to
increase the operations of the Bank.
The prospects of this Bank are good,
and we again feel it our duty to recom-
mend any of our readers, who have
spare funds on hand, to invest them in
purchasing the stock of this new Bank.

TRADES' UNIONS.

Trades' Unions are not what many
suppose them to be, a modern invention
gotten up for the purpose of making war
upon employers. Not at all. But they
have existed from time immemorial; in
nearly all ages and stages of the world's
history Trades' Unions existed, called
into being through the tyranny and
the oppression of those who lived by buy-
ing labor and selling its products. Even
before the days of Moses we find com-
binations of working men. In the
days of Joshua we find them wielding a
powerful influence among the people.
We find them again at the building of
the Temple which rendered that wisest
of wise men, King Solomon, famous. We
find them again after completion of the
Temple, scattered throughout the civil-
ized countries of the old world. We
find them also in the days of Thesus,
in Greece, and in the days of Numa,
among the Romans. The Trades' Unions
of Greece, in the days of Thesus, and
those of the Roman Empire, in the days
of Numa, except the Masons, have all
disappeared and live only in history. But
the Jewish Trades' Unions, which date
their existence anterior to the days of
Joshua, have continued in existence,
breaking down all barriers of a super-
stitions opposition. And of the Trades'
Unions of the Roman Empire, many of
whom were compelled to succumb to
the extravagance of the fifty-two Em-
perors, ending with the spendthrift Con-
stantine, which was during the com-
mencement of the fourth century, the

Masons were among the few who main-
tained their organization intact, until,
finally it was merged from an operative
association of Masons into a speculative
organization. The qualifications for
membership required by the order per-
mitted none to enter the association but
those who were learning the different
branches of the building trades, those
who were working under instructions
and those who had become journeymen
and were working as such. These
qualifications were changed. The doors
of the association were thrown open to
all free men of good moral character, no
matter of what trade.

From this point the association ceased
to be operative and became purely specu-
lative, and as such it exists at the pre-
sent day. The same rules and regula-
tions, except perhaps the qualifications
for membership, that existed in the days
of Solomon, King of Israel, are observed
and govern the organization and its
members throughout the world.

From the small Trades' Union, the
establishment of which took place in
Syria, about the epoch of the egress of
the Israelites from the desert, it has
grown to a gigantic organization extend-
ing its branches and blessings to every
corner of the inhabitable globe, and to-
day there is hardly a foot of soil upon
the face of the globe that has not been
trodden by the foot of a member of this
Trades' Union.

The Bakers', Butchers', Blacksmiths',
Sailors', and Farmers' Unions of the
Roman empire have disappeared, but in
their places have sprung up Unions,
that have been a bulwark of protection
to the laborers of every civilized nation
of the earth. Their influence for good
has been carried to the fireside of op-
pressed labor everywhere. Their utility
and benefits no one can truthfully
deny. Every workingman should sup-
port the organization of his trade; if
this was done, workingmen and women
would soon have but little to complain of.
—*Machinists and Blacksmiths' Journal*.

THE LABOR QUESTION.

The labor question is one of present
and permanent interest. The relations
of employer and employed, of those who
do the hard work and those who guide
the great operations of numbers of people
and supply the money, without which
those operations cannot be conducted—
these are matters lying at the very root
of social organization, and upon their
adjustment depend the success or failure
and the happiness or misery of society.
And, however fanatics or demagogues
may endeavor to disguise the truth, the
interests of both classes are identical.
The capitalist and the laborer are neces-
sary to each other. The prosperity of
the one, is contingent with the prosper-
ity of the other. When their respective
interests, instead of going harmoniously
forward, are permitted to come into
collision, the result is sure to be damag-
ing and may be disastrous to both. The
wages of workingmen should not only
be sufficient for their support—they
should be as liberal as the conditions of
trade or manufacture will allow. At
the same time the fair profit of the
capitalist must be considered, because
unless a reasonable return for his invest-
ment be secured, the successful continu-
ance of the business in which his men are
engaged is impossible. On the one hand
the employer who pursues a niggardly
policy towards workingmen, keeping
them as nearly as possible at starvation
wages, need not expect from them good
and productive work. On the other
hand, the intelligent workingman must
concede that, unless the interest of his
employer as well as his own are regard-
ed, the partnership cannot be advantage-
ously maintained. For they are really
united in a partnership. The employer
puts into the concern his money, his
business experience, and often the ex-
acting and exhausting work of manage-
ment. The employed puts into the
concern his labor. With this joint stock,
affairs are carried on. Throughout
society we find this partnership of
capital and labor, of employer and em-
ployed. Without it large operations are
impracticable. Now, it is clearly the
true policy of partners to co-opera-

tionally, and to work together har-
moniously. If they become suspicious
or antagonistic, their mutual prosperity
is inevitably impaired. The wise course,
then, for employers and employed is to
settle differences about wages, working
hours, and all other matters growing out
of the relations of capital and labor, by
intelligent discussion, friendly consul-
tation, and mutual concession, each side
having regard to the rights of the
other.

THE GREAT REMEDY.

The evils of which the laborer in
general complain—the vexed question
of living, the inferiority of his dwelling,
the daily liability to sickness from pre-
ventable causes, and many other press-
ing reasons for improvement must have
remedy somewhere.

Is not the remedy in co-operation?
The application of the co-operative prin-
ciple to manufacturers would of neces-
sity produce an equalization of profits
between capital and labor. Co-opera-
tion used for building would provide
better because more comfortable homes
for the laborers. Co-operation carried
into retail transactions would bring the
necessaries of life at a lower cost, and
of better quality, to the workingman's
door.

Is co-operation a mere theory? De-
cidedly not. It has been tried during
many years in England and Scotland,
and with much success. The fatal pre-
judices always entertained by working-
men against measures for their improve-
ment or advancement, have done their
worst to impede co-operation in Great
Britain, and almost to shut it out from
America, but the day is coming when
to co-operate will be allowed to be the
universal duty of the laborer and arti-
san of all nations.

The co-operative store, the co-opera-
tive mill, the co-operative bank, and
the co-operative paper are all institutions
in the near future, to be possessed by
the American, and chiefly by the New-
Englander.—*Exchange*.

THE ENGLISH WORKMEN.

The workmen of England have formed
a political league, to be prepared for the
next general election, which is expected
to take place in the autumn, although
it may be deferred until the fall of 1874.
As yet the organization is in its inci-
piency; but it is expected to grow in
popularity when its objects become
better known. Three hundred towns
and districts have already declared
themselves friendly to the league, which
proposes complete political equality,
embracing registration of voters, the
abolition of lodgers' rental qualification,
and reduction of residential qualification
to six months; assimilation of borough
and county voting; approximate equal-
ity of representation to population;
candidates to be relieved of legal election
expenses, and Members of Parliament
to have the right of payment for their
services; absolute secret ballot; shorter
Parliaments; abolition of the present
common enclosure acts, and the acqui-
sition by the state of cultivable waste and
other lands, to be let to co-operative
associations or small cultivators on
conditions that shall insure them an
equitable interest therein; the Land
Improvement Commissioner to grant
loans to those located on such lands, on
the same terms as they now lend money
for land improvement; the repeal of
the criminal law amendment act; the
alteration of the factory and workshops
act to nine hours, and an equitable
amendment of the law of conspiracy as
regards trades' unions. Several other
points are reserved, particularly the
propriety of reducing the allowances to
the Queen and Royal family, now, in-
dependent of rent free palaces and parks,
amounting to \$3,000,000 per annum.

The industrial classes acting together
must prove a power, whose demands the
Crown and the Parliament will eventu-
ally be compelled to recognize.

For first-class Book and Job Printing go
to the office of the ONTARIO WORKMAN,
124 Bay street.

For first-class Job Printing go to
the WORKMAN Office.