

Ontario Workman.

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

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Labor Notes.

It is stated that the working of the coal and iron mines, and the introduction of railroads in China, will soon be sanctioned by the Government.

The Earl of Derby has accepted the presidency of a society which has been formed in the north of England for the promotion of technical education in Lancashire, Yorkshire, and the Potteries.

The recommendations which the Government Commissioners of inquiry into the hours of labor and the employment of women and young persons in factories have submitted to the Local Government Board are published. The Commissioners recommend that the demand for nine hours should be granted, and that the hour should be taken at the beginning and not at the end of the day.

The 101st Quarterly Delegate Meeting of the London Society of Compositors was held lately at the Sussex Hotel, Bouverie street. The Secretary read the report, which showed the trade to be in a very flourishing condition, and which was unanimously adopted. It shows an increase on the quarter of £554, 12s. 11d.

There seems to be every reason to hope that the strike of the Cleveland miners is practically at an end. Both parties have agreed to a common sense course. Instead of paralysing the industry of a whole district by an obstinate struggle, they have resolved to appeal to an arbitrator, and to abide by his decision. The proposal was made by the National Association of Miners, and accepted yesterday by the Cleveland Mine Owners Association. The terms of the reference are worth noting. The arbitrator is to decide the question of wages in view of the standard generally prevailing in similar industries in the North of England, and the amount thus fixed is only to be altered after a month's notice on either side. Meanwhile the men are to resume work at the old rate, with no restriction on the amount of work done each day by individual workmen.

The Club and Institute Union have resumed their useful effort to turn the Saturday half-holiday to good account to those members of their affiliated institutions who leave work early. They organize visits to our public museums, public works, cathedrals and other places of artistic, scientific or historic interest, under the guidance of eminent men specially qualified to render such visits a source of instruction as well as of elevated recreation. Lately members from the London club visited St. Paul's Cathedral, when its history and treasures were described by the Rev. Canon Gregory. Similar services have recently been rendered by Me. Hesketh (the architect of the magnificent new staircase) and Mr. Barbor, at Goldsmith's Hall; by Mr. Williams, the architect, at the New Post-office; and by Dean Stanley, at Westminster Abbey. Visits of the same character will shortly be made to the Geological Department of the British Museum, with the help of Professor Owen; and to the Dudley Gallery, with the help of Mrs. Heaton.

A correspondent with the Russian expedition against Khiva says the two columns of General Kauffman's command, from the east, are about to meet at the Boukan hills. The Orenburg columns have approached each other to establish

an English religious path of John Stuart Mill Christian style: "The of thought' who agree place the better arch and State. We crew of them, and capture, whether one calm satisfaction."

James, Bill-Heads, (illuminated or office, 124 Bay St.

Communications.

THE PRESS AND THE WORKING MAN.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR.—The Press is a glorious institution. It is truly called a power, whose influence none are so exalted as to despise. We are accustomed to regard it here in Canada, as free; and that it is so, in one sense, cannot be questioned. It is free from all restraint, so long as the laws of libel are not violated or the privileges of Parliament infringed. But while the interests of the community, as a whole, are vigilantly guarded, and many individual classes, sects, and parties have each their separate special organs, there is a very large class who seem to be considered as outside the pale, and who, except when their "sweet voices" are required to turn the balance in a political contest, are virtually treated as the pariahs of society, even by this so-called free and independent Press.

The WORKMAN has been established to supply a long-felt void in Canada; namely, to afford workmen an opportunity of knowing what transpires in the vast field of labor throughout the civilized world which it concerns them to know, and at the same time placing them on a footing with all other parties, in the possession of an "organ" to defend their rights.

I do not know to what extent the workmen of Canada appreciate the benefits to be derived from having a champion as well as a medium of inter-communication—what measure of support they accord it, but this I do know, that they require such an organ; and as one of those who do appreciate it, I propose to offer a few observations on an article in last Saturday's Mail.

I will premise that I am an admirer of the Mail. It is a paper, also, that fills creditably a void which was much felt before its establishment. It is an "organ" of the Dominion Government, with a staff of writers and reporters not to be surpassed. Whether we regard the accuracy of its "phonographers," the brilliant wit of its "funny man," the weight of its thunder, the erudition of its reviewers, or the reliable information of its "sporting editor," the Mail will bear comparison with any journal of its size and age.

It must not be supposed, however, that so large and powerful a "staff" can be maintained by the subscriptions to the paper. Although established by a powerful company, yet it is to some extent a commercial speculation, and it is desirable, when the annual meeting of shareholders takes place, that the Managers should be able to show a balance on the right side of the ledger. In order to attain this desirable end, advertising patronage is absolutely necessary. Every newspaper must have this support or die. A practical printer might undertake to give away either the Globe or Mail—if not to offer a bonus to its readers—provided he could be certain of securing the amount of patronage enjoyed by them. I dare say the Editor of the WORKMAN would gladly undertake to do that. But, as Managers of newspapers, with powerful writers under their control (sometimes erroneously called editors), seldom know how to economize at the right end—being generally selected because they are not printers—(adventurers or failures in their proper calling) it follows that they become the advocates, for the nonce, of any who will advertise with them.—"Advertise! advertise! advertise!" and you'll see what you will see.

Now, workmen don't advertise, consequently they are pariahs. They have no rights known to the "independent" Press.

It appears that a mechanic named CUTTLER, recently from England, ignorant of the real position of the "free and independent press" in Canada, having found this country not exactly what it was represented to him by "touters," has ventured to give what he considered a correct view of the condition of skilled

mechanics when they fell into the hands of "smart men," who regard immigrants as "fair game," to be "plucked" or "gouged" or "chiselled" on the most improved principles. Alas, poor CUTTLER! Your doom is sealed. The sooner you leave Canada the better—the Mail has decreed it. What could have possessed you to say the winter is cold—the workshops sometimes insufficiently warm to work in—fuel dear in Toronto, and rents high? And, worse than all, to insinuate that the advertising patrons of the "independent press" don't always pay their employees? This statement might stem the tide of skilled mechanics flowing to this country, and prevent the "glut" which would enable the "capitalist"—whose only stock-in-trade is brass,—from bringing down the mechanic to his "proper position"—that of abject servility—begging for work on any terms the "capitalist" chose to dictate.

The attention of the Manager of the Mail having been drawn by a "correspondent," (an advertising patron, residing in Hamilton,) to the statement made by the unfortunate CUTTLER in an English paper, some poor journalist on the Mail staff is instructed to notice the mechanic's "impertinence," and of course he does it—he must do whatever he is required—his only alternative being starvation or prussic acid. Accordingly, the thunder of the "independent journal" is hurled at poor CUTTLER in the following fashion:

We fear Mr. CUTTLER is epicurean in his tastes, and altogether too big for his boots. It seems to grate upon his nice feelings to have to live in a wood house. "A house such as you will pay 3s 6d per week in England for, we have to pay from \$8 to \$10 per month, and made of wood at that." Poor fellow! What part of England does he refer to when he makes this comparison. Certainly no city there of from sixty to a hundred thousand inhabitants. There is no such difference as he says. As comfortable a house as any mechanic could desire to live in, can be had in Toronto for from \$8 to \$10 a month; and he is a poor mechanic who cannot afford to pay that. We do not think that coal ever reached the figure he names, \$10 a ton; if he had said \$7 a ton, he would have been much nearer the truth. Another grievance with Mr. CUTTLER is that there are no fire places in the houses, "so we have to pay \$20 or \$24 for a stove, as a landlord does not furnish the house with a fire-place at all." Fire-places are not put in the smaller classes of houses as a rule, because they are not as economical as stoves; and when Mr. CUTTLER says that such a stove as would be necessary for a house renting for eight dollars a month costs from \$20 to \$24, he simply increases the amount a hundred per cent.

Here is another complaint:—"Now about the wages; but you must bear in mind what is printed in the emigration books is mostly false. When an Englishman seeks employment he naturally enquires what the wages will be, and most of the employers will say 11s., 13s., or 15s. per day; so the man goes willingly to work, naturally expecting when pay day comes to receive 11, 13, or 15 English shillings per day, but, to his great surprise, they are only English sixpences, which they call 'York shillings' here. Work during ten hours per day, or sixty hours per week, constitutes a week's work, and some of the employers will come to you on pay night and ask if you can do with so much this fortnight, and there are some employers from whom you cannot get a square-up without leaving and telling them you are going to cross the line." This is absurd on the face of it. "York shillings" are hardly ever spoken of in Canada, except by a few of the "oldest inhabitants." All business is done in dollars and cents. When a man enquires as to the wages he is to receive he is always answered in dollars, not in pounds and shillings—either English, or Canadian, or "York" shillings. Anyway there could never be such a wide difference between the idea of the man seeking employment as to the wages he was about to receive, and the idea of the man who was to pay him, as between a "York" shilling and an English shilling. We doubt very much if such a case as that said by Mr. CUTTLER to be quite common ever occurred in Canada. As to the payment of wages, it is, as a rule, regular. The law of Ontario now enables a workman to obtain a lien upon his employer's property, so that there can be no suffering in this respect.

Mr. CUTTLER, we have no hesitation in saying, is not a typo of any large number of mechanics in Canada. Nor do we want any such. The sooner he leaves the country the better. There is plenty of employment for all who come, who are not as fasti-

dious as this grumbling Englishman, and who are willing to do a fair day's work for a fair day's wages. Whether some emigrant agents speak too highly of the country or not, it is unquestionable that we have here a splendid field for the emigrant seeking a new home.

I trust the mechanic will survive the above onslaught, and has not shrunk into those "boots" which the Mail says are too small for him.

Though there was an old woman who lived in her shoe, As a shantle for CUTTLER his boots wouldn't do; For the Mail (which some call a pragmatist prig) Says for them CUTTLER "is altogether too big." How the scribe found that out is not easy to state. Unless, taking their measure, he has felt their weight. For those who to priggery are too much inclined, Often feel people's boots, with their toes in, behind.

CUTTLER should take his "dose" philosophically, letting it pass for what it is worth—and that is not a great deal when it comes to be analysed. Besides, journalists don't mean one-half what they say. They are splendid fellows—if you make some allowance for their hard fate—and as harmless as sucking doves. I once knew an Editor who in size and weight was something like the Tichborne claimant, and who being an Irish barrister who never had a brief, took to writing editorials as a *dernier resort*. Whenever he had a tough subject to handle he laid himself down to it. How many fell victims to his pen I never heard, but working in an adjoining room I always knew when he had "done" for somebody; for at the conclusion of the last page of "copy" he would jump off his chair, throw down his pen, pirouette round the "sanctum," slap his colleague (a timid little man) upon the back, and then exit, singing the "Groves of Blarney."

Let poor CUTTLER, then, take comfort. The attack on him was "done to order"; and though a little "acid," is, after all, but harmless gas.

OUVRIER.

Toronto, June 17th, 1873.

[We have not seen Mr. CUTTLER's entire letter, and consequently are not in a position to offer an opinion on the subject. We insert OUVRIER's letter, but do not endorse all his remarks. We shall, however, be pleased to hear from Mr. CUTTLER in reply to the Mail's remarks—if he has any to make.—ED. O. W.]

THE POLARIS MYSTERY.

The official report of the investigation now going on in Washington will, when published, be found to contain substantially the following facts, obtained from a gentleman who had opportunity to converse at great length with Capt. Tyson and Esquimaux Joe, the two most important witnesses just before their departure by the *Frolic*. In order to make this story clear and coherent, it will be necessary to repeat a few of the circumstances already mentioned in the *Herald*. On the 16th of October last, the day after Capt. Tyson and his crew, in two boats and a ryak, had been separated from the *Polaris*, they saw that vessel about ten miles away. It was a very short day, the sun being visible only three hours on the horizon. Tyson and his men could see the *Polaris* plainly from the ice floe, and it seems, therefore, evident that those on board the *Polaris* could easily observe the men on the ice floe. There was nothing to prevent the vessel from coming to their rescue; there was no obstruction in the way of ice floes; it seemed all smooth sailing, yet Buddington apparently did not even attempt to approach them. The *Polaris* made sail, and steamed into Northumberland Inlet. And here is a circumstance which throws

A DARK SUSPICION UPON BUDDINGTON, and lends color to the belief that he purposely abandoned the unfortunate men on the ice floe to what must have seemed to him inevitable destruction. A few months before the final parting Tyson was sent ashore, with two boats' crews, on a scientific search. At this time Buddington, who was under the influence of liquor, threatened to abandon the party on the ice. He did not, however attempt to carry out his menace, for Tyson and his men got safely

on board the *Polaris*. Tyson, though he was reticent as to his relations with Buddington, admits that there had been ill-feeling between them, that Buddington was jealous of Hall, and that he (Tyson) being an intimate friend of the latter, was also an object of dislike to Buddington.

The circumstances of Captain Hall's death as told by Joe to my informant, and as they have undoubtedly come out during the investigation in Washington are these: On the return to the *Polaris* from a sledging expedition (when he had reached the highest northern latitude—82° 16 sec.), Captain Hall called for a cup of coffee. Immediately after taking it he was attacked with violent illness, and died in a few hours after. While convulsed with pain he called for Joe to his side and told him he was suffering from the effects of poison. He charged Joe solemnly to "tell the President of the United States that

HE BELIEVED HIMSELF POISONED."

These, says Joe, were the words of the dying explorer. This language acquires a still greater significance in connection with these circumstances. All the Esquimaux were warmly attached to Captain Hall, and, seeing that their services were indispensable to the expedition, it looks suspicious that they should have been sent out by Buddington with the men who were left on the ice floe. If Buddington was guilty it might have been his wish to get rid of the Esquimaux in order that they should not turn evidence against him when the *Polaris* got into port. It is also charged that Buddington wanted to get back to Disco, in order to take possession of the stores and \$1,800 in money left in charge of a Danish magistrate. The discipline on board the *Polaris* after Capt. Hall's death was bad. Everybody wanted to be captain.

Buddington is described by those who know him as a good sailor, but very much given to drink, and when intoxicated he is said to lose his identity and to be incapable of self-control. He carried his excess so far as to drink alcohol out of the lamps when he could not obtain ardent spirits elsewhere. Though there rests a dark shadow upon Buddington, it will require, however, more than the facts so far elicited to clear up the mystery that hangs upon the *Polaris* tragedy.—*New York Herald*.

Prof. Wise is again proposing to cross the Atlantic in a balloon, and promises to start from Boston Common on the 4th of July, if the authorities of that city will aid him in his preparations to the amount of \$3,000. An order to that effect has been passed by one branch of the city government, and there is a possibility that the long-entertained theory of aeronauts of constant air-currents from west to east; will soon be put to the test of practical experiment. Prof. Wise is willing to risk his life in support of his theory, and his content of his ability to cross the ocean in sixty hours, and he is not alone in his opinion, as many scientists consider the enterprise quite feasible.

Among the curiosities of mechanism to be exhibited at Vienna will be a watch made entirely of rock crystal. It appears that many years since a workman in a French manufactory decided to make a watch, every part of which, the main spring alone excepted, should be of rock crystal; after thirty years of labor he accomplished his task. All the pieces of the watch are fastened by rock crystal screws, and the escapement is most intricate. His widow would never part with it; but when she died, the treasure fell into the hands of a French watchmaker, who intends to exhibit it as a specimen of French workmanship, pricing it at two thousand dollars. Certainly few articles could possess greater interest on the score of ingenuity.

It is reported that the New French Ministry favors free trade, and will reverse the policy of the Thiers' Government. Under the protective policy France as done wonders in recuperating after the exhausting war; she has paid or provided for the whole of the German indemnity; she has re-organized her army; her manufactures, trade and agriculture have been restored to their former prosperity.