

this city, with a view to manifesting their approval of the conduct in public life of the leader of the Opposition. Far be it from me to find any fault with this indication of the political opinions of certain sections of the workingmen. (Hear, hear.) I rather rejoice to know that there is that independence of thought and that independence of action which leads numbers of our fellow-citizens to take a view of political life and political men somewhat adverse to those which we hold ourselves. At the same time I cannot but express some little surprise that any workingman who looks back to the history of the country, to the history of our race in the Motherland, should by natural instinct be a Conservative. (Cheers.) Sir, the power of the workingman is made manifest only when a country becomes civilized and powerful. The power of a workingman is nothing in a state of semi-barbarism. The Tory party in England were but the followers or the successors of those who oppressed the workingman in times long gone by. (Cheers.) I say they were but the followers or successors of those who held the workingman in light esteem. Whatever rights or political power the workingman possesses now, were wrested from the Tories only after prolonged agitation. If we look back to the history of the early ages of the Eastern monarchies we find the workingman a slave. If we look back to the history of the country which affords us the earliest instance of a national civilization—such as it was—we find the monarch and the nobles of Egypt making their subjects toil to rear monuments, not to human industry, not to that industry which is productive, but merely monuments to the monarchs and to the pagan gods whom they worshipped; and in the building of the Egyptian pyramids, and the vast temples of that land, there was an amount of human life and human labour sacrificed which would ten times have completed the entire public works which this country has been endeavouring to carry forward to completion. (Interruption.) I am not at all surprised at the impatience of certain gentlemen. They know that the tide of public opinion is running against them. (Cheers.) They know that this magnificent demonstration sinks into insignificance anything that they have attempted. (Cheers.) I was about to trace the history of the workingman from the time when he was the mere slave of the despot and the tyrant. In our own day efforts are made by strong Conservatives to induce the workingman to believe that they and they alone are his true friends, although it is impossible that any substantial sympathy can exist between a Conservative and the real workingman who subsists by the labour of his hands. (Cheers.) Well, Sir, let me come down in the history of the world to countries which followed fast upon the footsteps of the Egyptians in the race for civilization.

Position of the Labourer in England and Canada.

I pass by the position of the workingman in the Grecian Era and the Roman period to consider what was the condition of the workingman in England itself in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, when Tory rule was at its height, when no labourer had any voice in the administration of affairs, when scarcely such a thing as popular representation in Parliament existed. Even in the days of the Commonwealth we find that the wage of the workingman was fixed by the Quarter Sessions or the magistrates of the respective counties in England, and