

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion for publication. Officers of Trade Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, etc., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions 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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertions, ten cents per line. Each subsequent insertion, five cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—	
One column, for one year	\$150 00
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One column, for 3 months	50 00
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All communications should be addressed to the office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.	

Trades' Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—
Machinists and Blacksmiths, every 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.
Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Varnishers and Polishers, 1st and 3rd 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.

Application for renting the halls for special meetings and other purposes to be made to Mr. Andrew Scott, 211 King Street East.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, SEPT. 5, 1872

TO OUR READERS.

With this issue of the WORKMAN we announce a change in its management. Up to the present the paper has been published by a company known as the "Toronto Co-Operative Printing Association." At the last meeting of the shareholders, the company placed the office in the hands of a co-partnership consisting of Messrs. WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN, and the WORKMAN in the future will be published by them.

Being practical printers, we have assumed the responsibility of continuing its publication, and have reason to hope that, by a strict and diligent attendance to business, the paper will continue to receive a fair and liberal support at the hands of our fellow-workmen. No efforts will be spared on our part to make the WORKMAN all it should be—a journal as welcome in the family circle as in the workshop.

Under existing arrangements we have been enabled to make considerable additions to our stock of material, and are now prepared to execute, with neatness and despatch, all orders for printing with which we may be favored.

With the hope that our future course will merit the approbation of our readers, we launch our enterprise on the tide of public opinion; and believe that our efforts to occupy the position in the field of journalism we have assumed will be appreciated by the class in whose interest the WORKMAN is published.

OUR PRESENT POSITION AND FUTURE DUTY.

Now that the summer is over and the harvest is ended, might we not appropriately ask ourselves the question that has often been put before in a variety of interesting ways, and upon a number of not less interesting occasions: What have we done for the improvement of our class? May such a question, thus put, not excite the curiosity of even the most casual reader, however much his indifference, or however callous his interest in the passing events of the day may be. Nothing can, we venture to

think, be more impracticable than the attempt of any one individual entirely to exclude himself from the ranks of some class or other of society; and should this reach the eye of some one who has discovered how futile such an effort is, and finds himself linked to that class in whose welfare we feel more than ordinarily interested, and whose intellectual advancement and social elevation forms the chief responsibility of our mission, in the Canadian field of literature, we would gladly, yet courteously, claim his attention while indulging in incidental reflections that ought to find a first consideration in our meditative moments.

With the heat of the summer's sun has terminated one of the hottest election campaigns that was ever witnessed during the existence of our constitution, and terminated, so far as we are concerned, to our satisfaction. Among the numerous important features of this fierce political struggle there is one which is to us of paramount importance, as strongly indicating our future route to the attainment of that freedom which our class has long desired, and for centuries striven for; that liberty and equal justice to the possession of which we are justly entitled, and cannot, we are convinced, be better obtained than through the judicious wielding of our political influence. That feature, the intrinsic significance of which we fully realize in the return to the Dominion Parliament of a representative from the ranks of labour, we are inclined to hail as the beginning of a new era in the annals of the political world, at any rate it is an introduction of an important element into the Dominion House which we earnestly hope will be attended with beneficial results to all classes.

The leaders in the labour cause have in this campaign, more perhaps than in any other, come prominently to the front, and we fail to see any good reason why their doing so should be regarded with such grave apprehensions by a few of their brethren, who are loud in their complaints against such an attitude being assumed, for no other tangible reason than that the promoters happen to support a different faction from that which, in ordinary cases, has received the working class sympathy. We must confess our unwillingness to become in any way identified with those who are looked upon as the wire-pullers for the time being of any political party. We claim to stand upon an independent platform, guided in our every action by a true sense of justice and duty; and should the part we have played in this political warfare call for expressions of unmerited discontent, we feel satisfied that when our motives and convictions are rightly understood, that no feelings of disapproval will exist in the minds of our fellow-laborers.

It strikes us forcibly that if our independence as a class is to be accomplished at an early day, the sooner the necessity of throwing ourselves clear of that prejudice and dangerous bigotry that has too frequently influenced our conduct is realized the better. We have been too long disposed to prize those who assumed the name of Reformers as our unerring friends; but late experience has surely effectually taught us the folly of placing implicit confidence in such hollow and transient neighbours. It is patent that their reform is limited to the sphere in which their personal interests are directly concerned—a fact too manifest to meet with successful contradiction, and for the further confirmation of which we need only refer to the feeling of bitter hatred towards workingmen, as exhibited in the unhappy career of the notorious editor of that party organ. And although many of the candidates feigned to disown the authority of the "Globe," so that they might succeed in gaining the sympathy and support of those honest toilers who have been so persistently maligned by that disreputable sheet, the majority of the artisans threw, for the first time in their life, their influence into the Conservative scales, and felt that they were doing their duty, not only to themselves, but to their class.

It is not for a moment to be supposed that because Sir John Macdonald's Gov-

ernment has received our support during the late contest that we view his administration as being in every way perfect. Nay, we are prepared to agitate for reforms that the Prime Minister himself has publicly admitted the necessity for, and expressed his willingness to devote future attention to, and receive with an impartial disposition any considerations that may from time to time emanate from the industrial classes. From the Reform party we received no such promises; and even if inducements had been presented, we could not but feel timid in placing faith in a party over which our friend George Brown wields such an influence.

Our duty will now be, during the coming months, to work as indefatigably in organizing and consolidating our forces as we have done in the past, prepared to go forward in the grand social reform that has been so well inaugurated, and watch with a keen eye the deliberations of both Houses of Parliament; and by pursuing a wise and moderate course of action we shall enlist the sympathy of all, both at home and abroad.

Work, then, is our only resort; there is no time to rest on our oars. We have a great end in view, and let us sacrifice some portion of our limited leisure time, of which we have of late enjoyed so little, and keep pressing onward, unmindful of the jeers of all who are not prompted by noble and elevating aspirations. We would even crave a continuance of that forbearance which has been hitherto grudgingly granted by the loving wives of our industrious tradesmen, while their husbands are compelled to absent themselves from the warm family circle during the winter nights. Yea, we would even solicit their valuable aid and tender sympathy; and if there be any of our young co-workers who have not yet entered into that state of domestic felicity, we appeal to the anticipated sharer of all their joys to help on in the noble mission, by overlooking any apparent negligence that might arise from less frequent rambling in love's rapturous and delightful pasture, while their tardy workers are devoting their talent and their energy to the furtherance of the well-being of our class, by attending to the urgent duties of the club room.

MEMOIR OF H. B. WITTON.

THE FIRST WORKINGMAN RETURNED TO THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

Henry Buckingham Witton, M. P. for Hamilton, was born at the small village of South Lopham, Norfolk, England, October 21st, 1831, and is now forty-one years of age. His birthplace is in the beautiful valley of the Waveny, the delightful scenery of which has been so described by the poet Bloomfield in his "Farmer's Boy." Near South Lopham is the town of Diss, famed of old as the residence of Skelton, whom Erasmus named "the glory and the light of British literature." At Diss Mr. Witton received such education, very imperfect and rudimentary, as his parents, who were very poor, could with much difficulty and many sacrifices of their own comfort afford to give him. Here also he was apprenticed to the trade of coach-making, but in consequence of the discontinuance of his business by his employer, he was thrown on his own resources at the early age of seventeen. His subsequent employments were in Thetford, London and Manchester. In the latter city there has always existed an active public spirit, which is never without its effect on young ingenious minds with a capacity for work in the service of the race. There Mr. Witton was attracted into fields of usefulness, and became a worker in the cause of education and other much-needed reforms, many of which have now happily been accomplished. In 1863 he emigrated to the United States, and for three years remained a resident of Troy, N. Y. In 1866 he removed to this city, and for nearly the whole period has been in the employ of the Great Western Railway. For some time past he has been foreman in the paintshop of that company, and has performed his work faithfully and well. On his first

appointment the Company profited largely by economies introduced by him—not the pitiable economies from which workmen suffer, but the wise ones of paying for the best article and the best man all that they are worth and making the most out of them. During all the years of his working life he has been gradually improving his original scanty education. After coming to Hamilton he acquired French and Latin, and applied himself with diligence to the study of practical geology, astronomy, and microscopy, to the latter of which especially he has devoted most of his leisure time. In January of this year he read an able paper before the Hamilton Association, on the "Lower Forms of Life found in Burlington Bay," which was printed in one of the local newspapers. Mr. Witton has the happy faculty of divesting science of dryness and investing it with interest for the most unscientific of his friends. His style is easy and pleasing. He is the possessor of a telescope, an expensive microscope, and one of the most extensive and valuable scientific libraries. His reading, however, has not been exclusively scientific, but varied and catholic, and his knowledge of general literature, history, politics and political economy makes him an agreeable companion for those who care neither for the mystery of the stars nor the marvels of the ponds. His life has been essentially a quiet one, spent in work and study. He has in a larger degree than most men commanded the respect and confidence of his fellow workmen, and many votes were cast for him and his ticket during the late election on grounds purely personal to himself. He is moderate and courageous in speech, and has passed through a severe election contest with more of good-will towards him on both sides than perhaps ever before fell to the lot of any candidate under similar circumstances. His residence in the States led him to revise many of his earlier opinions on general politics and political economy, which in a greater or less degree is not an unusual result with English residents there; the most notable instance, perhaps, being that of Professor Goldwin Smith. Since Mr. Witton's residence in Hamilton, he has always voted with the party now known as the party of "Union and Progress." His mother still survives in a hale old age, and will read with pride in the Old World of his triumph in the New, and will have the pleasure and gratification of feeling that not in vain were all the efforts and sacrifices she made to give him that education and training which has led to such results.

THE BALLOT IN ENGLAND.

Mr. Childers was elected for Pontefract, which is regarded as a decided gain for the Liberal Party, in view of the fact that the election was by ballot under the new Act.

The *Telegraph* says: No difficulty was experienced in respect to the voting papers, and few, if any, mistakes occurred in regard to those electors who could read and write, while even the illiterate voters (who were somewhat numerous) were easily made to comprehend what they had to do. The ballot boxes were conveyed from the polling places to the Town Hall, without being observed, and the process of counting the votes went so well that the tale was complete and the result of the election ascertained in less than three hours. It is said confidently by those who ought to know that complete secrecy as to how any one voted was maintained within the polling places. Outside the electors made no secret of their predilections, many of them wearing demonstratively the colors of the different candidates, many stating openly how they were going to vote, and others publicly avowing which way they had exercised their suffrage. In fact most of the votes were the subject of street gossip, originated by the electors themselves. As regards the influence of the ballot on popular demonstrations, it may be said that, except between the Town Hall and Lord Pollington's hotel, there was no crowd, no stir in the streets, and work and business went on as usual, the only interruption being

the shouts and yells and horseplay of the crowd, which consisted mainly of noisy boys, with the ordinary admixture of "loafing roughs." The approaches to the polling places were clear, and entrance was as readily attainable as into an ordinary shop; and, on the whole, there can be no doubt that while there was some spice of the "humors of an election," it was greatly curtailed and modified; and it is especially to be noted that the absence of an oral declaration of the poll, and the speeches of candidates which used to follow that ceremony, has operated to cut off one whole day from the saturnalia. It has been ascertained that 1,248 ballots were delivered out of 1,941 voters; twelve only were rejected for votes given for both candidates; seven for writing by which the votes could not be identified; and four were void on account of uncertainty, two of them being blanks. In one, the cross had been made on the line of separation, and in another the voter had put his mark against the word Pontefract, at the back of the ballot paper.

PLUMBERS', BRASSFINISHERS', AND STEAMFITTERS' PIC-NIC.

The Plumbers, Brassfinishers, and Steamfitters of this city, held their fourth annual pic-nic and games at the West Lodge Gardens, on Saturday afternoon. There was a large attendance, and everything passed off successfully. All kinds of amusements were provided, including croquet, base ball, archery, swings, etc. Dancing was kept up with spirit on the large platform during the afternoon and evening, to music supplied by Lubar's quadrille band.

During the afternoon a large number of games took place, including two velocipede races, which attracted much attention from those present. Several of the employers were present and took part in the various amusements provided. The following is a list of games, with winners of prizes.

Quoits, 18 yards, open to all—1st prize, silver quoit, Peacock; 2nd do., checker board, G. Murray.

Flat Race, 100 yards—1st prize, silver cake basket, value \$5, presented by West Brothers, John Coulson; 2nd do., ink stand, J. Henry.

Standing High Jump—1st prize, silver butter cooler, R. McKenzie; 2nd do., stereoscopic view case, J. Coulson.

Sack Race, 100 yards—1st prize, silk hat, presented by Mr. J. Perry, John Fogg; 2nd do., gentleman's satchel, G. Murray.

Throwing Hammer, open to all—1st prize, watch stand, R. Harrison; 2nd do., carved walnut bracket, G. Brady.

Three Legged Race, 150 yards—1st prize, \$2, J. Coulson and J. Henry; 2nd do., \$1, G. Johnston and J. Fogg.

Velocipede Fast Race, open to all—1st prize, set vases, N. Richards; 2nd do., meerschaum pipe, R. Bredon.

Auger Shoot, open to all—1st prize, bronze tobacco box, Mr. Blackmore; 2nd do., writing desk, Morne.

Flat Race, 400 yards, open to all—1st prize, silver tobacco box, C. Burns; 2nd do., album, R. Harrison.

Apprentices' Race, 100 yards—1st prize, set cutlery, Warwick; 2nd do., looking glass, J. Campbell.

Standing Long Leap—1st prize, silver cruet stand, R. McKenzie; 2nd do., \$1, G. Johnson.

Velocipede Slow Race, open to all—1st prize, pair bronze statuettes, value \$6, Hawkes; 2nd do., \$1, with entrance money added, R. Bradon.

Three Quick Jumps, open to all—1st prize, soft felt hat, presented by Mr. Jerry Dineen, R. Harrison, 34 feet; 2nd do., \$1, J. Hanrahan.

Consolation Race, open to unsuccessful competitors—1st prize, ink stand, S. Lindsay; 2nd do., silver card basket, J. Burns.

Prize Waltz, open to all—1st prize, ladies' work box, J. Kennedy and lady; 2nd do., fan, C. Burns and lady.

MAR has recently opened a first-class house on Yonge Street, near the Avenue, and is always happy to see his friends. An obliging host, attentive waiters and pleasant surroundings, make the house attractive.