## THE ONTARIO WORKMAN.

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From the time of the Norman Conguest until to:day the ruling power of the nation has been in the hands of the upper classes, and they have governed the country, stimulated from time to time by the moral influence of the working classes upon them. In the carly history of the country they produced the changes in society by the force of a patent power which once set in motion by the classes above them caused every other influence to hold a subordinate position. When the tax gatherer demands the taxes, we see in him the latent power of the whole civil authority backed by the army of the nation, and it was in this way that the workingman made his influence preceptible. But the workingman has now changed from the passive agent; working other bodies by the force of the body of which he is a member, he has become an active agent, he speaks and dictates to others, he bends to his requests the will of the millionaire who formerly oppressed him. From abjection he has risen to the power of influencing things around him. From subjection he has risen to authority, the result of combination by which the strength of a multitude of branches is brought equal to the trunk itself. The embryo state of his existence is passed, he cannot become a chrysalis again, he begins to feel responsibility of his new position which is to labor for the advancement of Society. Machinery is gradually superseding manual labor, and be skill alone that is wanted.

The very elements that enter into the structure of animate beings-the life giving principle of creation operates on society and brings into existence a new links in the great chain of profession. In creation similarity is death-diversity life. So in society, the antagonism of minds creates intellectual vitality. It is the life giving principle of thought; and as the life giving property of one. plant, when applied to the living genus of another, produces a distinct variety of plants, so antagonistic ideas form a coalition of minds producing new trains of thoughts, which result in the creation of new motives of action, changing and growing from one generation to another altering the character of man and the tone of society, elevating the downtrodden, honoring the poor and despised, and placing purple and fine raiment on those who once sat in sack cloth and ashes.

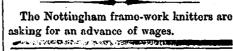
It is possible to conceive of such changes in society that the oppressed classes became the rulers of those who had governed in no merciful hand the actions of the many. It is possible to conceive of men gradually, silently, imperceptibly, assuming to themselves the power that was held by their masters. There have been men of determined mind and will who have overcome every obstacle to their upward journey through life, who have set before themselves a good end and have reached it. Men with mind and decision of character can reach almost any stand point they desire and those who attempt it and fail, will leave the world in a much higher position than they entered it. The antagonism of class produces life. The action of diversity creates a new order of things. Men are influenced by the circumstances that encompass them, but the strong mind and will bend circumstances to their behests. This diversity of class is producing a new order of things to day. The workingman now is not the workingman of days gone by. He has an object in view, a life purpose to fill, a part in the nation's history to complete. The changes going on now are but indicative of greater changes in the future. It is not now the upper classes pulling up the lower. It is not the lower classes pullmake room for his ewn, advancement. The formation of trades unions, the exension of these into federation of trades, are the results of the antagonism of class, he conflict of interests, the offspring

the constitution of society must spring. The entrance of the workingman into the legislature is but the signal for the introduction of the workingman into our social senates, and to the placing in his hands the highest civic powers. Monetary restrictions to every position in life are being swept away. The represontatives of classes are no longer expected to buy the position. The expenses of office are borne by those for whose benefit those offices were created. Men of means are no longer required to fill positions of trust, responsibility and honor. From the passive agent the workingman becomes the active motive power, and his duty is now to fit himself for every position of social life, for every office which society requires to be filled, for any honor which his fellow man may desire to heap upon him, and to meet also manfully every struggle which misfortune may place in his path. The age is a critical one for the workingman. He is watched narrowly by the classes above and around him. His vices magnified, his virtues hiddon; but he has the power to repress the one and to bring out the other. The candle that has been burning under a bushel must be brought to the light of day. The money that he spends in a public house must be applied to his own social advancement. The fotters of ignorance which have bound him must be broken. He must educate himself, and, above all, educate his children. For them he must not be satisfied with the elementary skilled handicraft is almost all that is training at the Nationol and School now required of him, and ere long it will Board Schools. He must found schools of learning for his own elass equal to those ancient universities now occupied by the rich. Combination can do it and workingmen must combine together to carry out the great purpose of their state of things-changes which are but life. Society is ready to place in the hands of workingmen the governing

power of the nation, conjointly with the representatives of the other great classes. There is a growing feeling that all classes should take a share in the responsibility thrown on men who make laws and carry them out, not only for the benefit of the few but of the many. It is the imperfected education of the workingman that bars him fulfilling those positions where polished manners and high social attainments are looked for.

The history of this country affords abundant evidence that the chief events in the future are to be carried out by workingmen. Their true position is second to that of capital, skill and capital are two elements of commercial skill is rising higher and higher, while indicate that the anomaly of past ages is wearing out, and the workingman in rising to power and influence is only secking to gain his true position. To this end present ovents are tending and the deduction from the past is that skill and capital will in future control the great movemonts of the country, while the middle class will hold the position of a medium for supplying the wants of both.-English Paper.

come to, and the men resumed work on the . former terms. At Riding Colliery there was a set of contract rules, which the men took exception to, and the result would be, unless the rules were taken down or modified, that about 300 men would be out on strike after the New Year.-Maryhill : There was a strike in one of the pits for a day, on account of a neutral man being engaged as a roadsman who had refused to join the union.-Stevenston : In Princes Pit the men were working at a reduction of 9d. and 1s. 3d. per day. They were willing to put up with that till after the New Year .- Annbank : For the last fortnight the men had been working half-time, and at a reduction of 6d. per day.

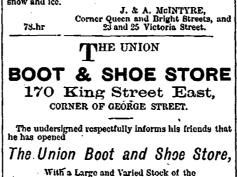


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Aliscellaneous.

WORKINGMEN!

## THE GLASGOW MINERS.

A conference of delegates for the mining district of Scotland, was held in Allen's Temperance Hotel, Galsgow, on Monday, Dec. 29. Mr. Neill Larkhall, presiding. The following is a summary of the reports from the different districts :-- West Calder: | variety One or two pits stopped, as the proprietors find working them to be unprofitable. In one of the Larkhall Mineral Oil Company's Works notice of reduction of 1s. per day has been given,-Carluke : Castlehill ironstone pit has been stopped, and about 70 or 80 men thrown out of employment.---Wishaw : On account of the want of waggons, and the strike of enginemen, the works were almost wholly idle for a day or two.-Motherwell district was also partly idle, owing to the deficiency of waggons .-Airdrie.—One work was out on strike since ing down the higher, but it is the work. lowed to commence work who refused to ingman pushing aside the middle-class to join the union. A complaint was made to work on Monday and Tuesday last week, f diversity, and the creation (of a new but a satisfactory arrangement had been

