

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive items of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion for publication. Officers of Trades 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.

(INVARIABLELY IN ADVANCE.)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—	
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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

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.  
 Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.  
 K. O. S. C. Lodge 355, 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.

OUR PATRONS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS THIS WEEK.

"A Merchant is known by his wares."

The attention of our readers is drawn to the following list of advertisements in our columns, and are requested to have them in remembrance when "out shopping."

- W. Myles & Son—Wood and Coal.
- J. A. Troutman, L.D.S.—Dentist.
- M. Edward Snider—Surgeon Dentist.
- Brimstin & Brothers—Hardware Merchants.
- John Bailie—Hardware Merchant.
- Mackin & Co.—Clothing and Dry Goods.
- Chas. O'Connor—Furniture.
- J. C. Prittie—Hats, Caps, &c.
- Anthony Gillis—Fashionable Hair Dressing, &c.
- Fiddington—Books.
- M. McCabe—Practical Undertaker.
- Murphy & Bolton—Furnishing Undertakers.
- S. M. Peterkin—Carver and Gilder.
- A. Farley & Son—Variety Hall.
- J. R. Armstrong & Co.—Coal and Wood Stores.

BOY WANTED. Apply at this office.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCT. 10, 1872.

THE DIGNITY OF LABOR?

A great deal has been said and written, both in the old world and in the new, both by English writers and by American writers, about the "dignity of labor." It has, in its turn, proved a prolific theme with politicians and demagogues, and has occasionally attracted the attention of earnest, eminent and most profound political economists. It has also served to ventilate the overcharged wisdom of many an egotist, who has used it as a stepping-stone to gain notoriety or promotion. But how often do the records of the past show that those hypocrites who have hypocritically chanted of the "dignity of labor," have been the most active agents in sinking it far, far beneath scientific and professional occupations, both of which are intimately connected with, and dependent upon, labor. But let labor reach what standard of respectability it may in the estimation of non-producers, one thing is very certain, it is—as has been well said—the germ from which springs a nation's prosperity, and the only true fountain from which the masses can draw social happiness. It is the motive power which keeps the machinery of

society working in harmony. It is the base upon which the proudest structure of art rests—the source from which science draws the elements of its greatness and power. In short, labor is the attribute of all that is great and noble, and grand in civilization. Such, indeed, is "the dignity of labor."

All who have spoken or written of labor concede these truths. What, then, can we say of the disgrace which is inflicted upon labor when it is forced to inhale the pestilential air of the prison-house? Could a greater indignity be heaped upon it than that which associates it with convict competition? Of what use is it to attempt to exalt labor when it is to be used as a punishment for crime, and made the companion of thieves and robbers and the off-scouring of society?

In the United States the question of prison labor and its attendant evils has, for some time past, been engaging the attention of those interested in the cause of labor reform. A fatal indifference to this in its earlier stages has allowed an infant evil to grow and expand, until it has assumed a giant's proportions, and now seriously threatens the moral character of labor. A writer treating upon this subject says: "All the professions of garrulous theorists amount to nothing. It is the workmen themselves who must maintain the dignity of labor. The men who work can alone save it from the degradation which reckless legislation has fastened upon it, and the sooner we get about it the better. The longer this reform is delayed, the more difficult will be its accomplishment, because every year it is becoming more closely wedded to the affections of our truckling law-makers."

In our last issue we referred to the establishment, in this city, of the Canada Car Company, an institution that has completed a contract with the Provincial Government for the convict labor of the central prison, now in course of erection, extending over a period of seven-and-a-half years, renewable for other seven-and-a-half at the expiration of the first term. The establishment of this new enterprise has received considerable attention from the local press, but exception is taken mainly as to the suspicious political character of the transaction rather than to the injurious effect such an institution is likely to have upon the industrial classes. We, however, view the matter from an entirely different standpoint. Like causes produce like effects, and the same injurious results to the cause of labor that have flowed from an indifference to this subject in its insipient stages in the United States—till the evil has become gigantic in its proportions, and is now calling for active and earnest measures for its removal—will also follow the adoption of the system here; and as the evil can be met more successfully now than when it has become established, it would be well for the workmen to arouse themselves at once to a consideration of the question.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES IN ENGLAND.

The English are regarded as an intensely practical people, and they have been accustomed to think that there is the chief home of societies for mutual improvement. They have their lyceums, their debating clubs, and their institutes of various kinds; teachers' institutes, Sunday school institutes, mechanics' institutes, &c. But was anything ever heard of quite so practical as the English "Mechanics' Institute for Mutual Improvement," judged, that is, by accounts given of the training of female members? for it seems they have female as well as male departments of such institutions in England—female departments of *real working, studious members*, not mere belles, to be waited on to the "institute" lectures, concerts and sociables. They receive too, a training that looks the future in the face, and attempts some honest preparation for it. But we should be glad to know, also, just what advantages the men provide for themselves in these institutions. Especially would the ladies among us

no doubt be pleased to have a list of the questions put at an examination of a class of *young men* in these schools, after reading the following list recently prepared for the examination of a class of young women. Certainly we will hasten to publish the young mechanics' list when it comes to hand, but meantime, who shall specify a training which could possibly be more useful to their future wives? At the examination referred to we read that the following, among other questions, were propounded by Miss Jewsbury, who conducted it.

1. State the best method of using up bones and scraps of meat and bread.
2. Would you prefer to use an earthen vessel, or a tin or iron pot, to set in your oven or on the hob, to stew any scraps of meat, bones and bread that you may have? and state the advantage of keeping such a stockpot continually going.
3. How would you lay out 10s. in the town if you had a sick husband, and four children too young to work? or how, if you lived in the country, with a small garden, would you lay out 7s. 6d. under the same circumstances?
4. Suggest a savory and economical dinner for a husband, wife and five children.
5. Suggest some savory and economical supper for a husband coming home after a hard day's work.
6. How would you ventilate a sick room, so that a patient would not take a chill?
7. How would you cleanse a room in which a patient has had scarlet fever? How would you make bread?

CHINA AS A HOARDER OF GOLD.

Political economists have been constantly speculating on the subject of the ultimate destination of the gold and silver which are being constantly shipped to India, China, and Japan. As very little of it finds its way back to Europe, the question is, what becomes of it? From China such a thing as a shipment of specie was never known. The coin imported into that country is melted into bars, and thus enters into the circulating medium of the nation. It is asserted by some authorities that China must at present own as much gold as all the rest of the world beside. Still the wonder is that all this addition to the circulating medium of that mysterious country does not advance the price of commodities. In all other countries when money becomes plentiful prices of commodities advance, and when it becomes scarce, decline. But China is a land of plenty and cheapness. Labor and food are lower in price than in any other nation on the globe, while gold and silver are more abundant. One explanation given is that gold and silver are bought and sold the same as other commodities. Another is that probably the more precious metals are hoarded by the wealthier classes and thus kept out of active use.

WHY ARE LABORERS, AS A CLASS, POOR?

This is a question of vital importance to the laboring classes, and one over which they will do well to ponder. Ignorance of the real causes which operate to oppress and consign them to a position of helpless and unavoidable servitude, and to poverty more or less abject, can no longer be claimed as an excuse for this universal condition. The causes are apparent, and the remedy within their grasp and under their control, if they had the intelligence to comprehend the position, and the will to use the means legitimately at their command, to oppose the influences which have heretofore, and are still, operating to produce the result. We live under a form of Government professedly established by the people, and for the people, and upon the fundamental idea, that the greatest good, to the greatest number, is the object and end of legislation. Unquestionably a strict and impartial adherence to the principles enunciated by the early founders of the American republic, would have secured the boon of equal justice to all, irrespective of class or caste. But in looking over the field, as it presents itself to-day,

we do not see that the results, which had been hoped for and expected, have, in any respect, been realized. Not one man in ten thousand, throughout this entire nation of laborers, has been able to amass, by the accumulation of wages, scarce an humble competency, apart from any speculation or investments, which may have resulted favorably, to increase his profits. Laborers, as a class, are neither indolent, nor profligate, vicious nor immoral, riotous nor drunk, wanting in intelligence or morals, and, therefore, it cannot be claimed, with any degree of truth, that their present condition is the result of the absence of good qualities and the prevalence of the bad. That as a class, they are poor, is a truth we cannot deny, and our object now is to point to the cause and suggest the remedy.

Capital as an auxiliary to labor is necessary and indispensable. We believe, too, that capital has rights, which it is the duty of legislation to recognize and protect, equal with the rights of labor; but to foster the one at the expense of the other, is not the province of legislation, and works injustice to both.

We are met at the threshold of our efforts with the inquiry—What can labor do without capital? We answer—that neither is independent of, nor subject to the other, but that rationally, the rights of labor should be first in law and first in the hearts of the people, upon the principle that the great includes the less; that the creator is superior to the creature.

The enquiry is equally pertinent—What can capital do without labor? A million of dollars invested in real lands, yields no revenue without miners to mine the coal. The rich veins of coal at Lake Superior, and of iron at Pilot Knob, would remain as hidden wealth in the coffers of the earth, did not the brawny arm and sinewy muscle of the laborer aid in its development. The fertile prairies unassisted by the sturdy hand of toil, are as barren wastes, yielding nothing and adding no increase.

Capital everywhere is but the creation of labor, and the representative of so many heart-throbs, of toiling millions. Wealth legitimately obtained is honorable, and we offer no disparagement to its possessor, but we claim that labor, too, is honorable and is entitled to its just rewards, and yet the fact that, laborers as a class are poor, gives a peculiar interest and potency to the inquiry—Why is this so?

The tendencies of capital to centralize; of railroads to monopolize; of corporations to combine; and of legislation to discriminate in favor of interests proportionate to the wealth they represent, are omens of evils, and the harbingers of oppression, fatal to the life, growth, and development of the dearest interests of the laboring classes. A mercenary spirit, reckless of results, seems to pervade the community. It has already reached the legislative functions of the government; how long ere it will have reached the judicial and with its palsying touch, rendered turbid and corrupt the functions of justice? Amid all this fever of excitement the rock stands firm, though barren; the laborers are there, though poor—*Workingman's Advocate*.

IRELAND.

The working classes of the Emerald Island were never in as prosperous and favorable condition as they are at present. Laborers are now receiving a crown a day, and the emigrant agents are stated to find it very difficult to induce any large number of able-bodied men to leave the old sod. This is a wonderful change of affairs, and we hope is indicative of a state of unprecedented national prosperity. The Belfast riots, however, and such incidents as the Judge Keogh and Guinness persecutions, fall like a pall upon the above statements respecting better times. So long as shooting and threatening prevail, through religious bigotry and intolerance, so long will Ireland lag behind in the race of real and permanent prosperity. Gentlemen of wealth must be enabled to feel that they could reside on their estates with security, before they will vie with

their land owning brethren of the sister isles in improving their estates, and retiring from absenteeism. Let us hope that before long patriotism may so generally prevail in the Emerald Isle that peace, security and quietness may supplant that discord, bloodshed and disturbance which have for centuries rendered that beautiful country despicable in the eyes of the world.

PROGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

There are now thirty-two industrial colleges and universities in the United States which have received the national endowment made by Congress under the act of July 2, 1862. Massachusetts has two, Mississippi two, and each of the States one, except Florida, Louisiana, Nevada and Virginia, in which none have yet been established.

Twenty-six of these institutions are in operation, and it is expected that the remainder will be opened during the year 1873. Twenty are established in connection with other institutions, and seventeen are independent colleges. Three hundred and ten professors and assistants are employed in giving instruction to more than two thousand students, who are pursuing a regular course of study in agriculture and the mechanical arts.

ARRAYING THE POOR AGAINST THE RICH.

One of the charges made, by the drilling masters and tools of monopoly, against ex-President Johnson, is that he is arraying the poor against the rich. Mr. Johnson, like all other workingmen, simply asks for nothing more than justice for the poor: he demands nothing for them but equal rights, immunities and protection. If this is arraying the poor against the rich, it is simply because the rich deny them these things. Now if this be true, as the charge against him presupposes such to be the case, the necessity for such an array is imperative, and the cause for it lies at the door of the rich, and not in anything Mr. Johnson is doing or saying. This hue and cry comes with very bad grace from a set of men who were, a few years since, issuing orders from their autocratic headquarters, and sending out men with armed posies to hunt down the poor and drag them from their houses and families, while they were specially instructed not to interrupt the man who owned twenty negroes. Was that arraying the poor against the rich? Oh no. But it was putting the poor under the feet of the rich. Then the man who owned twenty negroes was too good to undergo the hardships and face the dangers of war, these perils and fatigues were reserved for the workingmen. It was such as they who were fit subjects for food for powder; the rich man with his twenty negroes was beyond the reach of the conscript office. The endearments of wealth were too sacred to be broken in any such manner, but the poor man with his invalid wife, half a dozen little helpless and dependent children, were the special object of their autocratic thirst. With them, neither the endearments of home, the appeal of an invalid or dying wife, or the tears of motherless children, could reach their hearts. No, it was then the rich were running rough-shod over the poor. Well may we expect, when justice is demanded, to hear such pitiful wails come up from such a source.—*Workingman (Nashville)*.

THE NEW CHICAGO.

It is now less than a year since Chicago was destroyed by fire. It will be remembered that 93,500 people were left homeless. Of these, 74,500 resided in 13,300 buildings in the north division, where 1,460 acres were burned over, and every house consumed. Now we are told that dwellings for seventy thousand people are erected in that division. In the south division, where the hotels, theatres, stores and warehouses were destroyed, and where 3,650 buildings were burned on 460 acres, the ground is nearly covered; and the buildings now completed, and