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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

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.

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 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
- Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th 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.

"Debrouske's" communication too late for insertion this issue.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1873.

NEW AGENCY.

Messrs. Lancefield Brothers, of Hamilton, have become Publishers' Agents for the ONTARIO WORKMAN in that city and vicinity, and we trust in their personal canvas the workmen will give them a good reception. We are sure the Messrs. Lancefield will use every endeavor to have all arrangements perfectly satisfactory to subscribers to our paper.

ST. CATHARINES.

The proprietors of the WORKMAN desire to record their thanks to the workmen of St. Catharines, for the hearty manner in which their representative was received during his canvas of that town, last week, and also for the warm and general support accorded the paper. Special mention must be made of Mr. Ternent, of the Tailors' Union, and Mr. W. Magness, of the K. O. S. C., for their efforts to assist in procuring its circulation, to whose kind endeavors very much success must be attributed.

MASS MEETING IN HAMILTON.

We have elsewhere given a report of the proceedings of the Mass Meeting in Hamilton, and from its perusal, it will be seen that the unanimity of feeling and sentiment that marked the meeting in Toronto was lacking. So far as we can judge, this did not so much arise from a difference of opinion upon the questions introduced, as a mistrust and misunderstanding among the workmen themselves. The meeting was called under the auspices of a new organization known as the Canadian Labor Unity, and those who were not acquainted with the principles of that association—and without waiting to find out what they really were—at once jumped to the conclusion that it was a political agency, pure and simple, and that the meeting was called to denounce, without qualification, the actions of the Local Government; and, therefore, it was determined—on the part of some—to annul any such proceeding, by introducing into the meeting an element of discord and confusion, which, to a partial extent, was successfully accomplished. This, at least, is the inference we drew from the enquiries we made, and the information we received. The proceeding at the mass meeting will be deeply regretted by all who are interested in

the progress of labor reform, because it will, to a very great extent, destroy the effect that would have followed—what should have been the result of the meeting—a unanimous expression of opinion from workmen on questions affecting their interests. The trouble was that a large number of those who attended the meeting, went in a party political spirit, rather than in the spirit of workmen; and until workmen come to the conclusion to lay aside their party bias, and meet as a class upon common ground, their opinions, lacking unanimity, will never receive that attention and consideration to which they are entitled. The resolutions submitted, and the manner in which they were discussed; prove how ill-founded were the fears entertained by those who caused the disturbance; because where the measures proposed deserved commendation they received it, and where it was felt they were lacking, the deficiencies were pointed out and improvements suggested. We believe, however, that though the meeting was not all that its promoters desired, yet it will in future time produce good results, as showing the men the elements of their weakness; and we trust that, as a body, they will see the necessity there is for unity of action in order to secure the progress of true reform—for "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

PROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION.

There is no principle in the progress of man more apparent to the most casual observer than the advancement that is being made in the art of self-government. Wherever the light of knowledge has penetrated the darkness of ages, we see the gradual extension of the law-making power, until it has, among the most enlightened people of our earth, reached or almost reached the masses, which in the near future it must do. And as a result of the assumption of the right, that by nature appertained to man, to say how and by whom he shall be governed, we see measures more in accord with the principles of truth, liberty and justice being brought forward, and to such an extent that the radical reformer of half a century ago would be considered to-day one of the most non-progressive conservatives. The world moves, and the power of public opinion can not be over estimated in the present day, not as expressed by the demonstrative, dangerous and destructive mob of the past who were without legal means to redress a grievance, and whose only appeal was to that of terrorism, but rather in the sense on the part of the masses, of knowing their rights, feeling their just wants, and intelligently agitating within the constitution, for the reform of wrongs that bear rudely upon their class, and the enactment of such legislation as will place man on an equality under the law, and superior to every other consideration that can possibly engage the minds of those whose duty it is to administer to the wants of the country. The past year has been a most prolific year in labor reform. Questions that were never thought of before, or mooted in our legislative assemblies, have engaged the attention of our legislators, and certain acts intended to meet the wants, or rather satisfy the wants and quiet the demands of the operative classes, but which, we are sorry to say, are not of a nature to satisfy those demands simply because they partake of the nature of subterfuges for better and workable laws, which the labor of this country must have to quiet its demands. For real progressive legislation in this line the agitation of last year commenced a new era in the history of the workingman of Canada, and has been fruitful in presenting their wants before the country, and causing such legislation as we have had in our favor. The Local Legislatures have entered very largely into questions that are considered workmen's questions, and though we cannot fully endorse the enactments of that body, it shows that the necessity of such legislation is recognized by the powers that be at Toronto, and at the next session of the Ontario Legislature we may look for and expect many useful amendments to those workmen's questions

that will become law. The Dominion Parliament, now in session, if they wish to retain popular opinion on their side, must mete out no subterfuge enactments to the producing classes; and we hope that the Trades' Union bill of last session will receive the prompt attention of the Government, and that obnoxious attachment to the bill that we have alluded to before, when the measure was before Parliament, known as the Criminal Amendment Act, will be repealed, as nothing short of the expunging of this iniquitous and degrading amendment will satisfy the operatives of Canada.

MECHANICS' MEETING, OTTAWA

On Friday evening last, a very large meeting of masons and bricklayers was held in Rowe's Block, for the purpose of taking into consideration the report of a delegation appointed to wait upon Mr. Young, the present contractor for the church on the City Hall square, to ascertain whether it was the intention to pay the arrears due the mechanics by Mr. Bray, the late contractor. The report of the delegation was to the effect that Mr. Young offered to pay 50 cents on the dollar, but the report recommended that 100 cents on the dollar be insisted on, and that no union man do work for Mr. Young, or any other contractor for this work, until the same be paid. The report was unanimously adopted after a very full and intelligent discussion. A motion was then put and carried to the effect that all further communications from Mr. Young to the tradesmen concerned be through Mr. R. H. Graham.

PRESENTATION.

On Wednesday of last week, a number of the men employed in the hat factory of Coleman & Co., noted hats that are hats, waited upon their fellow workman, Mr. Mone, at his residence, Temperance street, and presented him with a photographic group of the employees, as an expression of their esteem and regard, on the occasion of his leaving the city for Brampton. After the presentation the company enjoyed a pleasant and social time.

THE K. O. S. C. STRIKE AT BALTIMORE.

For some time past there has been differences between the shoe manufacturers of Baltimore and the St. Crispin Association, which have finally resulted in a contest between five large shoe manufacturers and the association. It appears the manufacturers desired the Crispins to draw up a uniform bill of prices, as some firms were paying higher than others, and in order to prevent undue competition it was desired to pay uniformly. This was accomplished, and a committee of the association submitted the revised bill to a meeting of the employers, who were all represented with the exception of five firms. The new bill, after a full and free discussion, and some minor alterations had been made, was agreed upon, all the employers present voting for it; and it was clearly stated by those present that those manufacturers who were absent would consider themselves bound by their action, and the manufacturers and employees separated with the understanding that in the event of any possible questions of difference arising, they should be settled by arbitration. The very next day, however, three of the firms who were present at the agreement, and two others, publicly repudiated their action of the day previous, and have bound themselves in the sum of \$1000 each, to carry out their expressed determination to proscrib the Crispins. This action, of course, immediately brought matters to a focus, and the result is that about one-third of the Crispins of Baltimore are now out on strike. A mass meeting of the men has been held, and the matter was fully and freely discussed; and it was unanimously resolved to resist to the utmost limit such an arbitrary and unjust procedure on the part of the manufacturers named. At the meeting considerable enthusiasm was aroused by the reading of a communication sent by the Daughters of St. Crispin, who number

some 500, to the effect that they would not fit any part of shoes unless furnished by Crispins, and also stating that as their treasury was in a healthy condition, they would afford them substantial evidence of their assistance and sympathy.

MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY.

"It is all sheer nonsense to expect anything from the laboring classes; a workingman will be a workingman to the end of the chapter, and he will never occupy any other than a subordinate position," said a friend the other evening. "Men who are in earnest can do anything within the range of possibility, but most of our mechanics seem perfectly content with their positions and act upon the principle, 'To-day let us eat and drink for to-morrow we die.' While the pride of some would rebel against any such conclusion, if their conduct during the past is any index for the future—we are pained to admit there was more truth than poetry in these remarks. Workingmen, you will continue to be workingmen—that is, remain stamped with the ban of inferiority both in the social and intellectual world—until you are actuated by a nobler ambition—and realize your destiny must be carved by your own hands. Your position is similar to that of a drowning man calling for help, while you refuse to accept the life preserver within your reach. We are sick and tired of reading and hearing of this and that strike, which in a majority of cases, results more disastrously to the employed than the employers, while you refuse to adopt measures which would render these strikes impossible. Neither does it avail to be continually haranguing on the aggressions or greed of capital while you neglect to strip it of its power—by systematic co-operation. The admission of the existence of an evil accomplishes nothing, if your action is not predicated on a determination to change it. Did you ever think what the intelligent, united efforts of 70,000 men could accomplish, and then bring the matter home and ask yourselves the question, what have the workingmen done—or to make the matter a personal one, 'what have I done, as one of these 70,000,' to raise myself or fellow-men from the slough of contempt, to give a practical illustration of the dignity of labor or repudiate the slander that we are the mud-sills of society? Have you worked as earnestly for the establishment of a Trades' Union—the first step in the right direction, the success of the Co-operative Association, the establishment of a Mechanics' Institute or Reading Room—as you have for the election of a ward constable or pound master? Did your tongue ever tire in urging upon your fellow mechanic the necessity of uniting his influence to your own in building these essentials, as often as it has tired in defending the policy of the Democratic or Republican parties? If you cannot answer these questions in a direct satisfactory manner, you are directly chargeable with this apathy, and should lay the blame where it exists—at your own door.

We have reason to believe traitors exist in our own ranks, who are loud in their professions of loyalty to the labor interests, but whose actions belie their professions; who are always ready to throw cold water on every enterprise and prognosticate defeat. And yet is it strange that such creatures should exercise any influence with earnest, intelligent men. What, for example, would the Republicans have thought of the man who, while advocating the principles of that party, cast his own vote on the day of election for the Democratic nominee, and urged others to do likewise? And yet not more inconsistent is the action of these men. But this is begging the question. Every privilege which you can expect is already guaranteed; if you fail to use them for your own advantage, you alone are responsible! and you alone will be the sufferers, as you richly deserve to be. But it is a long lane which has no turn, and though your day of probation is fast passing away, after which your regrets, like those of the lost, will come too late, an opportunity is yet presented to redeem yourselves. "Attempt great things and

expect great things." Remember, as Dr. Collyer says, to be somebody you must do something, and let that something be the determination to cultivate those traits of character which dignify mankind, to foster a manly independence, to cease croaking and go to work as men who are in earnest, to determine you WILL BE somebody, redeem the time left, and prove your ability to occupy a more exalted position. Give it but one fair, honest, impartial trial, and, like the Queen of Sheba, you will be convinced the half has not been told you. —Workingman's Advocate.

Communications.

LAND MONOPOLY.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

Sir,—In your last week's edition appeared a letter from me in which I made mention of three monopolies which were instrumental in sapping the foundation of the natural rights and liberties of man, namely, land, money and master. I shall, with your permission, occupy a portion of your space to treat on those subjects separately, and if my treatment of those very important subjects should call forth greater ability than I am possessed of, so as to throw more truthful light on those subjects my ambition will be fully gratified. To commence, in this letter I will treat of the first and parent monopoly, land. Production and life, I believe, to have been the main plank in the platform of God's economy for man. The foundations of our world seem to have been laid with the one object in view, which is written to be read by man on every strata of our earth,—its surface—and borne to us on the murmurings of the waters of the mighty deep—produce and live. Then the earth and its fullness, by divine entail, is handed down to that being only second to the God-head—man—to be by him utilized by labor to supply every want common to his kind; but man's inherent selfishness soon began to manifest itself by monopolizing and appropriating to self and family God's munificence to the race. The extent to which this land grabbing system was carried, it is unnecessary for me here to observe, as the most limited information as regards the past history of man will suffice. Its effects upon mankind has and can only be of the most servile and degrading nature. No greater evil has ever befallen or can befall any people than that their lands should be locked up in the hands of the few. Depend upon it justice, liberty, manhood, all is locked up with it. When that portion of our kind known in Holy Writ as God's chosen people was under the direct administration of God himself no principle in the whole economy of that people was so watchfully guarded as that the land that produced the living of those people should not centralize in the hands of the few, and enslave the mass. But, notwithstanding the divine teachings on the land question, this absolute necessity to our existence, this unmitigated blessing to man in itself, has been made by man's usurpations one of the greatest barriers to the progress of his kind by contention, suffering, and injustice, which has caused every sod of our earth turned by the spade of the delver to be bathed and re bathed in tears and blood. The land monopoly, as it did exist, is dying very fast before the intelligence of the age. It is a question that has come down to us, and will pass from us to posterity, until in the light of a growing intelligence it is finally settled upon an equitable and lasting basis. There is one thing I feel sure of, that the time shall come when the picture so ably drawn by Scotland's plowman poet will have no place in existing fact:—

"See you poor o'er labored wight,
So abject, mean and vile,
Who begs a brother of the earth
To give him leave to toil?"

How it shall be brought about that man can claim his God-entailed heritage without having his haughty fellow-worm spurn his poor petition for leave to toil, I will not venture an idea under this head, as the last subject that I have proposed to write upon will embrace such ideas. I will now notice briefly how that the sacredness, or the divine right of ownership in the land, which certain houses held to be theirs, like the divine right of kings to rule, is at a discount, and will soon become an exploded theory, and the discount of the usurpations of feudalism will be premium for the people.

To sum up, let us place man where his Maker had placed him, at the head of earthly economy, and reason from that stand-point. We have first, man. Not any particular class, or set of men, but a common humanity, for whose sustenance, happiness and pleasure existed nature's teeming store-house; but the order of things have been changed by man, and by