

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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1026.

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,
124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Amalgamated Carpenters, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Crispins, (159), every Tuesday.
Tinmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Rove's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers, No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity, who will deliver papers to all parts of the city.

Mr. D. TERNANT, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions, give receipts, and take new subscribers for the WORKMAN.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

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The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, AUG. 21, 1873.

ORGANIZATION.

Despite all opposing forces, the good work of Union among the producers of wealth goes on. Who so blind as to look back over the progress of the present century, and say that there is not any progressive vitality in the principle of union, as relates to the laborers of the world, and yet in the face of the giant strides made and being made in bringing workingmen into intelligent council for the bettering of their own condition as a class, we find blockheads would be despots in a nominally free land, trenching themselves against the progress of a principle that is in itself the very embodiment of free labor, liberty and growing intelligence amongst the masses. We think the time has for ever passed when any sane man, who, being endowed with the power of perception to see a little way ahead, can for a moment harbor the idea that he—no matter to what extent or by what means—has been enabled to gather to his coffers the fruits of the creation of others, or any he may associate with him, can stamp out union among those who produce the wealth they possess and enjoy, not by the most fair means under the sun. We have said that the time has for ever gone, at least so far as the civilized world is concerned, when the

wealthy classes can veto union out of existence among the poor masses, and we will say further, that the time has come when the efficiency and power for good of labor organizations depend altogether upon the truthfulness and devotion of those who labor to their principles and duty. We say this feeling that the battle for legal existence has been fought and won by those noble pioneers in intelligence and progress of our class who have preceded us, and the work left us to do is to carry on the principle to perfection had in view by the founders of co-operative action on the part of labor—the amelioration of the condition of the producer. The question then arises, is this principle safe in our hands, and likely to progress in the hands of our children. We have no hesitation in answering in the affirmative, unionism being the handmaid of liberty and progress, the offspring of education, and having struggled and gained strength with every principle that has brought the mass of mankind to higher and nobler plains of contemplation, we can only feel assured that the final triumph of right and justice, so dear to the feelings of every advanced thinker in the ranks of labor reform, but awaits the more general elevation of the masses by education, which is, beyond a doubt, fast reaching all classes.

A word to the workingmen upon the rise and progress of the labor movement and we have done. The commencement of this century saw no such thing as a tolerated labor organization in existence, and down to 1829 and later, the workman who connected himself with such bodies staked his all, even his hopes for the future were blasted by his devotion to the cause of his class. The powers that be, not the representatives of the people but the representatives of the classes, began to find that they were getting an elephant on their hands in the shape of trades unions, and in 1829 they received the first favorable legislation in Britain. In America, throughout the same period, we are not aware of any struggle for the existence of trades' unions, simply because society existed in its normal condition to a very great extent—none very rich and none very poor—but since then monopoly and usury have done their work in this country, building up an aristocracy, though of less than a century's growth, as oppressive and despotic as the descendants of the feudal chieftains of older lands, calling into existence the consequent extreme of centralized wealth, poverty and the poor house, and rendering it necessary for labor, whose production is being constantly absorbed, to further inflate the wealth of the classes to organize in defence of their natural rights, life, liberty and the enjoyment of the fruits of their own labor, and to-day America has built up some of the best labor organizations in existence, despite the combined opposition of the classes and the continual onslaught of the press, nearly always in the interest of capital. In Europe the work of Labor Reform has been constantly gaining ground and winning concessions from the powers that be for their class, so that to-day we see, as the result of less than a century's labor by the intelligent workers of the civilized world against odds of centuries of usurpation in the older lands, and the imported usages of those lands in the new, Labor Reform securely united, the champions of many victories for their class, still marching forward with renewed vigor, bound together by the invincible bonds of union and brotherhood, gathering to her ranks some of the mightiest thinkers on earth, and defended by scores of publications in their interests. When we see this, and remember that but a few short years ago, Labor Reform was without weight or influence in the community, how can we doubt the ultimate success of every aim and object held by labor reformers, founded upon the everlasting principles of truth and justice.

Fellow workman what are you doing to add weight and influence to the aims and objects held in view by the best wishers of your class. Are you connected with your respective organization? You ought to be. Do you in your intercourse with your fellow-man try to

spread the knowledge and need of Labor Reform? You fought to. Do you contribute to sustain a journal in your interest, by subscribing for it? If not you ought to. Let us all be workers to the best of our ability. We all have a duty to perform in connection with Labor Reform and the rights of man, and we ought to do it.

INDUSTRIAL CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES.

We are in receipt of the proceedings of the above-named body, which convened in the city of Cleveland on the 15th of July last, with upwards of 70 delegates from all parts of the United States, and we are happy to know that harmony and good-will, with devoted earnestness in the cause of labor reform, characterized their four days proceedings. The officers elected for the ensuing year are the following—all earnest men in the cause of labor reform:—President, Robert Schilling, of Ohio; First Vice-President, Warwick J. Reed, of Va.; 2nd do., Hugh McLaughlin, of Ill.; 3rd do., Edward Sniggs, of New York; Secretary, Soluna Keefe, of Pa.; Treasurer, James A. Atkinson, of Ohio.

Throughout, questions of the greatest importance to the workingmen of the United States engaged the attention of the Congress. We copy from the platform of principles adopted by the Industrial Congress of the United States certain planks that have a universal bearing, we shall first refer you to the plank on organization, the very foundation upon which our success, as a class, must be built: "To bring within the folds of the organization every department of productive industry, making knowledge a standpoint for action, and industrial, moral and social worth—not wealth—the true standard of individual greatness."

Next come three planks in the platform that have engaged our attention, and has never been lost sight of by us since we came before the public as a labor journal:—

"To advance the standard of American mechanics by the enactment and enforcement of equitable apprentice laws.

"To abolish the system of contracting the labor of convicts in our prisons and reformatory institutions."

"The reduction of the hours of labor to eight per day, so that laborers may have more time for social employment and intellectual improvement, and be enabled to reap the advantages conferred by labor-saving machinery, which their brains have created."

Also, the following planks in the platform are worthy the thoughtful consideration of every Canadian:—

"The establishment of co-operative institutions, productive and distributive.

"The reserving of the public lands, the heritage of the people, for the actual settler, not another acre for railroads or speculators.

"The prohibition of the importation of all servile races, the discontinuance of all subsidies granted to national vessels bringing them to our shores, and the abrogation, or at least the modification of the Burlingame Treaty."

Distributive co-operation can easily be applied with profit by any ten or a dozen families in the land. Our country has been a sufferer in the past by the Upper Canada Co. land monopoly and the Pacific Scandal Company are at present the holders of fifty million acres of the public domain. We are not yet sufferers from the importation of the "Heathen Chinee," but the people's money is being abstracted from the public treasury to import labor from other lands, which is wrong. As we said last week, we are willing to extend the hand of friendship, and welcome the independent emigrant to our shores, who comes as a matter of choice; but must enter our solemn protest against using the people's money for the purpose of taking the bread out of the mouths of those who are called upon to supply the funds, as in the case of the Ottawa printers. Talk about servile labor, but it would be hard to beat the servile wretches who allowed themselves to be imported from England to take the places of the Ottawa printers. We

shall refer to some special action taken by the Congress again.

The next Congress will be held in Rochester, N.Y., on the second Wednesday in April next.

"BLESS YE MY CHILDREN."

The increased grant to the Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of his intended marriage, leads to a consideration or two of no slight importance. Of course we take it for granted that we are living in a real world in which strong and very distinct lines are drawn between right and wrong, between folly and sound sense, and in which humbug has a strongly marked character of its own which ought to prevent it from passing by the consent of honest people into the most serious concerns of life.

There is no difficulty in understanding the fine phrases of Mr. Gladstone in making his proposals for an increase of the Royal Duke's annuity. It is our system to make such grants, and it is our habit to use, whilst doing so, a set of glittering well arranged words that the superstition may not suffer through the clumsiness of the priest. But when Mr. Gladstone tried to point out how adroitly had hit the happy mean between generosity and parsimony, offending in neither direction, he used arguments which suggest thoughts of rather an uncomfortable kind.

We see that the enormous incomes of our rich people make large grants to Royal personages a matter of growing necessity. The thousands extracted from the industry of the country by the fortunate possessors of money and land on the one hand, call for counterbalancing thousands on the other hand, that an equipoise of grandeur and extravagance may be maintained, which is declared to be necessary for the support of the dignity of royalty. It is not pleasant, perhaps to think of this; and those who do trouble their heads about it, may want to ask questions—if the impatient indignation of very loyal and very respectable persons in Parliament and out of it will permit them.

Mr. Gladstone was very anxious that the vote should be passed without a word of comment or inquiry. As the thing had to be given, the readiness of the gift would add to its graciousness. No doubt; but this money is not like the well stuffed purses so liberally and so graciously flung about on the stage. It has to be earned first, and scraped up from many an ill-provided home by the tax-collector. It may occur to many people that if these annuities have to be oppressively swelled in consequence of the great growth of riches on the part of the upper classes, that these inordinate riches might be specially taxed to meet the demands of royalty, which in itself, as an institution, is of more importance to the upper classes than to more humble people.

In the old days this was the case. The landowners had to find donations when the children of the monarch were married, and not the people; and these monies had to come directly from the land, and not from the workers of the nation. Mr. P. A. Taylor, when he rose in his place in the House, did not do so to make a proposal of this kind. He spoke with becoming modesty, but was met with cries of "Oh! Oh!" The flunkies were angry. The dear sons and cousins of our titled grandees were shocked. They would have given twice as much. So far as they are concerned, it is only to ask and to have. They delight to be generous at other peoples expense. We think, however, that such persons had far better smother their indignation. Questions on such matters will have to be put and answered in the House, or they will be put and answered in the country, and should these gentlemen be present and cry "Oh! Oh!" they may find their position an uncomfortable one.

Besides, why not Mr. Holt's question on the religious side of the subject? We know that with Royal persons this is a matter easily accommodated. Young ladies bred with a view to the occupation of thrones are not expected to throw away their chances through silly scruples about dogmas which they do not care to

understand, and which whether they believe or not, is a matter of perfect indifference to them. The whole matter, in fact, as gone through in the House of Commons, looks like a huge pompous folly, the only serious thing about it being the picking up of the coin. It is a pity the Emperor of Russia and the Queen of England cannot between them provide for the young people; but as their is no necessity why they should, and as it is a part of our "system" to do so, and to cry "Oh! Oh!" at any person who attempts to ask a question about it, we must contrive to make the best of a bargain, cry "Oh! Oh!" ourselves as a relief to our feelings, and then piously ejaculate "Bless ye my children, may ye be 'appy;" and so, drying our eyes, sit down quietly and enjoy an innocent game of pushpin.—The Bee-Hive.

RAILWAY CONDUCTORS' SOCIETY.

At the annual meeting of the Railway Conductors' Society, held in Montreal on the 13th inst., the following officers were elected:—President, F. H. Johnson; Vice-President, Mr. Wells; Secretary-Treasurer, W. G. McClare; Executive Committee: T. Among, Northern Railway; A. Gormaly, G W R; C. Mitchell, Toronto and Nipissing Railway; — Sproule, Toronto, Grey and Bruce Railway, and W. Gormaly, G.T.R.

BRICKLAYERS' AND MASONS' UNION.

The Bricklayers, and Mason' Union, No. 1 of Ontario, will hold their first annual pic-nic on the 13th of September, in the West Lodge Gardens. Further particulars will be given hereafter.

PRE-ADAMITE EARTH.

[No. 1.]

BY R. R. Y.

There are at the present time numbers of persons who continue to entertain the belief, which not very long ago was almost universal, that this world of ours is of comparatively recent creation—that is to say, it has only been in existence some 6,000 years, and so strong is the conviction of the correctness of this view that any expression of doubt in respect to it is not unfrequently regarded as throwing discredit on the genuineness of the Divine Record. This is a representative case. In every department of knowledge we have become so familiarised with certain views or opinions, which have been handed down to us from previous generations, that we come almost insensible to look upon them as the only true ones, and although in most cases we have been content to remain in complete ignorance of the grounds upon which such opinions were founded, will if the occasion arise, attempt to defend such views, against the attack of those who promulgate others of an opposite kind. Hence it is that such an outcry has been so often raised, by the holders of hereditary notions, as to dangerous and infidel tendencies of modern science, and the endeavor to brand scientific men, to whose labors the world is so largely indebted, as deliberately seeking to subvert the authority of scripture.

Happily feelings such as these—so largely the consequence of prejudice and ignorance, are gradually giving way before the rapid diffusion of sound knowledge, and the probability is that much that is now or has recently been the mistaken standard of truth, will in time be regarded in the same light as many of the absurd beliefs of ancient times; and truth triumphantly enthroned on their ruins.

To the furtherance of this desirable result we propose to devote two or three short articles, which may possibly tend in some measure to vindicate the honesty and reliability of the teachings of science, and especially in a direction in which they have had to sustain the most bitter and unjust attacks, at the hands too often of those whose high intellectual endowments and culture should have led to the adoption of a different course.

The popular idea is, that the supposed fact of a recent creation of the world is distinctly founded on the plain teaching of the Bible. Now, if this were shown to be unquestionably the case, it would be our duty to bow to such an authority however, much evidence in other directions might seem at present to clash with it. But this is just the point. Do the Scriptures thus teach? We contend that they do not, and that at least a reasonable doubt exists as to the correctness of the interpretation of the passages in question. Let us