

## LONDON.

## INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—The latest excuse I ever heard given for not joining a trades union, is the one advanced by some of those hirelings of capital—I mean the press—and echoed by some specimens of homo in this city. In conversation with one, not long ago, the old stereotyped cry of "individual liberty" was advanced. Now, individual liberty, to do good, is first rate, but when individual liberty means working fifteen hours per day, and committing individual suicide, besides robbing others of their just rights, I think individual tyranny the more appropriate term, don't you, reader? Talk of the restrictions of trade unions! Their laws are made upon the principle of the most enlightened nations in the world, viz.: "to give the greatest possible amount of good to the greatest possible number." I have heard of color-blindness, but the man who believes in working fifteen hours per day, is surely stone blind (mentally at least). Ye gods! are the brute creation treated thus? What man having an horse or an ass would subject the dumb brute to such treatment? I know of none; but on the contrary, I know of some horses which do not work more than three or four hours per day. Shades of "Howard," are men of less value than horses?

I think the moral sense of the world laments the act of the man who takes away his life by pistol, or otherwise, because by so doing he throws his widow and family on the community. The trades union enacts laws to prevent men from working themselves to death, for the same purpose. Again, all nations keep up a force of police to enforce their laws, and there is no "individual liberty" to do evil anywhere; but when a trades union, by moral suasion or otherwise, enforces their just laws, it is called compulsion. It were good for some if they were more strongly dealt with for disturbing the community—for it has been proven to be a disturbance to the community to hear coopers working towards the small hours of morning.

W. W.

London, Ont., Jan., 1873.

## HAMILTON.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

DEAR SIR,—The struggle is over, and now for the result. Five of the seven Aldermen who voted against the workingmen having the use of the Crystal Palace grounds on the 15th of May last, have been left at home to look after their own business. So much has been done, yet what has been left undone darkens the prospect for the time being—all the more so, as we can trace the cause back to its source, which I may at once say is the want of proper organization. It is no use to attempt to conceal the fact that the unity which alone springs from thorough organization was lacking, and, therefore, in the ward in which we expected to obtain the greatest victory, we have met with a crushing defeat. We should have been able to return Mr. J. C. Watkins in St. Mary's Ward, instead of doing which he only received 78 votes in all against 393 cast for McCarty—the one who was really opposed to him. One thing which made it hard against Mr. Watkins, was that he was not a resident of the ward; another was the presence of several of the employers at the polling place during the whole time of the polling, by which means several men were deterred from recording their votes at all, and others voted straight the wrong ticket. This is a new mode of intimidation. Of course, it is no breach of the law in its letter, yet you can see at once the influence brought to bear upon those employed under such men. No attempt was made on their part to conceal the fact that the reduction of the hours of labor was the great thing to be defeated in the present contest. The employers set up the golden calf of wages, and called upon the men to fall down and worship it. The ballot is the only remedy for the dependent workingman, it is his only chance for freedom. And now that the men of Ottawa have taken the subject of legal reform into their hands, let them make this one plank in their platform, the reduction of the property qualification for Aldermen, the reduction of the amount of assessment for a vote, and the ballot; without these, the chance of passing new laws and amending old ones is small indeed. Now to this end, we must have thorough organization. Our constant cry must be organize, organize, organize. We see its effects in every day occurrences, it is forced upon our attention upon the right hand and upon the left, and yet, as a class, we stand with folded arms, wishing that something may turn up well. Something will turn up when our railway rings get all

they want, when they place a heavy rent upon the houses which the men they now lead blindfolded have purchased with their hard-earned earnings, and which they fondly believe to be their own. Yes, these men will find that if they do not spend their earnings in the tavern, that there is another way to deprive them of that which is justly theirs. I mean the present system of bonuses by which an annual rental is placed upon the cottage of the hard-working man in the shape of a tax to create a property for a chosen few, who will control the earnings and appropriate the profits of these railways for all time to come. Well, sir, the apathy of the workingmen will one day be rudely rubbed away, and then, and not till then, will they awaken to a true sense of their duties and responsibilities. All honor to those men in Ottawa who have banded themselves together to force upon the attention of their fellows the duties of the present time. Let them press forward the good work, and seek by every legal means to spread a knowledge of the wants of the workingman through the length and breadth of the land. To do this, the ONTARIO WORKMAN, must be placed in the hands of every man in the Dominion. Let, therefore, every man become an agent for the circulation of the paper; and let all who have a grievance to ventilate, avail themselves of its columns for the benefit of all.

I remain yours,

WORKMAN.

January, 1873.

## IS IT RIGHT THAT CONVICT LABOR SHOULD COMPETE WITH HONEST LABOR?

A ST. LOUIS, MO., MANUFACTURER'S VIEWS.

There has been much talk and much printers' ink expended on the subject of prison labor and prison discipline, and yet there is no change except for the encouragement of crime. My idea is that prisons and all other buildings intended for the detention of criminals for punishment should be of solid, forbidding exterior—should have something in outside appearance that would create a dread of getting inside, and its inside should verify the outside, so that one short-term of punishment would make the criminal careful about getting inside again. Instead of this we see elegant buildings erected, very attractive in outside appearance, with spacious grounds elegantly adorned with flower gardens and shrubbery, with lawns and shade trees, fine perspective views, &c., and all this is at the expense of honest men who pay taxes. I repeat, "is this right?" "But," says the economical philanthropist, "the prisoners are made to work and contribute toward their own support." Stuff! Contractors are the only ones who get the benefit of their labor in such cases, and is it right that criminals should be lodged in palaces and the product of their labor thrown into the market in competition with honest labor? Does any one know of an instance of taxes being reduced by reason of convict labor? Does any one know of crime being lessened by reason of gorgeous prisons? Grand juries and municipal officers pay periodical visits to see if the prisoner is nicely cared for; if his food is properly cooked and seasoned; if his bed is kept clean, and all other comforts properly attended to by the person in charge. If a few criminals grumble the honest tax payer is made to bear the expense of an investigation, and if it is proved that Smith's porridge is not seasoned to his liking, woe to the jailor; he is called a cruel brute, and is removed or is allowed another probation under censure. Hence it becomes a matter of bread and butter with jailors to let Smith have all the seasoning he wants, so that when the official comes around the thieves and murderers will speak well of his care and attention to their wants, and he be approved of as the right man in the right place.

Thus we see prison life is not so great a hardship as many suppose it to be—plenty of good, wholesome food and clothing, nice grounds for exercise, light, airy shops to work in, doctors to attend them in sickness, and all this for the consideration of wearing a striped uniform and not having the privilege of working harder outside for a less comfortable living.

Let us make a comparison right here in our own State, and to do so understandingly, we will compare one mechanical branch of business which is a favorite with prison labor contractors with the same branch outside, to wit, shoemaking. There are two shoe factories in the penitentiary at Jefferson City. They hire convicts from the State at 40 cents per day, and the tax payers board them. These contractors select men who are sentenced for long terms, and as shoemaking, with the aid of machinery is now divided into many parts, the convict in a few weeks becomes pro-

ficient in his one part, and a fair looking shoe is produced. The convict must work so many hours per day and perform a specified amount of work; all the overtime he can make is his own, and with this stimulant in many cases, the allotted task is finished in six or eight hours. This overwork is frequently paid much higher prices for than the State gets, and as the convicts have nothing to pay for board, &c., they can do as well and better in many cases, than honest outside mechanics can.

With all these advantages the prison manufacturer can laugh at all outside competition. He throws the products of this convict labor into the market at lower figures than it costs honest labor to produce it, and it pays him well for doing so, but is fatal to those who are forced into competition with him.

The above is a fair view of the facts as now existing throughout our country, and when the yearly aggregate production in this one branch is stated we can readily comprehend how many honest men are deprived of a fair compensation for their labor. It is estimated that at least five million pairs of shoes are annually manufactured in the various criminal institutions of this country, and this vast production of criminals enters the market in competition with honest labor.

Now let us look at the condition and surroundings of the honest man outside who earns his living in that same branch of business. He has given two or more years of his early life to learn the trade; he seeks and finds employment, and is in most cases shown into a dingy, crowded shop in some high up, very low down or far back apartment. No cool, fresh air laden with the sweet fragrance from flower gardens reaches him—he sees no sparkling fountains or ornamental shrubbery as he raises his weary eye from his work. The blank brick wall or back alley, with its garbage and foul odors, are the daily accompaniments of his struggle to live, and the product of this honest man's labor is forced into competition with that of thieves and murderers, who are fed, clothed, and cared for by the State. I ask again, is this right? Is it not paying a premium on villainy? And yet in the face of these glaring facts there is a great cry out about introducing into this country what tariff advocates call the pauper labor of Europe in competition with the laboring classes of our citizens. I cannot conceive of any lower or more degrading competition than now exists by forcing the honest labor of the country into direct competition with convict labor. But say some, what are we to do with criminals? The answer will be found in Holy Writ: "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth;" let the punishment be short, sharp, and as certain as death. Abolish technicalities and emotional insanities. Stop making law makers of lawyers, and let honest men, who know right from wrong, make the required laws, and then enforce them.

## A MECHANICAL EYE.

No mechanic can ever attain distinction unless he is able to detect ordinary imperfections at sight, so that he can see if things are out of plumb, out of level, out of square and out of proper shape; and unless he can also detect disproportioned or ill-shaped patterns. This is a great mechanical attainment. We say attainment, because it may be attained by any ordinary person. Of course there are defective eyes, as there are other defective organs; the speech, for instance, is sometimes defective, but the eye is susceptible of the same training as any other organ. The muscles, the voice, the sense of hearing, all require training. Consider how the artist must train the organ of sight in order to detect the slightest imperfection in shade, color, proportion, shape, expression, etc. Not one blacksmith in five ever attains the art of hammering square; yet it is very essential to his occupation. It is simply because he allows himself to get into a careless habit; a little training and care is all that is necessary for success.

The fact is that the eye is not half as much at fault as the heedless mind. Some carpenters acquire the careless habit of using a try-square every time they plane off a shaving, in place of giving their minds right to their business and properly training their eyes, and unless they cultivate this power of the eye they will always be at journey work. Look at the well-trained blacksmith; he goes across the shop, picks up the horse's foot, takes a squint, returns to his anvil, forges the shoe, and it exactly fits the foot. Contrast him with the bungler who looks at the foot, then forges a shoe, then fits the foot to it, often to the ruin of a fine horse. Now the fault lies in ever allowing himself to put a shoe on that is not in the proper shape for the foot—he should determine to make the shoe to fit the foot in place of the foot fitting the shoe, and should follow it up until the object is accomplished.

A very good way to discipline the me-

chanical eye is to first measure an inch with the eye, then prove it with the rule, then measure a half inch, then an eighth, and so on, and you will soon be able to discover at a glance the difference between a twelfth and a sixteenth of an inch, then go to 3 inches, 6, 12, and so on. Some call this guessing, but there is no guess-work about it; it is measuring with the eye and mind. Acquire the habit of criticizing for imperfections every piece of work that you see, do everything as nearly as you can without measuring, (without spoiling it), or as nearly as you can trust the eye with its present training. If you cannot see things mechanically, do not blame the eye for it; it is no more to blame than the mouth is because we cannot read, or the fingers because we cannot write. A person may write a very good hand with his eyes closed, the mind of course directing the hand. The eye is necessary, however, to detect imperfections.

Every occupation in life requires a mechanically trained eye, and we should realize more that we do, the great importance of properly training that organ.

## BIRTH.

SLEETH.—On the 31st ult., the wife of David Sleeth, jr., ONTARIO WORKMAN Office, of a daughter.

## MARRIAGE.

STEWART—FLEWELLING.—At the residence of the bride's father, on Thursday evening, Dec. 20th, by the Rev. W. E. Scovil, M. A., Mr. P. H. Stewart, of Toronto, Ont., proprietor of the Ontario Temper, to Miss C. Addie Flewelling, youngest daughter of Hon. W. P. Flewelling, of Chilton, King's County, New Brunswick.

## TRAVELLERS GUIDE—TORONTO TIME.

GRAND TRUNK RAILWAY.	
FROM THE EAST.	FROM THE WEST.
Hellville Train—9.37 a.m.	Night Express—5.15 a.m.
Express—11.07 a.m.	Mixed from Berlin—10.45 a.m.
Mixed—6.57 p.m.	Express—6.30 p.m.
Express—11.07 p.m.	Mixed—11.06 p.m.
GOING EAST.	GOING WEST.
Express—5.37 a.m.	Express—7.30 a.m.
Mixed—12.05 a.m.	Express—11.45 a.m.
Hellville Train—5.37 p.m.	Mixed—3.45 p.m.
Express—7.07 p.m.	Express—12.05 p.m.
GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.	
GOING WEST.	FROM THE WEST.
Express—7.00 a.m.	Accommodation—11.00 a.m.
Do. 11.50 a.m.	Express—1.15 p.m.
Accommodation—4.00 p.m.	Mixed—5.30 p.m.
Express—8.00 p.m.	Accommodation—8.30 p.m.
TORONTO AND NIPISSING RAILWAY.	
GOING SOUTH.	FROM THE NORTH.
Mail—8.00 a.m.	Mail—10.45 a.m.
Mail—3.50 p.m.	Mail—5.35 p.m.
Connects with Midland Railway for Lindsay, Beaverton, Peterborough, &c.	
TORONTO, GREY & BRUCE RAILWAY.	
UNION STATION.	
GOING WEST.	FROM THE WEST.
Mail—7.30 a.m.	Mail—11.30 a.m.
Do. 3.45 a.m.	Do. 8.50 p.m.

## GLORIOUS NEWS

To those who have not already bought their winter stock of clothing, we are selling out the remainder of our stock.

BEAVER OVERCOATS,  
WHITNEY OVERCOATS,  
HUDSON BAY OVERCOATS,  
PEA JACKETS.

At a great reduction, as we are determined to clear them to make room for extensive alterations, to be made before receiving our spring stock, now being bought by our buyers in Europe.

## "STAR"

Dry Goods & Clothing House

Corner King and West Market Streets.

All Goods marked in plain figures.

181 YONGE STREET 181

## GREAT STOCK-TAKING SALE.

We commenced on Thursday morning, 2nd January, 1873, to offer the WHOLE STOCK, at a GREAT REDUCTION from the regular prices, in order to make a clearance, before commencing to merchandise for stock-taking.

BARGAINS WILL BE GIVEN.

Look at some of our prices.

Scarlet Flannel 1s, worth	0 1 3
Stout Wincey, 54s, 6d, worth	0 1 3
Black Wincey, 54s, 6d, worth	0 0 4
Fine French Merinos 2s and 2s 3d, worth	0 3 0
Rich Flannel Dress Goods, 1s, worth	0 1 6
French Reys 1s 2d, worth	0 1 9
Heavy Tartan Lustres 1s, worth	0 1 9
All-wool Flannel, 45s 3d, worth	0 1 3
Black Shawls 1s, worth	10 0
Good Grey Cotton 4s 6d, worth	0 0 8
Clouds 7d, 1s 3d, 1s 6d, 2s 3d, worth	0 2 0
Black & White Cotton	0 0 7
Black Alpaca 4s 6d, 1s 1d, 1s 3d, and	0 1 8
Blankets	8 0
Heavy Shawls 1s, worth	0 15 0

AND OTHER GOODS IN PROPORTION.

This is a genuine sale and no humbug.

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Plated Tea Sets,  
Plated Forks and Spoons,  
Plated Crystal Glasses,  
Plated Sugar Bowls,  
Fancy Table Lamps,  
New Table Glassware, at

GLOVER HARRISON,

37-40

## EATON'S

Corner Yonge & Queen Streets.

These Goods are Cheap and worthy inspection.

CORNER YONGE & QUEEN STREETS.

29-30

## WINGEYS

These Goods are Cheap and worthy inspection.

CORNER YONGE & QUEEN STREETS.

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## COAL!

WITHOUT SNOW.

BIG COAL HOUSE.

OFFICE.

45

YONGE STREET.

W. MYLES & SON.

39-40

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GO TO

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AND GET YOUR TOYS FOR

Dolls and Toys of all Descriptions.

AT COST.

The whole stock must be sold off within two weeks.

Come One! Come All! Come Quick!

All Goods are marked in plain figures, and everybody can see the reductions made for themselves.

32-4

## THE BAZAAR.

Our darling little Girls and Boys,

With sparkling eyes greet Holiday Toys,

And each young lady joyous sings,

When Pa presents her Chains and Rings,

Makins' so blooming, fresh and fair,

Is gladdened by the China-ware.

So make home happy. Those things are

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The Famed Bazaar

184 YONGE STREET

OPPOSITE THE "GLOBE" HOTEL.

ARTHUR CRAWFORD.

34-35

## GOLDEN ROOST.

W.M. WEST & CO.

A SPLENDID STOCK OF

BOOTS AND SHOES

IN GREAT VARIETY.

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CHEAP FOR CASH.

Call and see for yourselves.

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Choicest brands of Wines, Liquors, and

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