

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Letter from Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C., June 17, 1878.

Your agreeable last number was received in due time and properly appreciated. The delegates from this Union to the National Convention made a report last Saturday evening of its proceedings, and I was pleased to hear the convention had appropriated \$150 to reimburse Mr. Ralston, delegate to Paris, which I hope was brought about partly by my last letter. It was stated the proceedings were generally of a beneficial character. This city having been selected as the next place of meeting, we hope to see an extraordinarily large attendance. This place possesses so many advantages over many of the other cities that, I think, by a little effort, more unions could be represented than anywhere else. I am sure the delegates who attended the International Union here in '67 or '68, will never forget the pleasant time they had. I understand Canada has been honored with the presidency. Mr. Armstrong, I see by the proceedings, having attended previous sessions, should make an able officer.

I failed to state previously of the extreme illness of Mr. Wm. R. McLean, a former president of the International Typographical Union. He has been suffering from an abscess in the region of the hip joint, and while his recovery was almost despaired of, he happily has recovered sufficiently to be able to attend to his duties, but is still in the hands of a physician and suffers great pain.

Mr. M. B. Goodwin, whom I saw mentioned in a previous Richmond letter as being well-known in that city, was unfortunately stricken with paralysis last month while attending a meeting of the Workingmen's Assembly, of which he is a delegate from this Union. He was confined to his bed for several weeks, but is about again and expects to visit the country this week. His right side having been affected, it is feared he will never be able to resume type-setting, as he cannot control the muscles of his arm.

One of the largest demonstrations of workingmen ever held in this city, took place on the 9th inst., fully 5,000 men being in line, with appropriate mottoes, bearing torches. On the part of our craft the speakers were Messrs. A. T. Cavis and E. B. Robinson, two of our ablest

and wisest speakers. The fluency with which Mr. Cavis spoke led some in the crowd to enquire if he was a workingman, when he had to acknowledge he had been plodding away at type-sticking for the past forty years. There were quite a number of other able speakers, representing all the trades, any of whom would have reflected credit upon any assemblage. The demonstration was made in behalf of the eight-hour law, but unfortunately has not had the desired effect, as the Senate decided the past week to postpone action until December. While that and similar meetings have not as yet produced the legislation necessary for the revival of business, it is destined to have its effect, and the sooner it is done the better, as it is but the forerunner of the approaching storm which has been too long unheeded by our legislators.

From private information received from Richmond the trade is in a most deplorable condition, probably by this time all the offices being in the possession of rats. The rate of compensation is so low that one is hardly enabled to pay board.

Business here has not improved, little, if any, book or job work being done. Several extensive furloughs have lately taken place at the Government Printing Office, brought about by the failure of Congress to make the necessary appropriations, not through the lack of work to be done, as after the first of July the office will run its full complement.

Negotiations were lately pending, and two special meetings held, to consider the propriety of permitting our members to work in the Post office, the only rat office in this city. At the incipency of this office we adopted denunciatory resolutions, and were sustained by the other trades' unions, which the proprietor has bitterly complained of and frankly acknowledged we had done great injury to his business, and believed he would be more than compensated by the change; but, as he desired us to take the initiatory by a reconsideration of the resolutions, and then he would instal union men, the union was afraid to trust to his honor, as he would give us no written assurance, claiming that it would be equivalent to a purchase. While a great many were favorably inclined, the proposition was defeated, and thus the case stands; while, in my judgment, if the suggestion had been carried out another union office would have