

bricklaying, etc.? said a father who has several sons, and is a tradesman, intelligent, hard-working, either as a bricklayer or contractor. He added, "Our young men have great advantages; almost any one of them may be well educated at the public schools and High Schools, and to have such an education would be of great use to them when they are working for themselves. But here is the trouble, we fathers dare not go beyond a certain point, even in the course of the public schools, or else we lose our boys from our trades. Why should this be? Why should not learning and steady work on necessary employments hold together? Why, indeed, is asked in perplexity by the thoughtful and well-read educator, as well as by the parents of both boys and girls. The boast is frequently heard in Ontario that our educational system is so "fixed" that a pupil can begin in the public school, and be prepared in the High School, and finish his high academic course at the University at comparatively little expense. It may be taken as an axiom that the people of a country cannot be too well educated, but clearly the education of a country may easily be misdirected. Is the education of Ontario at present misdirected? Many think and say that it is. The father to whom we refer is a representative of many a father. They ask the question: "Why will not the boys take their coats off." While we were writing the above the advice of Mr. William Arrol, the contractor for the celebrated "Forth Bridge," came to hand; as it bears on this important topic we print it here:

"Mr. W. Arrol, in thanking the members of Ayr Town Council for conferring the freedom of the burgh on him, said: 'The first time I was in Ayr was thirty years ago. I remember travelling through it looking for work as a journeyman blacksmith.

I had a fancy to get work in Ayr, as I greatly wished to see Ayrshire. I thought the best way to gratify that desire was to seek work in Ayr, but, unfortunately, I did not succeed in getting employment. That was my first connection with Ayr. Speaking as a representative of the working classes and of the honour which the Provost and Magistrates have done me to-night in presenting me with the freedom of the burgh, I should like to say a few words about our working men at the present moment. I am afraid they are apt to do what some of us here say when a horse gets the bit in its mouth, they run away. I fear that the working classes have got the bit of good trade in their mouths, and are going to run away with it. I saw at least a dozen of gentlemen to-day, and every one was complaining about the prospects of this coming year. I am sorry to think that our working classes will soon run away with the great prospects of the trade of the country, and of the great boom of two years ago. I fear that at the end of twelve months the thing will be at a dead stand. The cause of that is simply the present state of trade unions and the Stock Exchange. Our trade cannot settle down to any quiet, steady trade, the same as we had some years ago. No person can safely go into any contracts that will last over a few months. I know I have been asked to offer for work to the extent of a million of money, but I would not look at it, and incur the very great risk in the present state of business. There is no safety in anybody going outside our own country, for you no sooner have settled down than the trade unions are down on the top of you for an increase of wages. There is another thing I should like to mention, and perhaps it will be as much in the ladies' as the gentlemen's way. I refer to the education of our younger members. We