

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 help organizations, condition of trade, etc.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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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.
Crispian, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
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, (Rowe'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.

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City subscribers not receiving their papers regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124 Bay street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1873.

WEALTH.

It is necessary to define the meaning of this word, before we offer any observations on the subject. Wealth properly means, according to Webster, "weal, welfare, prosperity, external happiness." But another meaning is usually attached to the word, and is the ordinary signification, "large possessions of money, goods or lands, abundance of worldly estate, affluence, opulence, possessions, property, riches." It is usual for writers to lay down a dogma, that any man can grow wealthy by simply ceasing to purchase unnecessary articles. Nothing can be more foolish, yet we find this opinion is nearly universally promulgated by would-be authorities on social economy.

Only those who have suffered by sad experience can tell of the pinching economy in food, fuel and clothing, which has to be practised by even an intelligent mechanic receiving good wages, to make his money keep life together. To talk about a man who is receiving nothing more than the pittance at which his labor is bought, shunning luxury to amass wealth, is the veriest irony. The majority of those who preach about the mechanic having the means to amass wealth, had better first cut down their own expenses to the rate of a mechanic's wages, and then

try what margin there is for attaining opulence from that amount of money.

We have an opinion that each man who industriously follows his occupation, really produces more than he consumes, and if he received all he produced, he would in time save up a certain amount sufficient perhaps to ease his shoulders in old age or sickness. But under our present social system, instead of each man receiving the full amount of his earnings, he only receives, say, about two thirds, the residue being put into the pocket of some person who is an employer of labor; and this surplus which rightly belongs to the producer is pocketed by the exchanger, who grows rich upon the added surpluses of from ten to one thousand men.

If these exchangers of productions were compelled to live on the amount produced by themselves alone, we should see fewer brown stone mansions, fewer private carriages, and spans of spirited thorough-bred horses, and fewer people looking down from their elevated positions, on the hard-fisted greasy mechanic who slaves his ten hours per day, and lives in a penurious manner, that he may be enabled to honestly pay every man his due.

The road to wealth is simply this: Take a man whose abilities are such that he can play the game of business well, then eradicate all sense of strict justice between man and man; teach him to obey only legal laws, abstract his benevolence, give him more acquisitiveness, then let him go: he will grab some money fairly or unfairly, then he will employ some slaves either white or black, and then he will drive those slaves with the whip of necessity, until they produce a surplus. He will then appropriate that surplus, and thus accumulate wealth, aye, wealth, and this wealth he will use to still further drive his slaves, until the last spark of energy is used up for his benefit, and the poor slave wends his way homeward, tired in limb, tired in mind, hopeless of ease or enjoyment, a dull, dis-spirited mass of humanity. What wonder that he seeks to drown his thoughts in the flowing bowl? What wonder he should cherish hard feelings against employers as a class. He is a victim to greed, a living human sacrifice at the shrine of the "almighty dollar."

DRINKING HABITS.

In a recent issue we had somewhat to say under this head, which our readers will doubtless remember. Reports of the English Parliamentary Committee, who are enquiring into the dear coal question, are to hand, in which our former position is fully sustained. Even the *Globe* had not the hardihood to revise an English article published in its columns of the 25th inst., and it is with great pleasure we quote the following:—

The earnings of the men occupied much of the time of the Committee, and brought out much interesting information. The hewers in Mr. Pease's collieries earn, making all deductions and additions for house rent and coal allowances, nearly two guineas per week, working 245 days in the year, and spending seven hours a day in the pit. In Wigan, according to the colliers' agent, the hewer who earned most of a set of men, cleared £2 10s in a certain week; the hewer who earned least made, perhaps, £1, if we allow for deductions, but he probably did not work full time. The drawers were paid 3s a day. Mr. Tennant, of West Yorkshire, said that in his collieries the average for men and boys is £2 a week.

It may be asked how did the men spend this increased pay? No widespread luxury or drunkenness was proved; and while it was said they spent their earnings in the public house, it was also said that they had put money in the savings-banks, that in their condition and dwellings, the dress and education of their children, they had vastly improved.

There is a deplorable amount of whiskey drinking indulged in by not only working men, but also by persons who strictly are not working men; and it is not honest to charge all the "depravity," "immorality," "theft," "drunkenness," and "dishonesty" on the working classes; who, though not perfect, are often far above the non-workers in all that constitutes true manhood.

COMMON SENSE CO-OPERATION.

Traffic is a hideous minotaur that exacts a toll from every purchaser. Workmen are purchasers of every thing that sustains life or makes it endurable, and should therefore be interested in the multiform devices and ramifications that make up the machinery of traffic. We will take for instance a quart of berries just picked in the country. On the spot those berries could be bought for five cents, but by the time the mechanic in the city has them on his table, they cost him twenty-five cents. Vegetables, of all kinds, that could be secured in the country for a mere nominal price, are retailed at the groceries at prices that make a poor man wince. The same is true of eggs and all other articles of consumption. Is there no remedy for this evil? We think there is. There are too many men employed in exchanging and distributing articles of manufacture and the product of agriculture. There are too many middle men, and some means should be used to get rid of at least the half of them. How is this to be done? Through the agency of co-operation in trade. Why should there be so many grocers? We find them on every corner and they all manage to live and pay large rents, heavy taxes and insurance. There are in the city of Cleveland over four hundred grocers who sell by retail, and hardly one of these men go outside the city to buy their goods. There are ten or twelve wholesale houses in the city that supply nearly all the retail stores. Now the question arises "Why can't workingmen unite, in families of ten or a dozen, and purchase their goods direct from the wholesale houses?" This would be common sense, practical co-operation. They would save at least fifteen per cent. by doing so. Even four or six families could unite and buy by wholesale. Is it not a strange commentary upon the common sense of a body of men, that they will buy from a grocer who purchases his goods almost double for his trouble, when they could avoid the extra charge by simply going and buying where he bought? It would even repay a man to buy singly by wholesale if he could not do otherwise. He would have to lay in quite a stock at a time, but it would be money in his purse in the end. Besides when you buy at wholesale you do not run any risk of getting an adulterated article.

If workingmen looked into this matter and acted upon the hints here thrown out, half the sleek, lazy, fat grocers in the country would close up shop in less than a month and have to turn in and work for a living. A great many grocers and retail store keepers of all kinds, and all saloon keepers, are non-producers, who live upon per centage in a manner, not at all unlike the man who loans money and lives upon the interest. A grocer buys a quart of berries for ten cents and sells them for twenty (fact). He makes fifty per cent. and a hundred per cent. very often in a few moments. The saloon keeper does the same. Hence they live by per centage; they are non-producers and should be regarded as such. Of course there must be stores, but there need not be a company of them where there is now a regiment.

Sheeting, calico, ribbon, and all species of dry goods, can also be purchased by wholesale at a much less rate than at retail. We don't think we are going beyond the truth in saying, that if families bought all articles of consumption at wholesale, they would effect a saving of at least one hundred dollars a year, and that is quite an item to any family.

This is a kind of co-operation that requires no capital. There are no risks. The chances are all on the side of the co-operators. It does not offer dividends, it is true, but it will save money and money saved is money earned. How to make a few dollars do the most possible good and go the greatest way towards keeping the family, is a matter worthy the attention of all working men.—*Coopers' Journal*.

The operative cotton spinners of the Burnley district, which extends from Burnley to Colne, Todmorden, and Padiham, have sent a memorial to their masters asking for an advance of 10 per cent.

CRIMINAL AMENDMENT ACT.

At the last regular meeting of the Ottawa Trades' Council, the following resolution was unanimously carried:—

Resolved, That it is the opinion of this Council that the time has arrived when the initiative should be taken in framing a bill bearing on the repeal of the Criminal Amendment Act, now on the statutes of this Dominion; and that Messrs. Wm. J. Loughrin, R. McGregor, P. Foisy, D. J. O'Donoghue and D. Robertson be a committee to act of themselves, or jointly with any committees that may be appointed in Toronto, Hamilton, Montreal, or other places, who may be interested in the matter, and that they report progress from time to time.

OTTAWA TRADES' COUNCIL.

At a meeting of the Ottawa Trades' Council, held in the Mechanics' Hall, Rideau street, on Tuesday, the 22nd instant, the following officers were duly elected to serve for the ensuing term:—President, Dan J. O'Donoghue; Vice-President, Peter Foisy; Recording Secretary, Wm. J. Loughrin; Corresponding Secretary, Donald Robertson; Financial Secretary, John Limond; Treasurer, Richard Shaw.

CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

Last Tuesday night a meeting of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners was held in the Trades' Assembly Hall, and officers elected. The name of the society is "The Toronto 1st Branch of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners."

THE LONGSHOREMENS' UNION.

The regular meeting of the Longshoremen's Union was held in St. Patrick's Hall. The President, Mr. Finn, presided. A good deal of interesting business was conducted, and fourteen new members were admitted to the Union. The members of this Union intend holding their first pic-nic about the 11th of the month, to Port Credit, of which due notice will be given. We wish the members of the Union the most entire success in their efforts to improve their position.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

An entire change of programme was presented at the Academy on last Monday evening, introducing three new "stars," Mr. Robert Ferguson, "La Petite Pauline" and Mons. Loyal. The entertainment throughout was of a most interesting character, and the performance of the various artists was received with enthusiastic applause. Mr. P. Murphy, in his Irish songs and dances, and Ned West in his specialties were most successful, as well as Ned Ainsley. Miss Fannie Wood and Gertie Granville appeared in new songs and dances, and were rewarded with enthusiastic encores. The appearance of Mr. Robert Ferguson in his great character songs proved the greatest success of the evening, whilst the audience were highly pleased with the clever performance of Mons. Loyal on the horizontal bar. La Petite Pauline, a charming young vocalist, is a great addition to the company at the Academy, and if we may judge from the applause with which she was received, she is likely to become very popular. The entire programme now presented at this establishment is one of the most attractive and amusing it is possible to offer, and will doubtless attract crowded houses. To-morrow evening Miss Gertie Granville, takes her benefit, when an unusually attractive bill will be presented, and the popularity which this young lady has attained since she has been in this city leads us to anticipate for her a crowded house.

LIFE AND LIFE FORMS.

[No. 5.]

BY R. R. Y.

So much has been written during recent years as to the theory of development and gradation, that many not intimately acquainted with the facts, have been led to suppose that there is a gradually ascending series, from the simplest to the most complicated forms in a single line, particularly in the invertebrate division of the animal kingdom. In one sense this view is true to a certain extent, but in another, and the which it is generally taken, it is

not so. Even at the present time the best authorities are at variance as to the position which the different classes should occupy, and this is sufficient to show that the construction of a truly natural system, founded upon a more accurate and extensive knowledge than that now possessed, is still future.

The idea which seems most conformable to nature, is to regard the animal kingdom as made up of so many typical groups, having certain general characteristics, some of which, taking them as groups, may be ranged in a line of ascending organization, while others must be placed on a level, or in parallel lines. Thus, we have already referred to three types—the globular, the radiate and the articulate—and those may be said in a general way, to rank in this order, although in each case it is found that the highest forms of one type are more perfect than the lowest of that placed above it. We now, however, come to a class which possesses features of such a character, and such wide differences in the degree of organization, that it can neither be said to rank above or below the articulate form.

So great is the variety existing between molluscs, better known as shell fish, that it is not easy to group them under general characteristics, but there are necessarily some points in which they agree. One of these is indicated by the name, the meaning of which is literally *soft bodied*, and this name is here particularly applicable. The bodies are all of a soft texture, and those of a great number are to all appearance little else than a soft or mucous mass, without parts, and almost without organization, but this is so only in appearance. In reality these animals, at least the highest orders of them, possess an organization of very considerable complexity and perfection. In intelligence and instinct the mollusc is certainly inferior to the insect and crustacean, but in many important points of organization it is undoubtedly their superior.

In the highest order of molluscs, or that represented by the cuttlefish, there are some small pieces of bony, or, perhaps, more properly, cartilaginous substance, apparently serving the purpose of protecting the nervous matter, and thus giving us the first approach, in a very imperfect and rudimentary form, to the skull in higher animals. With this exception there are no internal bony or solid supports, and consequently such species as are provided with long arms as the cuttle, have them attached simply to the skin, which, affording no firm leverage for the muscles, renders the movements of the animal slow and awkward. This is, however, of little disadvantage. Almost all the different species of molluscs are confined within comparatively narrow limits, and to a great extent continue in the same spot all their lives, some congregating together as the oysters, others attached to a rock by means of suckers, or firmly anchored by cords which are made for the purpose.

There is, properly speaking, no brain or spinal marrow in these animals, but instead of these we find several *ganglia*, or what we may call nervous centres, so disposed and connected as to form a circle or collar. From these centres originate the nervous fibres, which are distributed and form a beautiful network all through the body, but yet each set of nerves being so distinct that every *ganglion* governs the action of certain functions, thus, one supplies the nerves for the eyes, another those of the tentacles or arms, another pair those of the heart, gills, etc.

Molluscs being mostly aquatic, their organs of respiration usually take the form of gills, nearly approaching in character those of fishes, and these are abundantly supplied with blood vessels, directly from the heart, that is to say, there is in these always a *double* circulation, as in the higher animals. The organs of circulation are not, however, the same in all. In some species we find one heart, as in the crayfish, where it is distinctly muscular, so that even when removed from the body it will continue to pulsate for a short time. In others, there are two, and even three hearts, in which cases the two sets of gills have