

manufacture the web; so that the threads which we see are in reality composed of something like four thousand strands. But more than this, the great German naturalist, Leouwenhoek, estimates, and his calculations are confirmed by Sir Charles Bell, that the most minute spiders, some of which are not much larger than a grain of sand, are so fine, that four millions of the strands would not equal in thickness one of the hairs of his beard.

The web of the house spider, although in itself of wonderful structure, and hangs with great skill in the best places for accomplishing the object in view, does not equal in beauty and regularity those which we see in the garden or field, which are generally made up of cross-lines in such a way as to form a perfect geometrical net; and the extreme regularity with which these webs are constructed, is all the more curious when we consider that while the process of making them is going on, the spider cannot possibly see what it is doing, the thread being guided entirely by one of its hind claws.

Those who are early risers will also have observed the millions of the finest threads, which hold the morning dews of harvest, and appear in the early morning when the sun's rays fall obliquely, like myriads of glittering pearls, reflecting all the varied colors of the rainbow. But the least breeze dissipates the fine illusion, and destroys the beautiful workmanship of the tiny beings.

But besides the house, the garden, and the gossamer spiders—which are known as the weavers—there are other species, not so familiar, and which present some differences of structure and habits. For instance, we have along the margins of rivers and lakes, a species which is of aquatic habits, and is known as the water spider. This spider builds its nest and entraps insects in a very remarkable way. When about to commence the construction of a nest, the spider swims to the surface, and with its head downwards, dilates its spinners. It then rapidly dives, and by this ingenious means, a little bubble of air is produced, which, independent of the silvery coating which envelopes the body, appears as a little globe attached to it. The spider now swims to the stock of the plant to which it had determined to fix its nest, and touching it with the bubble the air detaches itself and adheres to the plant. That being done it again ascends to the surface, collects another bubble, which is carried down as before, and so on in this manner the balloon of air is sufficiently enlarged. This is then skillfully enclosed with a network of threads, spun out in the same way as before described. The spider next gets into the balloon by an opening at the bottom and sitting there, stretches through the water irregular threads, which serve to arrest minute water mites and other prey.

In the south of Europe and in the West Indies, another species is found, called the trap-door or mining spider, which also shows not a little ingenuity and some architectural ability. In this case the spider proceeds first to excavate a burrow in soft earth, about an inch in diameter, and six to ten inches in depth. This hole is then lined with a material like paper, and the mouth closed with a circular door formed of numerous layers of silk and pellets of earth, interwoven into the outside, and left rough like the surrounding surface to avoid detection, but made so smooth on the inside, and so exactly formed, as to fit the mouth of the hole with the utmost accuracy, while a hinge of silk at one part of the circumference allows the lid to be raised for the exit of the owner, and closes by its own elasticity. In this mansion the spider habitually lives, going abroad to hunt for prey and retreating with it to the bottom of its domain.

In the tropics there is also a very large spider (*Tarantula*), which is provided with a venomous apparatus, by which it at once kills its prey; and this venom is even strong enough to do serious injury to man himself. This creature may be considered as forming the connecting link with another, (the scor-

pion), which belongs to the same class, which is well known for the extraordinary ferocity of its disposition, and the fearful and dangerous character of the wounds which it inflicts. In fact, so deadly venomous is its sting, which bears a strong resemblance in some points to that of the serpent, that when in some cases, a wound has been inflicted, immediate amputation is the only remedy to save life, while in other cases the sting is mortal.

This creature was held in great dread by men in ancient times, and is frequently referred to in history. It is of greater length and slenderness than the spider, is about four inches to a foot long, and terminates in the hollow sting, with which the poison bag is intimately connected.

To be continued.

MHE KNIGHTS OF MALTA.

On Tuesday the two City Encampments, No. 78 and 84, R. B. K. M., celebrated St. John's Day, by a festive gathering in the shape of Pic-nic and Games, at the Crystal Palace. In the early part of the day the aspect of the weather threatened to spoil their proceedings, but clearing up about ten, the Knights paraded the streets in full regalia—presenting a magnificent and imposing procession. Sir Knight E. F. Clarke efficiently acted as chief marshal. After divine service at St. George's Church, the procession re-formed and made its way to the Palace, where the afternoon was spent in dancing, athletic sports, etc. The games were all well contested, and a large number of handsome prizes were distributed to the successful competitors. The proceedings of the day were brought to a close by holding a supper at the Orange District Hall, which was largely attended. The day throughout was very pleasantly spent, and will long be remembered by the gallant Knights.

Communications.

PARTY GOVERNMENT.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—The question has often occurred to my mind how long must it be before mankind will be sufficiently educated to cease party strife! This insatiable thirst for party political supremacy, which must always leave to all intents and purposes, a large minority—even possibly a majority—unrepresented; this party administration in the state, is no more a necessity (though far more an evil) than "party" in any ordinary deliberative body would be. It will be unnecessary for me to attempt to enumerate the evils that the political economy of civilized countries are subject to through this pernicious system of party administration that obtains in them; as any thinking mind of ordinary capacity, divested for a few moments of any party prejudices that may be fossilizing about it, contracting its expansion, chaining its liberties to despotism the most unscrupulous—a designing political party—can see the unwarrantable power such party are in possession of through this semi-idolatry that has got possession of the minds and hearts of many of the people who worship at the shrine of party, in packing the House from their strongholds with their most pliant supporters, though the individual may be the most obnoxious to those who have got to vote the ticket and pitch-fork the tool of the party into a seat in the Parliament. That such means of packing the house does exist, no one with the slightest knowledge of our politics can doubt. Then with a pliant working majority, secured in this manner, further comment ought to be unnecessary.

Our representation, founded on the present party basis, can only be evil continually to the great rank and file of our people. A true people's representation, when that time comes, will be moral worth, social merit, and intellectual ability in the individuals, without reference to blind party political antecedents. A body chosen by the people in this way, convening and selecting from among themselves such as they consider best fitted to administer the affairs of the nation unbiased by the thralls of party, free to deal with every question that may come before them upon its merits, and not because of such question having emanated from this or that party; then, and not until then, will we have that honest and disinterested management of public affairs that the mass of the people feel that they should have. The great substratum upon which is raised the superstructure of either political party are honest and patriotic in the support they give the party of their choice, as the masses of the people always are; then one of the most important works for the true reformer and

honest philanthropist to engage in at this time, in our progressive age, is to try and mend the breach in the households of nations caused by party, and give the masses a better, more honest and more comprehensive system of government, that shall not be indebted to any defined division in our national family that rather exists in a name and a thirst for the treasury benches than in any well defined system of national policy, a government founded upon the confidence of the people, knowing no minority, ever watchful of the progress of true reform among the people, for as in the past so in the future, most all great reforms have their birth among the masses, and there be nurtured until appreciated, before legislation can be effectual in giving them force. The true work of a government is to watch the needs of the people, and be ever ready to administer to them. But in the mean time, what is to be done? Perhaps at no time in the history of Canada did there exist a more bitter political party feeling than prevails at the present. We can only deplore the fact that too often this hateful feeling rends the bosom of the same family, and even enters and desecrates the peace of the sanctuary; and while all lovers of peace and harmony among mankind must wish for the dawn of the better system that from present appearances seem so far away, owing to a hateful feeling engendered and fed by a certain unscrupulous adventurer from Scotland, who has attained to the leadership of a party known as "Grits," who sometimes usurp the name of "Reformers;" this individual has done, and is doing, more to cry down the credit of this country and retard its progress than all other influences at work in our land put together, and through the *Globe* newspaper we have echoed and re-echoed the sentiments of a faction who are alike enemies of progress and labor—a faction who have even laid violent hands upon the most sacred rights of communities—to be sovereign in the management of their local affairs, an in interfering with the action of the New Brunswick Legislature, in regulating their own school affairs. A faction who are prepared to sacrifice the most sacred rights of any people or community—that of administering their own local affairs—can have no claim upon the support of the intelligent masses of any country; and so long as the party in power maintain a liberal and progressive policy, the unification of a kindred people, the opening up of the wilderness that is ours and our children's heritage, the encouragement and protection of home industry, it is about as much as the laboring classes can expect from a party government, and should receive their support. The Opposition have not even made an abortive attempt to pass a measure that the labor of the country could thank them for. The workmen of the Dominion have the promise of every consideration from the present Administration on all questions of interest to labor that may be laid before them; and I trust that the changes made in the Cabinet will be fully sustained by their respective constituencies, though the individuals may not be all that could be wished for in themselves. It must be remembered that any action in this matter is not one of local significance merely, but one of national importance. Then let those who are made free by the possession of the franchise, exercise that liberty with judgment rather than with party prejudice, local influence, or personal feeling, ever keeping in view their own best interests and those of their fellow-men, and the progress and prosperity of our country.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN HEWITT.

Toronto, June 24, 1873.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—The working classes, who are they, but the staple commodity of our country? My question is somewhat pertinent. "Without the working classes with whom should we affiliate?" Would a number of highly educated men in the law and other professions be of any service to us in the "New Dominion?" I think not, and so do many more. Of such we have too many already. I would not speak disparagingly, rather advisedly and respectfully. If you are prepared for work, my friends, this is just the country for you; but if you imagine gold is to be picked up in the streets as you pass along, without working for it, you are greatly mistaken. Many a man who has received a high salary, and been highly connected with a first-class firm, has had in the city of Toronto and its adjuncts to succumb to an inferior position to that he held in the Old Country.

It is hard to bear, but it must be borne. Those who have rightly tested this country know full well the correctness of these observations. They give in their views as common sense and daily experience teach them. Uninstructed, yet presumptuous minds, often become offensively dictatorial.

They always know better than their compatriots, and more than this, they ambitiously assert opinions against any man's views in the universe! Common sense men, however, bring them to book.

H. D.

Toronto, June, 1873.

OSHAWA.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—Some time since I wrote you regarding an attempt to deprive me of a vote. I attended at the Court of Revision, and objected to my name being struck off the assessment roll, as the appeal had been made against me, and the notice served upon me while still in possession of the house. But that did not matter, and notwithstanding that it was in direct violation of the law, Mr. F. W. Glen, President of the Hall Works, the Deputy Reeve, moved that my name be struck off the assessment roll, the motion being seconded by another employer of labor and carried. I appealed to the Judge of the County, and thanks to an upright judiciary, my name has been replaced on the voters' list. Of course, the motion had a twofold object—to punish me for writing to *THE WORKMAN* and to kill a vote against Hon. T. N. Gibbs—but I venture to affirm, that Mr. Glen's motion will do more harm to Mr. Gibbs' election than if my name had been allowed to remain on the assessment roll in the first place.

By Mr. Gibbs' party I have been denied the protection of the law for my family, they have endeavored to get me dismissed from my employment, and have endeavored to deprive me of a vote, all because I have dared to write to *THE WORKMAN*, and yet Mr. Gibbs' party here claim to be friends to the working classes. Save us from such friends.

Mr. Glen, in soliciting votes for Mr. Gibbs, it is said, makes use of the words "are you going to give us your vote," and if the party demure, he will then say "well, you won't vote against us." Thereby showing that Mr. Glen looks upon the election as his as well as Mr. Gibbs.

To show how much *THE WORKMAN* is feared, several parties have gone to my minister and urged him to speak to me regarding my writing to *THE WORKMAN*, and stating that my doing so, would injure the church. I had no idea that a common workingman, writing to a workingman's paper, would have done so. I wonder whether the same parties consider that Mr. Glen's actions injure his church. I have been taught that the whole human race are the children of a "Common Parent," and in His sight all are equal; but when I see the rich allowed to oppress and injure the poor, and find apologists in office-bearers in the church in their doing so, I begin to think there is something wrong in the teaching. I can see that the rich have the church under their control, as the ministers are mainly dependent upon them for their stipends, and the rich (employers of labor) take precious good care to "grind the face off the poor" (working classes), and keep them so that they will not be able to give much to the support of the churches, hence the poor are not of so much account as the rich.

In the present election here, the working men should remember that Mr. Gibbs, as a large employer of labour, cannot be trusted to legislate in any matters for their benefit. As witness his vote on the ballot, and they should let Mr. Gibbs' party see, that they will not be driven to the polls; and unless they are allowed to use their own judgement refuse to vote at all. It has been truly said that the working classes must work out their own salvation, and in order to do so they must unite. Let them begin now.

Yours respectfully,

JAMES BROWN.

Oshawa, 23rd June, 1873.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—We are just now in the midst of the excitement of a keen election contest. The most intense interest is manifested by both parties in the struggle, and the two candidates and their friends are leaving no efforts untried to secure their election. So far as I am aware, and my knowledge is somewhat extensive, I believe the chances are largely in favor of Mr. Gibbs, though his friends must not allow their energies to relax in the slightest degree, as there is no doubt that if thorough organization and hard work can do anything to secure a triumph, the party represented by Mr. Holden will put those forces into operation. I hope, however, my fellow workmen will work unitedly for Mr. Gibbs, and that they will show by their actions now that they have not so soon forgotten the treatment they received last summer at the hands of the *Globe* and the party it represents. Workingmen have nothing to thank the grits for, but very much the opposite, while the conservatives have a claim upon

them for their timely action in their time of need. Mr. Gibbs, as a member of the party which not only did workingmen great service at an opportune moment, but which also have promised to give every consideration to questions affecting their interests, should receive a unanimous support, and I hope it will be accorded him.

Yours, &c.,

ALBION.

Oshawa, June 23rd, 1873.

MR. F. ROBERTSON.—We beg to refer to the advertisement of this gentleman in today's issue. His stock of Groceries and Liquors is large and choice. The workingmen in the West-end are specially invited to pay Mr. Robertson a visit and learn his prices and examine his goods.

Advertisements.

JOHN RAYMOND

Begs to inform the inhabitants of Toronto and its vicinity that he has purchased the business lately carried on by

Mr. JAMES WEEKES;

AT

247 and 249 Yonge Street.

And trusts by strict attention, combined with the lowest possible charges, to merit a share of the patronage that has been so liberally bestowed upon his predecessors.

Queen City Grocery & Provision Store.
320 Queen Street West.

WM. F. ROBERTSON,

DEALER IN GROCERIES, WINES, LIQUORS, &c.,
In addition to his SUGARS, that have been before the public so long, has received his SUMMER LIQUORS:
Cook Port Wine.....\$1 00 per gal.
Old Port.....2 50 "
Extra do.....3 50 "
Unsurpassed Old Port.....5 00 "
SHERRIES—Fine Old Sherry.....1 50 "
Extra do.....2 50 "
Splendid do.....4 50 "
Dawes' Montreal Stock Ale and Porter. 1 20 per doz.
Goods sent to all parts of the city. 55-oh

JAMES BANKS,

AUCTIONEER AND APPRAISER.

45 Jarvis, Corner of King Street East.

Mechanics can find useful Household Furniture & every description at the above Salerooms, cheaper than any other house. Cooking and Parlor Stoves for great variety.

SALEROOMS:

45 and 46 Jarvis, Corner of King St. East.

Furniture Bought, Sold, or Exchanged.

58-1e

ICE CREAM! ICE CREAM!
THE BEST IN THE CITY.

A. RAFFIGNON.

Begs leave to inform the public, and his customers generally, that he has removed his place, No. 107 King Street West, with an elegant new Soda Water Fountain, with the latest improvements, made by Oliver Parker, Toronto, and which will be kept constantly running during the summer season. Also, an elegant Ice Cream Parlor, fitted up to suit the most fastidious taste.

Remember the address—

57-oh

NO. 107, KING STREET
Near the Royal Lyceum

EATON'S

NEW

DRESS GOODS!

We show to-day a choice lot of Dress Goods, in-checked, plain, and striped material—all the newest shades and colors. A job line of Black Lustres, at 25c per yard—a bargain.

CORNER YONGE & QUEEN STREETS,

COME AND SEE THEM TO-DAY.

55-1e



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, OTTAWA,

6th day of June, 1873.

PRESENT:

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL IN COUNCIL.

On the recommendation of the Hon. the Minister of Inland Revenue and under the provisions of the Act 33rd Victoria, Chapter 8, intitled, "An Act to explain and amend the Act respecting the collection and Management of the Revenue, the Auditing of Public Accounts and the Liability of Public Officials," His Excellency has been pleased to Order, and it is hereby ordered, that the privilege accorded by the Order in Council of the 19th March, 1869, to goods, wares, and merchandise, the growth, produce, or manufacture of Canada, of being re-imported from duty of Customs on certain conditions named in such order, be and the same is hereby extended and declared to apply to goods subject to duties of Excise, which goods may hereafter in like manner be re-imported into Canada free of duty subject to the said several conditions mentioned in the said order, and on the further condition that such goods on re-importation shall be warehoused subject to the Excise duties to which they would have been liable had they not been exported from Canada.

W. A. HIMSWORTH,

Chief Petty Officer.