

it exerted a considerable degree, even in the mere marshaling of thoughts before the theories can be formed or weighed. But the greater part of the mental action devoted to the formation or discussion of theories is only indirectly dependant upon the exercise of memory.

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street. Our columns are open for the discussion of all questions affecting the working classes.

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.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c., meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday. The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temperance Hall, on the 1st Monday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall, (Rove's Block,) Rideau street, in the following order:—Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday. Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.

HAMILTON.

Amalgamated Carpenters meets in Club House, James Street, alternate Thursdays. Iron Moulders' Union, No. 26, every Monday, at their hall, Rebecca street.

LONDON.

Amalgamated Carpenters meets in Temperance Hall, Hall, Richmond Street, alternate Tuesdays.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in the following order:—K. O. S. C., 1st Monday. Tailors, 2nd Monday. Typographical Union, No. 147, 2nd Tuesday.

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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, &c., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, &c.

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The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAR. 12, 1874.

MANLINESS.

The conventionalisms of society refuse to working men the title of gentleman—excepting always electioneering conventionalism. It is, however, no great loss. It is one of those very doubtful honors which any one can buy.

"The grand old name of gentleman Deformed by every charlatan, And soiled with all ignoble use."

Is sure to be granted to the holder of a full purse, and denied to him in "vile raiments." It once took a gentleman to know a gentleman; but now your dapper waiter in a fashionable hotel, or your sleek faced saint in a fashionable church is guided by the quality of your tailor, and the skill of your hair-dresser, and with wonderful facility and decisiveness of judgment, the former proportions his courtesies and respect to the quality of your coat; and the latter, who evidently had his predecessor in some early Christian Church, "hath respect to him with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and sayeth: Sit thou there in one of the front seats, softly cushioned and luxurious;" while to him who hath the "vile apparel," he saith: "Go thou into one of the side pews, or sit on a wooden bench." That "grand old name" once meant honor, courage, self-sacrifice for others, "noble manners, the flower and native growth of noble mind"—in one word, MANLINESS. But now it has been desecrated and degraded by every sham, and can be won by every lucky gambler who speculates in trade or stock and wins a fortune by a fraudulent shuffle of his cards.

But let us not despair. The title may be soiled and degraded by ignoble uses, but the qualities of the true gentleman are those of true manliness, and these may be cultivated, as well by working men as by them who wear the fine apparel and the gold ring. There is no quality of blood or birth higher than that of manliness,—there is no title higher than that of Man. There is a sonorous grandeur in the ring of the word; and he who lives up to its highest attributes is neither a churl nor a charlatan; but kindred in character and race with Him, whom an old poet called,—

"The best of men that e'er wore earth about him, A soft, meek, patient, humble, tranquil spirit, The first true gentleman that ever breathed."

There is nothing mean, or cowardly, or dishonest in true manliness. It is above a lie, in word or act. It fears not to do the right nor to shun the wrong. It is prepared to resent oppression and injustice and to stand up for fair play in the face of foul play at every cost. It is ever ready to defend, but not to offend. Hence, true manliness is courteous to all; servile, and cringing, and fawning to none. A true man can neither be a toady to his superiors, nor a sneak to his equals. He would as soon cut his tongue out of his head as use it to flatter meanness or to belie honesty. Weakness always claims and gets respect and sympathy from true manliness. Hence, while every man thinks he is bound by a principle of chivalry to defend a beautiful woman when she is in danger or attacked; a real man would not only when necessary defend a woman, without regard to age, or personal attraction, or outward display, but with a chivalry quite as high as that which animates the defender of female beauty, he

would neither by look, or word, or deed, offend her moral sensibilities. There is brutality in oaths and execrations, and vice of the worst kind in a bad example. Workshops too often become nurseries for intemperance, dishonesty, and idleness, when unmanly men by threats, or sneers, or mocking gibes, or brutal force, drag down apprentices as low as themselves. But true manliness would as soon think of abusing the weakness of youth as it would beat a woman, or commit any mean, or cowardly, or criminal act. In every sense, the elders are, for good or evil, the teachers of the younger; and it is a quality of true manliness to regard all such relations as those existing between men and youths in workshops as sacred responsibilities which it dares not violate. In the same regard for the rights of weakness, manliness is opposed to brutality and cruelty. Not only respect for every human being, but for all God's creatures, as their happiness depends on the power of man, rules the acts of true manliness; and awakens the feeling that, in the relations of animal life, man is the vicegerent of God on earth—a magistrate to protect and care for the countless helpless beings placed so completely in his power. Manliness never does abuse power; but uses it justly and generously. It is probably in these relations that working men have the greatest power and responsibility; for to them is chiefly entrusted the care and comfort and usage of lower animals, and we must add that the brutality and cruelty are chiefly inflicted by them.

Manliness pays its debts. Probably the wisest course is never to incur debt; but this is often impossible, especially when wages are low and uncertain. But being in debt, it is true manliness to pay to the uttermost what we owe. Business men—especially middle men—have a very convenient conscience in these matters. They compound: that is, they speculate heavily; take large receipts; in some mysterious way become insolvent; but never impoverished; offer to their creditors the smallest per centage that will be taken, and the bargain thus accepted and closed, phoenix-like, they rise from their sackcloth and ashes with new plumes, wealthier than ever. Now, plain manliness calls all this fraud. A debt is a debt; and no law can cancel it until it is paid. Fifty cents in the dollar never wipes it off; only full payment satisfies manliness; for it takes pride in honor and honesty, and it has its type in the village blacksmith,—

"Whose brow is wet with honest toil, He earns what's on his face, And looks the whole world in the face, For he owes not any man."

In brief, true manliness combines in its possessor all that constitutes the true gentleman, and nothing that constitutes a millionaire. So much wretchedness, fraud, crime, and meanness have been the fruits of regarding the possession of money as a title to respect and gentility that were there no deeper causes at work, the evil would ultimately correct itself. But as intelligence and right opinions advance these false claims will lose their force. As working men grow in power and unity of purpose, a more just and equal distribution of wealth will inevitably follow; and then manliness will assert its godlike supremacy. The universal qualities of the race, which custom and ignorance, and selfishness have subverted will be encouraged and nurtured. There will be fewer gentlemen of the fine apparel and gold ring style; but the manliness, which is gentleness, and patience, and courtesy, and humanity, will, we trust, be as universal as the name of man; and the qualities which made the Carpenter's Son the first true gentleman that ever breathed will be the only qualities that will constitute true manliness, and restore "the grand old name of gentleman."

upon the Hon. Minister of Justice, to ascertain the views of the Government in regard to the repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The committee waited upon the Hon. Minister on the 4th inst., and in the words of the report presented by the committee to the Council, "were received by him with great courtesy." He listened with attention to the arguments adduced by the committee, calling for the repeal of the measure, which arguments were based partly upon the experience of the working of the obnoxious act in the old country, and numerous instances were given of its oppressive bearing, and partly upon Canadian experience. But the Hon. Minister not only listened carefully to the arguments, but expressed himself as being in favor of modifying or repealing any law that bore harshly upon the working classes, and promised that should a careful comparison of the different laws bearing upon the subject prove it would not be against the general interests of the country, he would be prepared to amend or repeal the measure objected to.

So far so good. The result of the interview has been all that could reasonably be expected; but, in our opinion, so far as definite and final action is concerned in the matter, a very great deal will depend upon the action of the various Trade Councils and Assemblies, and organized bodies of workmen in the Dominion. We have so frequently spoken upon this subject, and urged the means to be adopted, that it can hardly be necessary to repeat our remarks in this connection. The Trades' Council of Ottawa deserve credit for the action they have taken, but we call upon all interested to strengthen their hands, and once there is shown a systematic and general protest against the continued existence of the Amendment Act upon our statute books, then we may count upon its death-knell being struck. Let the organized bodies, who have talked so long and earnestly upon this subject arouse to action, act upon the time-honored advice, "strike while the iron is hot," and then—we shall see what we shall see.

CONTESTED ELECTIONS.

Contesting elections, like "the itch," appears to be contagious just now. Protests have been filed against the respective members in Hamilton, Kingston, Toronto, Lincoln, London, North Simcoe, North Wellington, South Norfolk Essex, and dear knows many other places have or may follow suit.

FEMALE SUFFRAGE.

The world moves. It may perhaps surprise some of our readers to learn the strides that "advanced and liberal ideas" of a certain stamp are making in our midst, and it must not surprise them if they are called, at no distant day, to the discussion of the "woman's rights" question. "Coming events cast their shadow before them," and the draft of bill sent down to the House last week by the Hon. J. G. Currie, would seem to portend that the "coming event" is not so far removed as many suppose. For the information of our readers, we append the bill referred to as follows:—

AN ACT RESPECTING THE MUNICIPAL FRANCHISE.

Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:—

- 1. Hereafter, real property shall constitute the basis on which electors shall vote at municipal elections, and on municipal by-laws respecting the creation of debts.
2. In addition to the votes to which electors are now entitled at such elections, and on votes upon such by-laws, they shall be entitled to the following additional or plural votes, in proportion to the amount of real property for which they may be assessed; real property over and above the sum of four hundred dollars.
3. Hereafter, women of age being subjects of Her Majesty, and possessed of real property of the proper amount, shall have the right to vote at municipal elections, and on municipal by-laws

for the creation of debts, and at school elections.

4. This Act shall not come into force until the first day of January, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-five.

CANADIAN LABOR UNION.

We have received from Mr. J. W. Carter, the President of the Canadian Labor Union, the first half-yearly report of that body, and it is with much pleasure we find by the report that much good has already been accomplished by the energetic actions of the Executive. Several charters have been issued, and we feel satisfied that by the end of the year the Canadian Labor Union will hold no mean position. The thorough working out of this organization, however, will of necessity entail a good deal of patient and thoughtful working, not only upon the Executive, but upon all who desire its success.

We would suggest that too much should not be left for the Executive to do, as they are men at their daily employment, and as a consequence have only limited time and means at their command, and we would urge upon all interested in this great movement to afford all the assistance they can. We are assured by Mr. Carter that the Executive will be glad at any time to receive information from any district, and to forward on application copies of Constitution and proceedings of late Congress. A circular has been issued by the Executive to the several districts, which we have much pleasure in laying before our readers:

FELLOW WORKINGMEN.

It becomes our pleasing duty, as the Officers of the first general organization of Labor in this country, to endeavor to show the necessity for, and some of the advantages to be derived from, a more general system of Union and co-operative action on the part of the working classes of this country; and in addressing this Circular to you, on behalf of the Canadian Labor Union, it may be necessary to state the causes that brought about the existence of the Canadian Labor Union, which we shall endeavor briefly to do.

As all intelligent workmen are aware that Union amongst the working classes is a fixed principle in our social system, for the purpose of Self-Protection and Mutual Improvement, it will be patent to the thoughtful mind that many of those Unions did exist throughout our country almost from the time our society began to take the shape of communities, and the interests of all workingmen being identical and the same, we have had a gradual gravitation of the producing classes towards a common centre.

In this country—following the lead of our fellow-workers in the old land and the great country to the south of our lines—we succeeded, on the 23rd of September, 1873, in bringing into alliance, upon one common platform, the organized Labor of this country, the first CANADIAN LABOR CONGRESS, meeting in the City of Toronto upon the above date, composed of forty-three delegates, representing sixteen distinct branches of industry. After three days' deliberations, the Congress adjourned, having laid down a basis whereon the intelligent industrial classes of this country might build up an association of labor that will merit, and must receive the respect and just consideration of all classes of Canadian society.

Then, as the humble individuals into whose hands have been committed the prosperity and progress of this young Association of Labor, we appeal to our fellow workingmen and the true friends of the industrial classes in this Dominion, to be up and doing. We wish every true Union man in Canada to feel that he is, to the extent of his ability, responsible for the success of this great and noble undertaking in the interests of Union in the Dominion of Canada.

Those who receive this Circular, if true to Union principles, will take prompt action in endeavoring to add to the influence of his own class, by enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of the friends of Union in his locality, in organizing some trade that is not already organized; and, if there are not a sufficient number of any unorganized trade in the locality, try to form an amalgamated Union—bring the four or five Shoemakers, with the four or five Carpenters, and so on, forming a Workingman's Union, so adding to the strength and influence of organized labor in this country. There is not a town or village of any importance in Canada, in which there could not be a Labor Union; and such being the case there is no town or village in the country in which there ought not to be a Labor Union. Our success, then, in spreading our ramifications until they reach every available locality, largely depends upon the action of our fellow Unionists throughout the country. Will they do their whole duty? If their practical answer is in the affirmative, our most sanguine expectations will be attained. Copies of Proceedings, containing Constitu-