

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive orders of interest pertaining to Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion or publication. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries of Leagues, etc., are invited to send us news relating to organizations, condition of trade, etc.

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

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All communications should be addressed to the Office, 124 Bay Street or Post Office Box 1025.

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.

Trades Assembly Hall.

- Meetings are held in the following order:—
- Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
 - Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
 - Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
 - Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
 - K.O.S.C. Lodge 358, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
 - Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
 - Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
 - Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
 - Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
 - Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
 - Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
 - Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
 - Printers, 1st Saturday.
 - Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD, BROS.,
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. J. PRYKE, "Workingman's Boot Store," will also continue to supply papers.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

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 3, 1873.

NOTICE.

We would request such of our subscribers who have not yet forwarded their subscriptions to do so at an early date. Those of our city readers who will receive their bills during the present and coming week will oblige us by remitting the amounts forthwith.

THE DEMONSTRATION OF THE LONDON TRADES.

We publish in this issue a somewhat lengthy but interesting account of the recent demonstration of the London Trades, against the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The very successful character of the demonstration has not only given evidence of the keen interest that is taken in the matter by the London trades generally, but it has caused certain of the English journals to speak tolerantly of the meeting. In their remarks they have neither abused nor ridiculed the demonstration; nor have they denied that there is some degree of validity in the complaints made by the Trade Unionists of the one-sided and oppressive character of the laws complained of. Curiously enough, however, their general enquiry is, how the evils that these laws are presumed meant to provide against, are to be held in check should they be repealed or seriously modified. They, therefore, leave their willingness to concede any necessary abrogation or alteration of these obnoxious laws to be implied; but they ask for substitutes which shall be effective for the purpose in view

without being one-sided and unfair as the law is at present. In other words, they demand that workingmen shall frame enactments for their own restraint.

Well, we do not think even this will puzzle the friends of Trades' Unionism, nor is their answer far to seek. They have declared openly, and still declare without hesitation, that no substitutes are needed. They do not want to be favored, nor will they longer patiently submit to special degrading legal oppressions. All they want is that the law that applies to all classes of citizens, should apply precisely to them. In every circumstance and relation of life men are under the influence of passions and interests, which occasionally lead to offences against individuals and against society. Like all other classes of citizens, workingmen commit such acts, but they do not question the right of the law to provide a punishment, nor the right of a magistrate to inflict it. But they do question the right of the law to provide "special" punishments for acts which are not "special." As the law now stands "special" laws are so provided; and experience has proved that these special laws, as they now exist, have been put into operation, not to secure justice nor to protect the threatened interests of society so much as to gratify the fear, anger, or the prejudices of those who prosecute, and even of those who administer them.

The proper remedy is to apply general laws wisely and temperately, and not to scourge with special enactments, which in their application always do far more mischief than good—even to the interests they are intended to serve. And law-makers must be given thoroughly to understand, that nothing shall continue to be criminal in a workingman which is not criminal in relation to every class of men in the land.

Undoubtedly in this matter, justice will be delayed as long as possible, and the unwillingness to do justice will be covered by a flimsy web of high-sounding words. But we should imagine that the demonstration held in Hyde Park will put beyond doubt what ought to have been plain enough long ago, namely, that the workingmen of England hate these one-sided, degrading and selfish laws,—and, in addition, it furnishes this significant hint, that every man who upholds such legislation shall, so far as the power of the working people can effect such a purpose, settle his account with a speedy retirement from an assembly which requires as a first essential of usefulness, a spirit of liberality utterly wanting in the continued supporters of such one-sided laws.

LONGSHOREMEN'S UNION.

The Longshoremen of this city, after a few preliminary meetings, having formed a Union, on Tuesday last, in the St. Patrick's Hall, appointed the following office bearers for the current term:—Mr. John Finn, president; Mr. Thos. Sheedy, treasurer; Mr. Langan, secretary. Committee of management:—The above named officers and Messrs. J. Wilson, P. Connors, P. Hone and P. Kolly.

We are pleased to learn that nearly one hundred members are already enrolled in the new union.

SQIBS.

An appreciative reader has sent us the following:

Why is the ONTARIO WORKMAN an authority on one of the branches of arithmetic?—Because it always advocates the best rules for the study of mechanics.

Send in your subscriptions.

A rule seldom observed by the Board of Works:—Down with the dust.

The Knights of Malta's favorite fruit:—Oranges.

The latest swells can always be seen on the Bay in windy weather.

A conscientious contributor sent us a quart bottle of ink, apologising for not having dotted his "i's." Had the donor been present, they probably would have been highly colored.

The Canadian commissioners to Vienna Exhibition, will, it is understood, leave Quebec on the 12th inst.

LANGUAGES.

II.—MODERN.

In the previous article we saw that languages were subject to constant change, and that their number has been ever on the increase. The languages of ancient times were comparatively few, while they are now variously computed at from 2,500 to 3,600, the difference in the calculation arising from the fact that no uniformity of opinion has been arrived at, as to what constitutes a "language," and what is to be regarded as merely a "dialect." In considering these languages, there are two things which are particularly striking, the wide apparent dissimilarity which at first sight seems to exist between them, and the numerous points of resemblance or indications of affinity which, on closer study, is almost everywhere discovered.

The study of philology has, during late years, been pursued with extraordinary energy and success, and by the knowledge thus acquired much light has been thrown, not only on the character and relations of the languages spoken, but on many other interesting points concerning the history and condition of man. The principal subject of enquiry has been to decide whether or not the modern languages are so distinctly related to each other as to show that they had a common origin, as some maintain, or that they have been derived from more than one root, as others affirm. The latter, notwithstanding the light which has been thrown on the subject, still continue to hold this opinion, but, we think, a careful and impartial investigation will rather lead to the establishment of the theory of community of origin.

In Africa, especially during the past few years, the languages have, with the valuable aid of the missionaries, been studied and compared with great assiduity; and the invariable result of increased knowledge has been the finding of proofs of intimate relationship between dialects or languages, before supposed to be quite dissimilar, and it is now judged by competent philologists that the whole of the languages of Southern, Eastern and Western Africa, are to a very large extent, in harmony as to their grammatical structure, as well as showing a similarity of roots. Then there appears to be traceable a transition from these languages, through that of the Agows of Damal (Abyssinia), of the Gallas, Ambaras and Nubians, to the Coptic or Egyptian; and it is a singular fact, in view of the present low condition of the Hottentots, that their language, which has a remarkably simple, and yet comprehensive and expressive structure, possesses, in some of its features, such as the grammatical gender and accusative case, what had been considered to be peculiar to the most highly organized languages, and it shows ever closer affinities to the Coptic than to those between. In the dialect of the Namaagua Hottentots, there are, says Mr. Norris, two genders—real grammatical genders—as in the Semetic, Roman and Celtic languages, while it is also provided with a fair supply of conjunctions, a part of speech which is generally very deficient in uncultivated languages. The languages of Northern Africa are also intimately related to each other, and show unmistakably that they are of Arabic origin, to which origin, it is contended, the Coptic also is traceable.

In America, one of the strongest proofs that the whole of its exceedingly diverse native populations sprang from the same source, is their languages. A great and almost unaccountable peculiarity is, that, as far as it is known in all the one thousand two hundred and sixty languages, there are comparatively few terms, or even roots which are common, so that there are numbers of tribes which inhabit a limited area, whose vocabularies are so absolutely distinct, as if they were a thousand miles apart. There is nothing in the old world which at all approaches these sharp distinctions. If the investigations stopped here, the philological test would, therefore, rather add perplexity to a problem otherwise sufficiently difficult to solve; but if there

is a want of connection in one respect, there is an intimate connection in another, viz., in their grammatical structure. "From the country of the Eskime," says Humboldt, "to the banks of the Orinoco, and again from those torrid banks to the frozen climate of the Straits of Magellan, the mother tongues, entirely different with regard to their roots have, if we may use the expression, the same physiognomy. Striking analogies of grammatical structure are acknowledged not only in the more perfect languages, as that of the Gaarani, the Mexican and the Cora, but also in languages extremely rude. Idioms, the roots of which do not resemble each other more than the roots of the Slavonic and Biscayan, have the strongest evidences of internal mechanism. Almost everywhere in the new world we recognize a multiplicity of forms and tenses in the verb, an industrious artifice to indicate beforehand, either by inflexion of the personal pronouns, which form the terminations of the verb, or by a suffix, the nature and relation of its object and its subject, and to distinguish whether the object be animate or inanimate, of the masculine or feminine gender, simple or complex in number."

The Asian languages are less known. There are several groups, in some respects contrasting, and in others somewhat resembling each other. The Chinese language, which is destitute of inflexions, and in which each word represents an idea, is spoken almost without variation, over a vast extent. A few other peoples have the same monosyllabic groups, but otherwise are rather different. The change from this class to the polysyllabic groups, or those which include the languages of the wandering tribes of Central and Northern Asia, is sometimes seemingly abrupt, but the transition is not difficult to trace. The Turks, who have occupied or wandered over a large portion of the central and northern parts of the continent, have a language remarkable for its fixity and uniformity. Even in the present day, the most outlying and sometimes isolated branches, can understand with little difficulty, those from any other part, and if we had no historical evidence, this language would place beyond doubt the near relationship existing between the Turks of Asia and Europe, notwithstanding the great difference there now is in physical structure.

In the same way we establish a direct connection between the Maygars of Hungary, having now the European form and feature, and the two physically dissimilar peoples, the Lapps and the Finns, which have spread themselves over Northern Europe, and these again with the Asiatic stock of North Western Asia, known as the Agrian.

The remaining inhabitants of Northern Europe, have affinities of quite another kind. The Scandinavian languages, together with the English, Dutch and German are of Gothic origin, and form one of the four or five European groups. The second, or classic group, or those languages derived from the Greek and Latin, comprises France, Spain, Italy and Greece. Third, the Slavonian, including Russia and Poland, and fourth, the Celtic. From the character of these languages, and such information as history affords, it would appear as if those stocks represent so many waves of humanity which successively, or perhaps partly contemporaneously rolled over Europe. There can be little question that the Basques, who now to the number of only 600,000, are limited to the mountain passes of the Pyrenees, originally occupied Italy, Spain, and the southern part of France, but at a very early period, their territories were overrun, and they were gradually dispossessed by successive invaders. The Celts, a fierce, red-haired people, were apparently the first to make their way over Europe. They seem to have spread themselves over Italy, the central parts of the continent, then on to France, England, Scotland and Ireland, subduing all who came in their way. But they were in their turn attacked and driven back by the mere recent invaders—the Goths, or Teutons, and the classic races, and their descendants now only exist in mere remnants,

in Brittany, Wales, and the Isle of Man, much in the same way as the Basques of the Pyrenees. The Slavonian races were the last comers, but they remained in the Eastern portions of Europe, either because they were satisfied therewith, or were unable to cope with those already in possession of the West. The question very naturally arises, from whence did all these people come? The probabilities seem to be in favor of South Western Asia. There are here two races particularly, who are almost as closely related to the European races as they are to each other, and they agree with them in this also, they are not indigenous to the country where they now are, viz., India, in the neighborhood of the Indus, but must have gone there as colonists, displacing the aboriginal inhabitants, and it may be said that they are more closely connected with the Celts of Brittany than with those by which they are surrounded. The most important, connecting link between the European peoples and between them and the Hindus is the languages. In each case the original language of each European group is separate and distinct, and does not give any indications that one was derived from the other, but a comparison reveals affinities both in roots and structure, so strong as to be explained only by a common origin of a comparatively recent date, and this origin was undoubtedly the Sanskrit, from which also that of the Hindus was derived.

R. R. Y.

CHEAP MEN.

In Scribner's Monthly for June, Dr. Holland has an article on the "Atlantic Disaster," in which it is claimed that the exceptionally low wages paid officers in the Anglo-American service was the direct cause of the frightful loss of life incident to the sinking of the Atlantic. In other words the writer holds that this service does not pay a sufficient salary to secure a competent man for first officer, and that none but incompetent will accept a situation in the service except under very pressing circumstances. The only conclusion we can draw from the article is that low wages produce cheap men, and that placing cheap men in positions where human life depends upon skill and efficiency, is a criminal act that should be visited with the most condign punishment. We can heartily endorse this sentiment. Cheap men not only make inefficient sea captains, they make incompetent employees of all kinds, as well as very bad citizens. Cheap men have very little genuine manhood, very little intelligence scarcely any independence of spirit, and are in all respects a class of beings who are a curse and not a blessing to the country in which they live. They are an unmixed and unmitigated evil; an evil whether they occupy the humblest position in the land or the highest place in the gift of the people. No man makes a greater blunder than he who endeavors to economize by procuring cheap men to do his work. The Anglo-American service offers no inducement to competent men. No one except a cheap man can live on the salary offered. A cheap man is employed, and through his fault the ship is lost and hundreds of precious lives extinguished in a few moments. Verily, we think this economy did not pay. A manufacturer secures a cheap engineer, but in a few days there is a terrific explosion, property is destroyed and human life sacrificed. Cheap men are generally dear in the end to those who employ them, yes very dear.

What produces cheap men? Long hours of unceasing toil and consequently lack of opportunity for intellectual culture and scientific attainments. The tyranny of employers who take advantage of men of large families that must be fed, and reduce their remuneration, has also very much to do with it. The man who is forced to labor hard for ten long weary hours from one year to another and who never sees a dollar ahead, is not likely to pay much attention to educational, artistic or mechanical perfection. He sinks, in time, into a mere human machine, and performs each day's allotment because it means bread, and