

NOTICE.

We shall be pleased to receive copies 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 our organizations, condition of trade, etc.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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Per Annum	\$2 00
ix Months	1 00
Single copies	10 00

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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 356, 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.
 - Painters, 1st Saturday.
 - Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

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Newsdealers, No. 6 Market Square, Hamilton, are Agents for the WORKMAN in that vicinity, who will deliver papers to all parts of the city.

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The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 10, 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 CANADIAN COMMISSION TO VIENNA.

The Commission to the Vienna Exhibition, appointed by the Dominion Government, will leave Canada on Saturday next, the 12th inst. The present Exhibition seems to be attracting more attention of a practical character, than probably any previous one. The Canadian Commission will not be alone in its investigations. The trade organizations of Paris and Lyons have selected their representatives; the Swiss Government has appointed its deputation; and not only will the British Government have its Commission at the Exhibition, but we notice that, independently of this, the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce has resolved to send a number of artisans to observe and report upon the various manufactures; as has also the Manchester Society for the Promotion of Scientific Industry. Beyond these, there will undoubtedly be many other governments, and private corporations and societies of arts represented. The unusual interest that attaches to the present Exhibition, may be due to the fact that, unlike previous expositions of a similar kind, it is not merely a display of finished goods, but also an exhibition of the processes of their manufacture.

The chief object of the Commission appointed by the Dominion Government will be a critical examination of those processes, with a view to the introduction of such of them into Canada as may be found to be adapted to our various industries. Articles of special merit will, if possible, be traced to their place of manufacture, and every information concerning them obtained. The markets for which articles are made will also be carefully noted, to ascertain the special kind of goods which are suited to particular markets; as the opinion is held to some extent, that a large export trade might be done in manufactured goods, if full knowledge of the latter point were in the possession of our manufacturers—especially in the various branches of the wood and leather trades.

The object of the Commission has created a very considerable amount of interest among the manufacturers of the Dominion; and no possible doubt can exist but that the report of the Commission will prove both interesting and valuable.

Mr. Witton, M.P. for Hamilton—to whose efforts the appointment of the Commission is largely due—has yielded to the urgent solicitations of the Government, and has consented to accompany, in an official capacity, without salary, the Commission to Vienna, and to take charge of all its arrangements, than which selection nothing could afford more general satisfaction; because those who know that gentleman most intimately, are well aware how thoroughly qualified he is for that position. While, however, this felt satisfaction is true in a certain sense, there have been found one or two Opposition journals ready to vent their spleen against him, and who have indulged in a good deal of ill-mannered and ill-natured comments; but the St. Catharines News has taken its contemporaries to task, and speaks of Mr. Witton in the following terms:—

This gentleman is a representative mechanic, a successful man in every sense of the word, one who personally has the respect of friend and foe. He ran last election as the Government candidate, and of course gave the Government his support in the House. Among other measures he proposed was the very sensible one of sending a Commission to Vienna to bring back to this country whatever was valuable in art, commerce or science. By this motion he showed his interest in the true advancement of the country. In his private capacity, the same as other gentlemen, he takes a trip to Vienna, and the Premier knowing his value as a man of service and as a linguist, gives him an official position, without salary, on the Commission. This will enable him to gain access to persons and places which as a private individual he could not hope to obtain. In all this there is nothing improper, and it is time enough to raise a clamor when Mr. Witton receives pay for his services. In the meantime it would be in much better taste for the press to restrain their exuberant bad breeding. We have private citizens from St. Catharines and many other places going to Vienna at their own expense, and why cannot a gentleman go from Hamilton without having the vials of wrath poured out upon his devoted head.

HEATHEN MYTHOLOGY.

[BY R. R. Y.]

Before savage nations were enlightened through the agency of Christian missions, the beliefs and superstitions which prevailed were often of a very curious and extraordinary character. For every striking natural phenomenon, there was some explanation however absurd, which was firmly believed in, and, generally speaking, the agency of spirits was supposed. It is also worthy of notice that while no two people had the same mythology, there was a striking resemblance to be observed between them all, which would seem to indicate that they could scarcely be altogether independent in their origin. Let us look first at the ideas held as to the

ORIGIN OF THE WORLD.

In Samatra, according to Marsden, it was thought that the world first consisted of only sky and water, and between these two a glede which, weary with flying about and finding no place to rest, set the water at variance with

the sky, which, in order to keep it in bounds, and that it should not get uppermost, loaded the water with a number of islands, in which the glede might settle and leave them in peace. Man sprang out of a large cane with two joints, which, floating about in the water, was at length thrown by the waves against the feet of the glede, as it stood on the shore. The glede at once opened the cane with its bill, and the man came out of one joint and the woman out of another. These were soon after married by consent of their god, which caused the first trembling of the earth, and from thence are descended the different nations of the world.

The Japanese give a different account. They tell us that one of their gods, standing on a bridge between heaven and earth, said to his wife, "Come on, there must be some habitable land, let us try and find it." He dipped his pike, ornamented with precious stones, into the surrounding waters, and agitated the waves. Then he lifted the pike, and the drops that fell from it thickened and formed an island. On this island the god and his wife descended, and made the other provinces of the Japanese empire.

The Polynesians, another writer tells us, hold that the Polynesian islands were fished up from the sea, by the god Tangoloo. Tahite was the first part that appeared, but soon after the rocks showed above the water the line broke. However, the rock in which the hook stuck, is still pointed out on the island of Hoonga, and a family there, until very lately, was in possession of the famous hook itself. There was enough land, however, to be worth filling with human beings and human food, and this was done by Tangoloo.

The Samoans say the deity sent down his daughter Tali in the shape of a snipe to survey the world below, and as she saw nothing but sea, her father rolled down a stone, which became an island, then another which became a second island, and so on until a number were brought into existence. The first growth on these islands was wild vines. These were pulled out of the ground and heaped up to rot, so that worms were produced, and out of these worms grew men and women.

Throughout the whole of the American continent there is a remarkable uniformity of belief in the creation of the world by a great spirit, while there is also a tradition of a great deluge at a remote period.

THE ECLIPSE OF THE SUN

has been another fertile source of myths. Some of the South American tribes have it that the moon was hunted across the sky by huge dogs, who caught and tore her till her light was reddened and quonched by the blood flowing from her wounds. At such a time the Indians were accustomed to raise a frightful howl, and shoot arrows across the sky to drive the monster off. In the north the story is that of a great sun-swallowing dog, and they take similar means to defend their luminaries from the enemies supposed to be attacking them. The South Sea Islanders suppose both sun and moon to be swallowed by an offended deity, but whom they induce by liberal offerings to eject from her stomach.

The Hindu's notion is, that there are two demons, whose heads had been cut off, and that these pursue and swallow both sun and moon, but their heads being off, their prey slip out as soon as swallowed. Nevertheless, the people endeavor to facilitate the operation by making the most hideous noises which can be produced. In China, where we are given to understand, a large monster periodically devours the sun, an official announcement is made of the exact time beforehand, and every preparation is made, with bells, gong and prayers, to hunt the monster off. These clever people, the Siamese say, know the monster's mealm-times, and can tell how hungry he will be—referring of course to the eclipse.

In Samatra, it is the sun which devours the moon, and precisely the same means are taken, to prevent it, as is customary in every other place—making a noise. The Romans were particularly

good at this, and very much in earnest. They blew trumpets, clanged pots, pans, and whatever else would make a sound, and endeavored to heighten the effect of the performance by throwing water into the air. Grimm informs us that even in France, in modern times, some peasants utter various sighs and exclamations during a solar eclipse, believing that the poor moon is the prey of some invisible monster, seeking to devour her.

Lastly, we have some novel theories on the subject of

EARTHQUAKES.

The Toungans, in Polynesia, account for earthquakes by saying that Mani, their chief deity, upholds the earth on his prostrate body, and that as soon as he begins to feel uncomfortable, and tries to turn over to an easier position, there is an earthquake, and the people have so little consideration for the comfort of their god that immediately they discover the movement, they begin to shout lustily, and to beat the ground to make Mani be still.

The Scandinavians took more effectual measures to keep their god Loki quiet, by having him strapped down with thongs of iron in his subterranean cavern, but whenever the overlying serpents maliciously dropped venom on him, he managed by his writhings to produce slight earth shocks. Some of the South American tribes are more considerate, and distribute the labor of supporting the earth among a number of deities, and in these cases the earthquakes occur when the deities on duty are shifting their burden to a new relay. But the most general supposition is that some huge animal has the duty of supporting the world laid upon it. With the North American Indians it is a tortoise; with the Hindus, an elephant; with some Mongul tribes, a great frog; with the Moslems, a bull; all of which make the earth tremble, or produce earthquakes, when shaking themselves. In Japan, it is a huge whale, creeping underground. The Celebes have earthquakes as often as the supporting hog rubs himself against a tree; and the Kamchadals have an earthquake god, who sledges below the ground, and whenever his dog shakes off fleas or snow there is an earthquake.

THE LAW OF CONSPIRACY.

The recent debate on Vernon Harcourt's motion was worth listening to for instruction on the one hand, in so far as the speeches of the mover and of Mr. Henry James were concerned; for amusement on the other in regard to the speeches of the Attorney and Solicitor-Generals, and in a limited way the same may be said of the speech of Dr. Ball. Mr. Harcourt and Mr. James put the facts of the case plainly, and argued the matter very ably on these facts. Practically the law puts it into the power of those who administer it to act unjustly towards offending workmen. Practically also, the laws permits employers always to escape punishment. Practically, a number of laws have their intents, their intentions, and their penalties mixed up together, and judges and magistrates smite workmen when the opportunity offers with that portion which inflicts the severest blow. In truth, the whole thing, the law, as well as its administration, produce soreness and a sense of injustice and oppression which wise statesmen would not permit the existence of could they prevent it.

The Attorney-General's speech, which was delivered in a voice deliciously modulated, defending the law, only with so many reservations and qualifications, and careful balancings of nice scruples, as to convince everybody that something ought to be done, and that nothing ought to be done; that it might be mended, but that it would be made worse if it were; that it was very difficult to administer, and very difficult not to administer; that it is very respectable because it is old, and very true in its purpose because it is new. In fact, whilst listening to Attorney-General Coleridge using his tongue, it was difficult not to feel that he ought to have two or three tongues that he might plead a number of cases

at the same time; or at least, to regret that he had not whilst talking with so much ease and grace, a straw or a long feather on his nose to balance, as the same attitudes and movements would have been quite appropriate, and suitable to the double performance.

Mr. Solicitor-General Jessel is less finished and polite, altogether less artistic, and handles the law with a kind of rugged reverence which leaves no doubt as to his thorough belief in it. In his eyes, the Masters and Servants Act is not one-sided, and workmen only suffer under it more than masters because they are the only offenders it was framed to reach. The law against thieving was not a special law he said, though members of the House of Commons did not suffer under it, this was simply due to the fact that they were not thieves. The thieves suffered because of their sins, and so with the workmen. This did not explain the difference in the character of the punishment as applied differently to master and men, nor the absolute security of the employer against being proceeded against for breach of contract, through his power to plead some offence on the part of the servant which justifies the discharge, but it was addressed to an audience convinced before hand, and therefore Mr. Jessel's speech did all it was meant to do.

Dr. Ball protested against having the proceedings in our courts of law called in question at all. His dicta is that the judges can do no wrong; certainly his desire is that if injustice be done in a legal way it should be silently borne lest by questioning it the wrath of Heaven should fall suddenly and heavily on the heads of men. On the whole, the debate was a lawyers' tournament. Pleasant, perhaps, to those who take a pleasure in skilful verbal fencing; in negative and affirmative logic. Not so, however, to members of trades unions whose feet may be only a few steps from the treadmill, or who fingers may have an anticipatory odour of oakum. A few honest earnest words from a sensible workman would have been of more value than the bushels of chaff blown from the lips of all the eloquent lawyers in the house on such a subject. When all said was attentively listened to, and when the freshness of the street had been reached after descending from the heated strangers' gallery, and a little cool reflection indulged in, there remained just such an understanding of what transpired as is well described by a line in a celebrated dramatic composition of Mr. Kenally's, perhaps suggested by listening to the pleading in our law courts—"Bow wow! wow! wow! Gob! gobble, gobble, gobble!"—Alas! poor workingmen! Not now, but some day, perhaps, justice will be done. In the meanwhile, bow, wow! wow! wow! &c. &c.—*Bee Hive.*

New Firm.—We have much pleasure in calling attention to the advertisement in another column of W. Adamson & Co., Tea Dealers, &c. Mr. Adamson has been one of the Proprietors and the Sole Manager of the Toronto Tea Company's business since its inception until lately. He has now bought out the stock and good-will of the Yonge Street Store, and we feel sure from the success hitherto attending him; and from his well-known energy and fair dealing, he will be even more successful now, than in the past.

We would desire the attention of our city readers to an advertisement of W. J. Graham & Co. Mr. Graham has recently opened extensive premises on King Street, a few doors west of York, and will keep constantly on hand a select stock of furniture, etc. From Mr. Graham's long connection with one of our first-class cabinet factories, we are convinced all who favor him with orders will be perfectly suited.

The Longshoremen of Toronto held a meeting in the St. Patrick's Hall, on Saturday last, and adopted a portion of their constitution and by-laws. The whole proceedings passed off very harmoniously. This branch of industry is becoming thoroughly organized, and bids fair to become a power for good in advancing their interests.

For Plain or Ornamental Printing go to the ONTARIO WORKMAN Office, 124 Bay Street.