

# Ontario Workman.

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

VOL. I.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1872.

NO. 12.

## CANADIAN.

A young man named A. Ballantyne, aged about twenty-two, was drowned while bathing in the Grand River on Sunday.

Hamilton college has inaugurated the Perry H. Smith library hall, which has just been completed at a cost of \$30,000.

A deer, while swimming across the Ottawa about dusk Monday evening, was accidentally run over and killed by one of the river steamers. It was a fine fat doe, and the hands declare the venison was excellent.

A man named Joseph Horne, residing in the township of Huron, has met with a serious accident. He was driving a cow attached to a rope, and as he approached Kincardine the cow took fright and struck him in the eye with one of her horns.

A determined burglary was committed at Hamilton on Friday evening. Four men entered the store of Messrs. Simpson and attempted to blow open the safe. Although several persons saw the men prowling about, they neglected to notify the police.

Dominion day was celebrated at Manilla, by a grand union picnic. Games, kalithumpian and a torchlight procession, and a grand display of fireworks took place. All passed off pleasantly and creditably under auspicious circumstances. The kalithumpian procession caused merriment from their comical appearance and their representations of natural history and the natural sciences.

Several cases of sunstroke are reported by our exchanges, but few of them have been very serious, except one at Orillia which is stated to have terminated fatally. The man, John Hannah, who was reported to have died from that cause while working in the stone quarries at Hamilton, is now believed to have taken poison, and an inquest has been ordered and his body is to be exhumed and a post mortem examination held. It has been ascertained that he purchased poison.

Whilst three men were engaged removing clay from a pit in a brick-yard in Harrington, on Tuesday last, the bank of earth, which was ten feet high at the point where they were working, suddenly fell on them, burying one man up to the neck, breaking the thigh bone of another, and burying the third considerably. The latter, however, was able to give the alarm to parties near at hand, who very soon released the unfortunate fellows from their horrible position. One is scarcely expected to recover, his thigh-bone having been forced through the flesh.

A man named Sullivan, a farmer of Nepaan, went out to his granary, Tuesday, and when stooping to lift a pail fell down dead. His brother, who was near him, raised him up but found that life was extinct. Deceased was a stout young man of about 28 years, and leaves a wife and one or two children. Disease of the heart is supposed to have been the cause of death.

Early on Monday morning the book store of Mr. Hoffie, which adjoins the Montreal telegraph office, Clifton, was broken into by burglars. The safe of the A. M. U. Express Company was blown open and robbed of about \$20, also some small change from the till, and some jewellery from the store. The burglars left behind a sledgehammer, two crowbars, several punches, etc., which were stolen from one of the blacksmith's shops here. The explosion was heard by several parties, but being the morning of Dominion Day, no notice was taken thereof. There is no clue of the burglars yet.

**FATAL ACCIDENT.**—A most disastrous affair happened on Monday afternoon at Martin's Wharf, resulting in the loss of at least three lives, and seriously injuring several other parties. The steamer Ontario had just landed at the wharf and part of the excursionists had disembarked when the new part of the wharf gave way and a number of persons were precipitated into the water. From the information so far received, it appears that the planks of the wharf were not properly supported in the

centre, and the whole crowd fell towards a central point, like grain descending into a hopper. The water was not deep enough to drown a full grown person, but such a scene of confusion ensued that the wonder is that the loss of life was not greater than was actually the case. Several ladies who might easily have waded out were so frightened that they had to be carried to a place of safety, and even some men and boys seemed to lose their presence of mind so as to be quite helpless. But the greatest misfortunes came to the lot of the little children who were crowded and tramped below the others in the general melee, and who were either crushed to death or drowned before relief could be afforded. The bodies of one little boy, son of Mr. Lister, builder, and two little girls, daughters of Mr. Johnston, marble cutter, and a man whose name we were unable to learn, have been recovered, and another is still missing.

## THE SHANNONVILLE DISASTER.

**BEDLEVILLE, July 1.**—No further deaths since Wednesday morning. The Grey Nuns and Sisters of Mercy seem to be quite accustomed to the place already, and work in harmony with the ladies of the town, who still volunteer their services freely as before. The male nurses are organized into a night and day gang, and are paid. Mr. Crowther has charge of all the hospital arrangements, under Mr. Bell's directions. Everything is working smoothly. The patients are very cheerful, and frequently may be seen in groups smoking and chatting together. Many of their friends and relations have arrived, some of whom have gone away again. They all express themselves perfectly satisfied with the arrangements, and say the patients are better off than if they were at home.

**LATER.**—Xavier Chabotte died at 6.30 p.m. All the rest are doing well.

## AMERICAN.

The workmen of San Francisco are agitating the eight hour question.

Wendell Phillips is not committed to Grant, but is in favor of a distinctive labor party.

The machinists of the United States are hoping to amalgamate the boiler-makers with them in a national association.

The returns of the Massachusetts Bureau of Labor Statistics show that the cash value of farms in that State has decreased nearly seven millions of dollars within the past ten years.

The Labor Reformers of Ohio have called a State Convention at Columbus, for the 24th of July, for the purpose of nominating a State and Electoral Ticket.

The workmen of Wilmington, Del., have formed an eight-hour labor association, and have resolved to delay their strike until co-operation can be secured from other towns.

The marble quarries of Vermont are literally mines of wealth. Over a thousand men are employed, and many of the mills are valued at one hundred thousand dollars each.

A California paper reports that a hotel chamber-maid laid aside her broom a few days ago, and on calling for a settlement, told her employer she had been dabbling in stocks for a year or more, and had something more than \$200,000 as the result.

Speaking of women's low wages, here is the statement of a Boston working girl:—I can relate a case of a linen suit, all beflounced and ruffled and fluted, with overskirt and sacque to match, made for the sum of 62 cents, and it took two days' steady work.

The subject of Chinese labor still engages the attention of the southern planters in the United States. It appears that a company has been formed with a capital of \$200,000 for the purpose of carrying out this project. The emigrants are to be engaged at wages of \$8 per month, all found. The eight-hour agitation has extended to

Newark. The coach-builders, of whom there are a thousand in the city; the bricklayers, masons, carpenters, clothing cutters and other trades have taken the preliminary steps towards striking, and it is probable that soon the movement will become general.

Koopmanschap has smashed, — failed, bankrupted, gone under, and gone up. He is the man who did most of the work in importing Chinamen into this country; and he broke because he could not collect the passage money he had advanced to some of his importations. His place of business is San Francisco. 'Tis a case of broken China. —*American Workman.*

Detroit newspapers regret the departure from that city of a lad named Johnny, who has long been to them a refuge, a solace, and a source of paragraphs. Two years ago this boy shot himself; two months after he was choked with a fish-bone; a few days after he set fire to a barn and called out the fire department; he swallowed a top; he was run over by an ice-cart; he fell into the river; and once he was lost for three days.

Thirteen hundred machinists, carpenters, and painters in the West Albany shops of the New York Central and Hudson River Railroad struck on Monday for eight hours. The claim was made last Wednesday, and the reply was given that it could not be complied with, whereupon the men dropped their tools and quit work. It is thought that the movement will extend to the Boston and Albany shops in East Albany.

There are in America more than five hundred thousand members of Masonic lodges, who by the most awful obligations are pledged to the principle of the eight hour labor reform. Any Mason opposing the movement incurs the Masonic penalties of wilful perjury. Every Mason at his initiation is taught to limit the hours of labor to eight. It is something for the eight hour leagues to have this "ancient and honorable order" on their side.

The latest novelty from the United States is paper cab-wheels. The tire is of steel, and when turned up ready for the filling it is made taper inside, so that the inside diameter on the flange is half an inch smaller than on the other. The body of the wheel is a paper block made of strawboard cut into circles, 30 inches in diameter, pasted together with ordinary paste, and consolidated under an hydraulic pressure of about 300 tons. This block, after being slowly dried for nearly two weeks in a dry-house, is turned and fitted in a common pattern lathe.

The situation in regard to the labor strike to-day (Monday, July 1) is practically unchanged, and presents no new developments of interest. In some quarters rumors are rife of negotiations in progress between strikers and bosses, which promise amicable solutions of existing difficulties. The Long Shore men demanded eighty cents an hour for all work done after six o'clock. It is probable their demand will be amicably adjusted. The strike of the box-makers is substantially ended. Nine marble-working firms are employing about 200 men at ten hours. The other shops remain closed, and the men refuse to return. Most of the car stable-men who struck for higher wages have resumed work at old rates. Nothing new relative to the Paterson strike.

The *Tribune*, apropos of the dog days, which are coming, gives some receipts for hydrophobia: "1. Inject morphine under the skin. 2. Give half a dram of powdered castor internally. 3. Administer small quantities of chloroform by inhalation. 4. Wrap the patient in blankets saturated with a warm solution of nitrate of ammonia. 5. Apply oil of juniper externally. 6. Administer vapor baths. 7. Put the patient upon a diet of raw onions. 8. Try the madstone, if you can get a specimen of it." To these we may add: 9. Give him a blowing up with nitro-glycerine for getting in the dog's way. 10. Kill the dog. 11. Kill the patient.

While the women of Massachusetts and New York have been talking about their sisters in Oregon have gone and done it. They have asked Congress to amend the Homestead Law so as to allow them to pre-empt public lands. And Congress has too much justice as well as gallantry to refuse the fair petitioners, and there is every probability that the amendment will pass. The President approves it, and Mrs. Senator Williams is happy, and Mrs. Sawtelle, the President of the Woman's Real Estate Association, has gone to Oregon to act as agent for the brave women who mean to try what virtue there is in the soil.

Here is a significant Chinese labour item: In Beaver Falls, Penn., a cutlery factory got short of hands, or perhaps of funds, and sent a man to California to engage Chinamen for operatives. Great excitement ensued in Beaver Falls over the prospect of the introduction of a heathen element in the community, and of seeing native workmen in a state of starvation, while the idolatrous Chinese were gorging themselves with rice. The agitation might have risen to a dangerous height had it not been allayed by the factory agent, who returned from California with the information the Chinese in that State were getting higher wages than he could afford to pay them. The Chinese are quick in finding out the market value of labor, and just as pertinacious as anybody in demanding a full value for their services. There may be unimportant exceptions to this rule, but none of sufficient consequence to permanently exert any perceptible effect on the labor question.

## FOREIGN.

At last there is a probability of the settlement of the trade disputes in Berlin, which have caused so much suffering and so lengthened a cessation from labor. Permanent courts of arbitration, to which all matters of disagreement between employers and workmen are to be referred, will, it is hoped, prevent future strikes by removing their cause.

From the recent census, it appears that the diminution of the resident population of Paris within the last six years is, in round numbers, 400,000. The number of vacant apartments exceeds 40,000. Rents have fallen in a proportion which ranges from one-eighth to one-fourth, and for the superior apartments of 4,000 francs and upwards, the decline is equal to one-third. The depreciation in the value of land and house property is estimated at 20 per cent.

During a recent railway journey a passenger entered into a political discussion with a man sitting opposite him. The dispute became very animated, and when it was at its height a collision took place. One opponent was thrown from his seat by the shock, and his head struck a Cockermouth man right between the eyes. It being dark the poor man (number one) thought that his antagonist had lost his temper and struck at him, and he bawled out—"Cum, cum; let's hev neay strikin'! We can talk without hitting yan anudder!"

The Leamington town orier was heard a few days since making the following announcement in the streets of that fashionable inland watering-place:—"Oh, yes! oh, yes! this is to give notice to all mistresses of laundresses, that at an open-air meeting held in Leamington by ladies of the wash-tub, it was resolved that on and after the 1st day of June, no washerwoman would work for less than 1s. 6d. per day, her board and beer included. By order of the ladies of the wash-tub. God save the Queen."

The Italian government is, it is said, making great efforts to encourage popular education among the Italians, and to overcome the effects of its almost total neglect during the past two hundred years. In the army education is compulsory, and thousands of discharged soldiers who have returned to their native villages are acting as the pioneers of culture. No soldier who is unable to read and write is allowed a single day's furlough. A bill is now before the

Italian Parliament to make education compulsory throughout the country.

The Government of Great Britain has been making an immense number of torpedoes, to be used for the protection of the coast and harbors of that country. No fewer than 1,500 large canisters are now in store at Woolwich dock-yard, ready to be filled with gun-cotton or dynamite, and an immense number of galvanic batteries, galvanometers, and telegraph instruments have already been prepared. The torpedoes will be arranged in rows or groups in the channel or along the coast, the canister containing the charge being joined to a floating or semi-floating apparatus, termed a circuit-closer or circuit-breaker, and the whole connected with the shore by means of an electric cable. The circuit-closer, when struck by a vessel, may either be made to send a signal to shore, or to explode the machine to which it is tethered.

The rapidity with which France is paying off the enormous debt entailed upon her by her late war with Germany, is one of the most extraordinary exhibitions of recuperative power to be found in the history of any nation. A Paris correspondent of the *Berlin National Zeitung*, under date of May 28, says: "It is certain that M. Thiers, on Sunday last, made precise propositions to the German ambassador, respecting the paying of the three milliards. Count Von Arnim has not yet expressed himself fully upon the subject of these propositions, which will be submitted to day to the Chancellor. \* \* \* \* However this may be, M. Thiers seems no longer to entertain any doubt whatever, since his last interview with M. Von Arnim, respecting the success of the negotiations which he has set on foot, and only last evening, he expressed himself in the presence of many deputies, and repeated that France ought to be entirely relieved of all occupation by German troops by the 1st of January, 1873."

**SOMETHING NEW FOR HOUSEWIVES.**—A new mode of washing linen has been adopted in Germany, and introduced into Germany. The operation consists in dissolving two pounds of soap in about three gallons of water as hot as the hand can bear, and adding to this one tablespoonful of turpentine and three of liquid ammonia; the mixture must then be well stirred, and the linen steeped in it for two or three hours, taking care to cover up the vessel which contains them as nearly hermetically as possible. The clothes are afterwards washed out and rinsed in the usual way. The soap and water may be reheated and used a second time, but, in that case, half a tablespoonful of turpentine and a tablespoonful of ammonia must be added. The process is said to cause a great economy of time, labor and fuel.

A correspondent of the *Globe* thus writes from a famous Irish city, concerning its women workers:—God knows in his all-searching wisdom, which does not disdain to note when a sparrow falls, how the poor working women and girls of Dublin eke out life on three shillings a week. And yet I am sure that is not too low an average for the general wages of book-folders, envelope-makers, seamstresses, and the few other contracted employments open for women in Dublin. They are cheerful-looking and healthy, though. Much more so than the working girls in Boston. *They live according to their means*; this is the secret. They eat simple food, which is the cheapest; they live in their homes, families together, for they never think of separating until necessity compels them; and above all they dress as if they were working girls with a few shillings a week, and not as if they had sumptuous houses, nothing to do, and nothing to think about.

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