THE SAILOR'S FRIEND.

MR. PLIMSOLL'S GOOD WORK RECEIVED BY TORONTO LABOR REFORMERS.

A Deputation from the Labor Organizations Present Him with an Address

Mr Plimsoll's Reply.

On Saturday evening last a deputation representing the labor organizations of Toronto presented an address to Mr Samuel Plimsoll, the English member of Parliament, whose unfeigned exertions on behalf of the sailors have given him a world wide reputation as a sincere and practical philanthropist. The presents took place in the parlor of the Queen's Hotel the deputation consisting of a joint committee composed of the following members of the Legislative Committee of the Trades and Labor Council and the District Executive Board of the K. of L.

Messrs W. H. Parr, R. Glocking, J. W. Davey, Charles March, D. J. O'Donoghue, A. F. Jury, George Beales, George Harris and H. T. Benson.

Mr Jury introduced the deputation and said that the workingmen of this city felt called upon to take the occasion of Mr Plimsoll's visit to Canada to express to him their warm appreciation of his eminent services on behalf of their fellow toilers, the sailors of the United Kingdom. He called on Mr. O'Donoghue, who presented the following address:

SAMUEL PLIMSOLL, Esq. SIR,—The Legislative Committee of Toronto Trades and Labor Council an organization composed of duly-elected delegates from the several trade and labor bodies of the city) avail themselves of the opportunity furnished by your visit to the capital city of the Province of Ontario to extend to you, on behalf of the working classes, in this brief manner a sincere and hearty welcome to this section of the Dominion of Canada

In extending this welcome to you, sir, we desire to emphasize the fact that the name of "Plimsoll, the Sailor's Friend," is a household one with the wage earning classes in Canada, and more especially so to those of these classes who are enrolled in the membership of organization.

While conscious of your almost superhuman and successful efforts in the long line of years since 1863 in bettering the conditions of British sailors and sea-faring men, we desire to express our gratitude and pleasure in knowing that increasing years have neither dampened your ardor nor impaired your ability in championing the cause of abused humanity, in the kindness of your heart even scathing the treatment for the cattle and other live stock in course of transportation to Great Britain from transatlantic countries.

As a high civilized place in the eyes of the general community in an honest desire to further the weal and welfare of Canada, the working classes are not blind to the issue which prompted your present visit to this country—that issue being "Protection to Life v. Dollars and Cents."

With this information in our possession, and altogether apart from the weight attaching to your own character for truthfulness and your experience in all matters pertaining to the mercantile marine of the empire, we have no hesitation in declaring that your mission to Canada is legislating for better protection to human life and property in the ocean cattle traffic of America. To this end, sir, we feel justified in pledging to you any and every assistance which may be in the power of organising labor in Toronto to accord.

Permit us also to say, in the hope that it may afford you some little pleasure to know, that while Canadian Legislatures have not as yet developed a Plimsoll, yet the labor organizations of this country have been making every effort—so far unsuccessfully—to secure legislation determining a load line, prohibiting deck-loading, to compel the carrying of adequate and competent crews, etc., on the marine of our great inland lakes, Superior, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and for which example has been so ably furnished by yourself.

In praying for the extension of your life and health and the fruition of your labors in the cause of humanity and for the oppressed, kindly permit us to conclude in your own beautiful and impressive words:—"We can say no more. The words we have written are cold and feeble to the feelings of our hearts, and language fails us. We can only say what is given us O, Lord (like Moses, we are not eloquent), do thou take the work from our feeble hands and prosper it!"

W. H. PARR, chairman of committee.
D. J. O'DONOGHUE, secretary.
ROBT. GLOCKLING, president T. and L. Council
JOHN W DAVEY, M.W., D.A. 125, K. of L.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada, January 10, 1881.

Mr Plimsoll, in reply, warmly thanked the deputation for their expressions of confidence and sympathy with his efforts. Much yet remained to be done to secure the safety of the seamen The load line had been obtained in 1876, a feeble and imperfect check to overloading which practically left in the hands of the ship owners the fixing of the line. At the Labor Congress at Cardiff somewhat over a year ago it had been decided to follow up this first step By a law which came into operation on the 1st of last month the fixing of the load-line was taken out of the hands of the owners, so that it might be said overloading was dead. The danger of shipwreck from overloading or other preventible causes was by no means the only wrong the British seamen had to endure. In many cases they were fed on carrion, unfit for human food. In the navy stores barrels of pork and beef were sometimes kept for twenty years and then sold off as unfit for food The pork or beef, as the case may be was bought by unscrupulous shipowners packed in new barrels and put aboard our last ships. This carrion caused a great loss of life in some cases as many as half the ship's crew being decimated by scurvy. Scurvy blackened and horrible, with their tongues and lips black and swollen from the poison His attention was directed to the matter. He went to Lord George Hamilton of the Admiralty Board and told him that what was not good enough for the navy was not good enough for the mercantile marine As a result of his representations he was glad to say that this monstrous abuse had been ended, so far at all events as the purchase for food of condemned navy stores was concerned as orders had been issued on subject such stores before selling them to a process which would prevent their being used as food Mr Plimsoll recalled a number of his experiences in fighting the battles of the sailors which were listened to with much interest.

IRON MOULDERS' UNION.

BANQUET TO MR MARTIN FOX, PRESIDENT INTERNATIONAL I M U. BY LOCAL UNION NO. 28

On the evening of the 8th inst. a banquet was tendered by the Iron Moulders' Union, No. 28 of this city to Mr. Martin Fox, President of the International Iron Moulders' Union, on the occasion of his visit to this city. The affair came off at Chivrell's dining rooms, Richmond street West at nine p.m. and was attended by about 200 members of the union and invited guests belonging to other labor organizations. The chair was taken by Mr. Richard Metcalfe at whose right hand the guest of the evening was seated. Among those present were: President Frederick Pace of I. M. U. No 28, John Dance late International Vice President, John W. Davey, District Master Workman of D. A. 125 K. of L., President Robert Glocking of the Trades and Labor Council, President George Beales, of the Builders' Laborers Union, W. B. Prescott, D. J. O Donoghue, John Armstrong and A. F. Jury.

After the *menu* had been disposed of the chairman in proposing the health of the guest said that the banquet had been held to do honor to the International President who honor he passed a high eulogium. He felt sure that the honor and the destinies of the organization to which they were proud to belong would be safe in the hands of Mr. Fox (applause) It was only the third occasion upon which the Toronto moulders had had the pleasure of welcoming the President of the International body to their city. Owing to the severe struggle through which they had passed the union was only at its weakest point. Though temporarily defeated they had not been disgraced. It was true that 173 moulders had been driven from Toronto by the arbitrary course of Gurney and Massey in their efforts to crush out unionism, but they had gone away as unionists, but they had gone away as union men. (Applause). He was proud to say that in that unequal struggle no member of the union had proved recreant to his principles and betrayed his fellows. The rest were all staunch true men, ready to face adversity for the cause. (Applause).

Mr. Fox in a very modest and unassuming speech returned thanks for the cordial welcome extended tohim, which he accepted as a tribute to the office which he held rather than to his individual merits. The International Iron Moulders' Union of which he was the honor to be president was organized in 1859. Ten years ago it had a membership of 2,352 while to-day it had over 24,000 active members. (Applause). He was initiated in 1861 and was secretary for nine years. At Detroit last year he was chosen president. He was visiting Canada for the purpose of making himself acquainted with the organizations and familiarizing himself with local conditions and needs. Everywhere he went he had received a gratifying hospitality, in fact his Canadian tour had been one continued ovation. He would always remember the enthusiastic and generous reception he had met with from the Toronto moulders and their friends. (Applause).

Mr. Robert Glockling in replying to the toast of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council said that he was delighted to have the opportunity of paying a deserved tribute to Mr. Fox. Those who knew him and had been intimately associated with him for many years were the best judges of his character. And it spoke volumes in Mr. Fox's favor that he had the confidence of the body he represented. The moulders we always active and vigilant in matters pertaining to the general advancement of the interests of labor. Their representatives had done good work on the Trades and Labor Council an organization which was doing much to educate those within as well as without the ranks of organized labor upon the great social problem.

District Master Workman Davey in reply to the toast of the D. A. of the Knights of Labor dwelt upon the friendly relations which fortunately prevailed in Toronto between the order and the trade unions. He was glad to see this fraternal feeling exhibited whenever a labor difficulty occurred. Whenever a trade union became involved in a struggle by remaining true to their principles the Knights would always be willing to make common cause with them and aid them to the best of their ability.

The toast of the "Sister Unions" was replied to by Messrs. G. B. Beales of the Builders Laborers Union and William B. Prescott of the Typographical Union who spoke of the marked progress made by trade unions in Toronto.

Telling speeches were also made by Messrs. Jury, O'Donoghue and Armstrong. The proceedings were varied by songs by Messrs. Bickerstaff, H. Lowrey, Larkin and Hague, and a recitation by Mr. Blackley, and the guests separated at about half past twelve after an exceedingly enjoyable evening.

HOW TO GET DRUNK FOR FOURPENCE

DR NORMAN KERR CONTRIBUTES an interesting article to the *Nineteenth Century* upon the cream of other drinks in the North of Ireland More then two thirds of the liquor are carried every year on the railways in the North of Ireland The headquarters of over drinking at Belfast where a population of a hundred thousand persons is more or less otheromaniac On market and fair days, whenever there is a crowd the atmosphere reeks with the fumes of ether Dr Kerr says that the smell is overpowering, nauseating and loathsome Persons of both sexes and of all ages have become slaves to this degrading and intractable disease Women drink as much as men One great reason is that from the point of view of the otheromaniac is that you can get drunk and sober again so much more rapidly

The drinker of ether can become intoxicated and regain sobriety before the drinker of alcohol has really become properly intoxicated. I have known an alcoholist get thoroughly drunk twice in twenty four hours, though this rarely happens, but the educated etherist can at a pinch, get drunk and sober again six times in the same space of time I have seen a man sober as a judge at noon, offensively drunk on ether in twenty five minutes and as sober as before by a quarter past one o'clock The phases of an ether outbreak can all be exhibited in even less time The rapidity with which the phenomena passes before the vision is truly astounding The inexperienced can be drunk and sober again before he has any idea of being intoxicated.

At first it seems to produce very little serious effect, but if persisted in it brings on premature old age, and many disorders. Chronic and distressing inflammation of the stomach, impairment of the digestive functions, tremulousness, melancholy, and suspicions, lividity, coldness, and intermittent pulse, with persistent wasting, have not infrequently been the penalities paid by the excessive ether-taker Dr. Kerr says he has seen an etheromaniac at forty-one a wizened, bent, decrepit old man. There have already been nearly a dozen fatal cases, perhaps more. The most terrible influence of ether indulgence is, however, on the mind. The ether inebriate, with a morbid and ever-growing craving for larger doses of the deadly drug, which he hates but must devour, sinks into a loathsomeness of falsehood, deceit, and cunning.

You can get drunk with ether for four pence, but when you are a seasoned vessel it costs you as much as a shilling. Dr. Keer proposes that naphtha should be added to ether as it is now added to methylated spirits from which the ether is extracted. He would abolish the retail trade in ether and confine the sale to druggists, who would be compelled to register the name and address of the purchaser, and the object for which the ether was bought. He would prove he would do his utmost to stamp out the nefarious and pestiferous traffic.

AN INTERNATIONAL INFLUENCE.

HOW LITERATURE IS OBLITERATING NATIONAL PREJUDICES.

LITERATURE as a popular force, a force brought to bear on a large mass of at short range on a great body of men, is distinctly an evolution of modern life. If this modern reading public were limited by national lines, it would still constitute a powerful and growing organization; but one of the most impressive features of the reading movement to-day is its obliteration of geographical and racial boundaries. It is a movement shared in large measure by all the Western peoples. There exists to-day something which has never existed before—the opportunity to speak directly to the whole body of Western races. There still awaits some large-minded man the inspiring task of writing the history of what may be called the literature of the history of those rich and fruitful periods when the minds of different races have come together, and the thrill of a fresh and broader vision of things has passed through their hearts. Great epochs in the world's history are stamped by these contacts; the contact of the Greek and Hebrew mind with the races of their own time, and with the modern races, marks one of the greatest movements in history. Our age is distinguished distinctly the impulse which comes from these contacts; Chaucer representing the earlier Italian influence; the Elizabethan dramatists, the later Italian influence; the century of the Restoration, the French influence; and a great part of the English and American literature of this century, the German influence. One of the wisest and most fruitful of these contacts to day is that between the Eastern and Western races; but this interchange is well nigh universal We are reading French, German, Spanish, Italian, Norwegian and Russian books with the same ease and freedom with which we read our own English books. For this purpose of reading, the modern world is fast becoming one homogeneous body The foremost writers are speaking immediately and directly to all their contemporaries, and, in consequence, there has been secured a constant and complete interchange of ideas, experience, impulse, and knowledge among all races. The effects of this interchange are manifold. One of the great functions of literature is that of interpretation. All individual life is limited: it is only when we turn to the great works of art, which are interpretations of life on a great scale, that we perceive its full range and understand its full meaning. The books of each race explain that race to other races. So complete is the race expression in its literature that we could almost rewrite its history from the books which it has produced. Cervantes makes us understand Spanish character; Molière interprets France; Goethe reveals Germany. This interpretation of race to race has been going on for centuries, but never on so great a scale. It certainly has led, also, to a knowledge of mutual character on a vastly wide scale, of mutual character on a vastly wide scale, of mutual character on a vastly wide scale,