

—In West Toronto the Machine narrowly escaped being broken by a Labour Candidate. Anything like representation of special classes or interests is, of course, in itself an evil; but unluckily interests, those of the railway men and the master manufacturers for example, are represented with tremendous effect already; and a single delegate of labour can do no harm by his presence among all the delegates of faction. The artisans—that name is better than “working-men,” which includes all who work either with hand or brain—are now not only a powerful but an intelligent body: to make them thoroughly loyal to the institutions of the country is an object of the highest importance; and the way to do this, and thus arrest the dreaded growth of Socialism, is to let them feel that everything is perfectly open to them, distinction as well as the suffrage, and thus to render it impossible for them to nurse the suspicion that they are ostracized as a class. Supposing it were merely a point of honour, the point of honour would deserve consideration. To pluck a thorn out of the breast of any important section of the community is a great thing, even if it be attended with some risk. Risk, however, there is none in the occasional election of an artisan: of that English experience assures us, whether it assures us of any positive benefit or not. Mr. Burt has been useful in the British Parliament on mining questions, and it is easy at all events to understand the wish of the artisan that when matters relating to his calling come before the Legislature there should be some one present who looks at them with an artisan’s eyes. The feeling of other callings and professions is the same: every one of them insists upon being represented, except the clergy, whose interests are not of this world. That a man who works with his hands is unlikely to have a highly trained intellect or the political knowledge requisite for general legislation is not to be denied; but a highly trained intellect and political knowledge are not qualifications strictly exacted of candidates by the Party Machines. Nor are the manners of a Party Assembly in danger of suffering by the intrusion. The thing most endangered is the character of the man himself, who, when he has become a member of a legislature, can scarcely remain an artisan, and is too apt to become a mercenary politician, plying