

GENTLEMEN,—

In a few days I will more fully express to you my views and claims on your suffrages, which I consider equal to those of any candidate who may offer himself for your approbation.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,
JOHN CARR.

*Eastern Division of the
City of Toronto.*

GENTLEMEN,—

I have the honour to announce that I intend to be a Candidate for the House of Commons, in the above Division, at the coming General Election for the Dominion Parliament.

I am, Gentlemen, . . .
Your obedient servant,

JAMES BEATY.

Toronto, 24th June, 1872.

NOTICE.

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

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.

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J. S. WILLIAMS,
SUPERINTENDENT.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JULY 18, 1872

THE DUTY OF WORKINGMEN AT THE COMING ELECTIONS.

In those days in which we live, the tiller of the soil, the laborer, the artizan, have greater social and political power than ever possessed by the same class before; so much so that, if rightly directed, even in this country of limited suffrage, their will must become law. If we are to take a lesson from the past, and view the road over which we came, to our present standpoint, we will behold at the different stations along the route, the rights of the masses tossed to and fro between two contending political factions, the party in power nearly always proving themselves to be the most conservative; and the party out of power taking up a few popular measures for the purpose of carrying them into power. So that it has nearly always been upon the change of an Administration that the masses have received the Legislative concessions that now give us the power we have in the land, if rightly directed; and if there ever was a time in the his-

should show that they are united-
it is at the coming momen-
t. The career of both par-
before the eyes of all. We
judge as of what may be ex-
line.
successful for past favours, I fear party by viewing
continuance of the patronage.
the toiler's behalf,

not by going back to the years of '37 and '41, as some eloquent Reform jobbers would have us do, to behold the triumphs achieved by a Progressive Party in those days, while they who claim to monopolize the name to-day, do nothing to prove that they possess the first principle of true reform, further than to point to, and make a parade of, the laurels won in the interest of popular rights by a noble band of freemen, upwards of thirty years ago, supported by the liberty-loving sons of toil, and though those of that generation have mostly passed to their reward, they have left us in the possession of rights that we appreciate, and shall guard with a watchful eye, so that we shall be enabled to hand them down to those who follow us, intact, with such additions as are worthy of a progressive and intelligent parentage.

All intelligent workmen are Progressive Reformers, and therefore the name Reformer has a special charm for us ; but we are beginning to understand that a mere name may be very thin, as it has proved itself to be in the record made by the party assuming that name. Lately they climbed into power in Ontario over the dead body of poor Scott ; and then as a reward passed a resolution that did not amount to the snap of one's thumb, and we think that the party may be fairly called to account by the workmen of the country, not for being Reformers by name, but for their late actions. Not one popular measure has engaged their attention ; not one word on their part for the purpose of conforming our social laws relating to labor to those of the mother country. The Trade Union Bill has been left for the hands of one whom the leaders of the so-called Reform Party have heretofore been loud in making the workingmen believe was their uncompromising enemy. No Factory Act for the protection of our sisters and children from the selfishness of unscrupulous employers ; no bill for the protection of life and limb to secure the workman against the avarice of the employer, to whom the life of an operative is of less consideration than a little additional expense would be in securing safe appliances for the purpose of conducting his business—no *nothing* that affects the laborer directly. Of course there is hanging for murder ; but if none were liable to suffer the death by this crime but the ruffians of society, there might be no punishment for this crime ; but as all are liable to fall by the assassin's hand, it would not be wise to discriminate, and the law is of course generalized—the same as all other laws that are necessary for the protection of the classes,—or, even more so than of the masses.

Now a word with regard to our duty as workmen in the premises. We should first understand what we require, and those who are willing to support us in our requirements, let them receive our united support. It is time that workmen were learning sense, and ignore party and adopt measures instead, and those men who are willing to carry measures calculated to improve our condition, support them, of whichever party they are. Neither party nor religion should blind us in this contest. The Ballot Bill successfully passed, places that boon in the hands of all parties and all religions. An extension of the Franchise will reach all to whom it applies, irrespective of party or religion. Then let us unite on such measures as directly concern the workingman's welfare, and denounce at the polls all men who believe with the *Globe* that the working-classes have all the rights they are entitled to, and that further legislation in their behalf would be class legislation.

THE PRESENTATION.

The entire proceedings connected with the presentation of an address to Sir John A. Macdonald and a jewel casket to Lady Macdonald, and also an address to J. Beaty, Esq., M.P., in the Music Hall, on Thursday evening last, were of the most satisfactory and pleasing character. The hall was filled to its utmost capacity by an intelligent and appreciative audience—being composed largely of the workingmen and

their wives; but, we suppose, because they happened to be better dressed and much better behaved than suited the *Globe's* ideas of what their appearance and position should be, we are told by that reliable journal that "*bona fide* workingmen were few and far between." We may well afford, however, to let this statement pass with the rest of its untruthful assertions—in charity attributing them to an overflow of bile and spleen.

The presentation, which was but an expression of gratitude to Sir John for the promptness with which he took action in reference to legalizing Trades' Unions, will, we believe, be productive of many good results yet to follow. It will be remembered that upon former occasions we took exception to many of the provisions of the English Bill as being unnecessarily harsh and oppressive, and therefore it was desired that in adapting it to the wants of the industrial classes of this country, those crudities might be remedied.

But the shortness of time at the disposal of the Minister of Justice: prevented this being done unless the Bill remained over till a future session; and therefore it was deemed advisable—as it was absolutely necessary to have legislation in the matter—to accept the bill as it stood, and subsequently have such amendments made as might be deemed proper; and a careful perusal of the Premier's speech will show that even in his opinion the bill introduced requires improvement and amendment before it can effect all that was desired by its passage—before the workingman gets all his rights under the law, and acquires that *status* in our social system which he ought to have. And therefore it is with great satisfaction that we record the pledge of the Minister of Justice—and undoubtedly these promises will be kept prominently in view by the men interested in labor reform—“that as improvements may be introduced in the English Bill, I shall exercise the same promptitude as before in grafting those improvements and amendments upon the law of this country. I will say more, that while as a Conservative and a British subject, I have great respect for English precedent and English practice, and am satisfied to follow at a humble distance the course of legislation in England, yet I will not pledge myself to wait an unreasonable time if there is no action in regard to this matter in the mother country.” We also note with satisfaction the invitation by Sir John to Trades' Assemblies and others interested, to “make communications and suggestions as to any amendment, any extension, any enlargement, any improvement in the present law that may be thought desirable or necessary.” This pledge will, we believe, prove satisfactory to the working classes, as a whole—more, indeed, could not reasonably be expected.

THE TESTIMONIAL.

The *Globe* having offered the use of its columns to any who wished to refute the accusations that had frequently been made, editorially and otherwise, respecting the presentation to Lady Macdonald, Mr. J. Hewitt, Corresponding Secretary of the Trades' Assembly, has taken up the cudgels, and in a communication which we publish elsewhere, plainly states the facts of the case. But is the *Globe* satisfied? Not at all. Mr. Hewitt's pedigree is to be traced, his antecedents searched out, his present position stated, and his character given. We suppose this is all right according to *Globular* proceedings, but we fail to see what connection it has with the communication he has addressed to that journal. To make things even, perhaps, it would be as well to look up the antecedents, present position and character of the "*Globe's* special correspondent," and see which will compare most favorably. We certainly are of the opinion that it would have been more dignified to have treated with the contempt they deserve the statements of the *Globe*,—and have held Mr. Clarke accountable at the proper tribunal.

**PRESENTATION TO LADY MAC-
DONALD.**

Last Thursday night the Music Hall was filled to repletion with a highly respectable assemblage of ladies and gentlemen to witness the presentation of a gold jewel casket to Lady Macdonald as a token of gratitude for the workmen of Toronto for the part taken by Sir John Macdonald last session in introducing an act legalizing Trades' Unions.

The walls of the hall were hung with mottoes, among them the following:—"Welcome to Lady Macdonald," "The Workmen of Toronto welcome their Chief who accorded them their Just Rights," "Labor and Capital," "A Fair Day's Wages for a Fair Day's Work," "Trades' Unions, the Safety of the Workingman," "Honor to Sir John A. Macdonald, whose exertions legalised Trades' Unions." The splendid band of the 10th Royals occupied the gallery, and played excellent selections under the leadership of Mr. Toulmin. On the platform were the chairman, Mr. J. S. Williams, Mr. J. Hewitt, Cor. Sec. of Trades' Assembly, Mr. A. McCormack, Pres., and a number of the officers and members of the Trades' Assembly. Shortly after eight Sir John and Lady Macdonald arrived, accompanied by Mrs. George W. Allan, Mrs. Capt. Strachan, and Mrs. Charles Drinkwater, and took their seats on the platform amidst tremendous cheering, the band playing "God save the Queen." Mr. James Beatty, M. P., on taking his seat near the Premier, received an enthusiastic welcome.

The Chairman, on rising, was greeted with cheers. After some preliminary remarks, he proceeded to review the circumstances which led to the holding of the present gathering. It will be remembered, he said, that for some years past the question of shortening the hours of labor had occupied the attention of our fellow-workers of the Old World, and the marked success that had attended those long-continued efforts, led the thinking portion of the working classes of America to consider whether similar advantages could not be obtained on this side of the Atlantic. While our more enterprising neighbors across the lines had inscribed on their banners the eight-hour system, we in Canada had been more moderate in seeking to have our hours of labor reduced from sixty to fifty-four hours per week. The many mass meeting that were held by the workmen to discuss the movement was referred to, and the unanimity that prevailed at those meetings. The question of shorter hours having taken so firm a hold upon the operative classes, the Typographical Union was the first to move in the matter—in this city at least—and their request being refused,

with one or two noble exceptions (cheers) a strike resulted. Thus matters remained for some weeks, the strike being conducted with the utmost moderation by the men, notwithstanding the many efforts that were made by their opponents to cause a breach of the peace. About that time the famous legal opinion of a certain Q.C. appeared in a city paper—an opinion which stated it to be illegal for workmen to combine for any purpose whatever—and rumors were speedily afloat that a certain *honorable* gentleman would test the legality of that opinion. After some weeks' plodding and spying, on the part of a certain detective who was brought from a distance to work up the case, that case was considered sufficiently strong to bring into the courts of law, and one fine morning the electric wires flashed the intelligence that twenty-one men had been arrested for presuming to combine for mutual protection and support; arrested under an Act that had lain covered up under the accumulations of almost a century's legislation—arrested at the instance of a man who is noted for the *animus* and vindictiveness with which he hunts, sleuth-hound like, even to the death, those who may happen to cross his purposes. But in this instance, it soon became evident that he had overshot his mark, for instead of striking terror and dismay into the hearts of men of union principles—as it was expected it would do—the arrest brought down a storm of indignation that had little been dreamed of, and caused the heart of Unionism to beat and throb in sympathy with the men who were suffering in her cause; and the hand of fraternity and brotherhood was stretched, almost from the Atlantic and the Pacific, towards the men here, assuring them that though far distant, yet their sympathies and assistance were aroused in their behalf (cheers); and the determination was expressed to hold up throughout all coming time, as monuments of foolishness and futility, those who had thus endeavored to tamper with the rights of Canada's free-born sons of toil. (Cheers.) But not alone in the ranks of Union men was this sympathy aroused and expressed. The eyes of those to whom are committed the making of our laws were opened to the

anomalous state of things that existed, that permitted of men being arrested under an Act that may justly be regarded as a relic of the dark ages; and on the evening of the arrest, the Minister of Justice (cheers), in his seat in the House of Commons, gave notice of motion that he would introduce an Act to legalize Trades' Unions (cheers), and accordingly a Bill was introduced, and passed to its final stage, and became law, that renders it no longer possible for men to be arrested merely because they may happen to be members of a Trade Union. The Union men of this Dominion, while recognizing the fact that it was but the *duty* of our law-makers to speedily remove from our Statute Book such an unjust and iniquitous law as the one referred to, would fail in gratitude if they did not appreciate the promptness of the timely action of Sir John Macdonald in their behalf; and, therefore, when it became known that Sir John would visit our city, efforts were made by the Trades' Assembly to give expression, on behalf of the working classes, to that appreciation, and the testimonial to be presented was the result. The chairman alluded to the fact that the proceedings were not to be regarded in anything of a party or political spirit, as the testimonial was given, not because Sir John was a Conservative, but because he had in this instance introduced a true reform. (Cheers.) After some further remarks, he called upon the Corresponding Secretary to read the address.

Mr. Hewitt then came forward and after referring to the slanders which had appeared in the *Globe* concerning the purchase of the testimonial, assured the meeting that the casket was the free offering of the workmen, and was as much their property as the newspaper that had calumniated them was the property of Mr. Geo. Brown. (Cheers.) He then proceeded to read the address, as follows :—

To the Hon. Sir JOHN ALEXANDER MACDONALD,
K.C.B., Minister of Justice, &c.

HONORED SIR,—The Toronto Trades' Assembly, being at all times ready to acknowledge any benefit conferred upon workmen, from whatever source it may come, feel constrained to recognize in the passing of the Trades' Union Bill, a measure eminently adapted to promote the principles of co-operation among the working classes of Canada, on whose behalf we now tender you an expression of sincere gratitude, with an ardent desire that the services you have so timely rendered shall be duly appreciated by all interested, and that your future public career shall be of such a character as to merit the confidence and support of the industrial classes.

In presenting to Lady Macdonald the accompanying Gold Casket, as a small token of fervent esteem for her, and warm appreciation of services rendered by you, we would express a hope that you may long live to enjoy the richest, the noblest, the most desirable of all blessings that can encircle an earthly home, and that your combined efforts may continue to be directed to the social advancement and weal of the working classes in this great Dominion.

On behalf of the 'Toronto Trades' Assembly,
 ANDREW McCORMICK, President.
 JOHN HEWITT, Secretary.

Sir John Macdonald, in reply, said—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, members of the Toronto Trades' Assembly. On behalf of Lady Macdonald and in her name I desire to return to you her warmest, her most grateful thanks for the beautiful present you have made her. She will prize it much for its intrinsic value, she will prize it much as a work of art; but she will prize it still more, she will prize it infinitely more, as being an evidence of good will extended by the Trades' Assembly of Toronto to her husband. (Cheers.) I must say that I am peculiarly pleased and gratified that you should have taken this mode of showing good will to myself by presenting this beautiful gift to my wife, because if it had not been for her kind care and solicitude two years ago I should not be now here to accept this compliment at your hands, and I should not have had the opportunity of introducing in Parliament and carrying into law the bill to which you, Sir, have made such a kind allusion in your opening remarks. (Loud cheers.) I therefore on behalf of my wife most gratefully accept, coming as it does from the workmen of Toronto—(renewed cheers)—this beautiful gift. At the same time, with respect to myself, I must say that I can claim but little credit for what I have done in your interest. You have truly stated that the course which I adopted with respect to the Trades' Union Act was simply the course which it was my duty to adopt. I should have been wanting in my duty if I had not taken the step I did when the circumstances were brought before me. I acted promptly, and therein perhaps I may claim a right to some of the kindly remarks with which you have alluded to the transaction, and also some right to the complimentary language contained in the address—the too flattering address—which I hold in my hand. (Cheers.) But the circumstances called for promptness. I saw that in this country, which ought to be and is as free as any country under the sun, some of my fellow-men, some of my fellow-citizens and fellow-sub-