

the ditch. A feast is generally followed or accompanied by a famishment. The rich riot and feast on the choicest viands and costliest wines money can procure, but beneath the very shadow of their halls of dissipation the poor starve on a crust. This is, in its very nature, a glaring injustice, but when we reflect that the money which enables the rich to wallow in the mire of enervated satiation, is distilled from the tears and sweat of the toiling, starving poor, we begin to think that injustice, and wrong and fraud are tame and meaningless expressions in this connection.

Giving public banquets or feasts, was regarded as a mark of "ton" among the ancient Roman aristocracy. But there was a law in existence among these people which prevented any man from giving a public feast until he had first provided for all the poor in his neighborhood, and this law was kept inviolably sacred. But, then, Roman civilization was barbarous compared to the exquisite and polished enlightenment of our times, for now wasteful feasts and banquets innumerable are given every day by our millionaires, while on all side arises the doleful wail of want and despair; and not only that, but these unnecessary exhibitions of ruinous prodigality are maintained by those who suffer for the common necessities of life. These are our reasons for declaiming against the extravagance of the rich. If these persons were superior beings, and could, like Midas, turn all things into gold, we would not, except for humanity's sake, dispute their right to die out gradually in the baneful and enervating atmosphere of self-indulgence. But when a few men wish to die a luxurious death by drowning in a sea of blood drawn from the veins of millions of their fellow-men, for the sake of the millions we protest most emphatically. Let our language should seem strange or inapplicable, we have only to remark, that it is a well known historical and physiological truth that self-indulgence and luxury are detrimental—slow but certain death—to the physical and intelligent growth and strength of a people. Still we might be persuaded to consent to the sacrifice of these foolish creatures were it not for the moral and physical death their folly entails upon millions who desire to live like rational beings. There is another serious cause for alarm in the extravagant habits of the wealthy—it leads to a rivalry among this class to excel in dress and frivolous display of all kinds. The consequence is the minds of our rich men are ever engaged in hatching new schemes to despoil the poor, and even fatten upon each other. No matter how wealthy a man may become he is not satisfied—is never satisfied—keeps adding and accumulating and scheming until the grave forever hides his worn-out body. Other men are stimulated by his example, and bend all their efforts to outstrip him in the race for wealth. This naturally leads to the aggregation and consolidation of gigantic fortunes, every one of which is an embodied menace to the liberty of the people. Inspired indeed was the poet when he sang: "Ill fares the land, to hast'ning ills a prey, Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

But do workingmen fully realize these things? Do they appreciate the efforts massed capital is making to effectually enslave them? The apathy, indifference and immobility manifested by most workingmen seem to answer these questions negatively. Many persons say the people will not move until the iron enters their very souls. But just here the greatest possible danger is to be apprehended—the people may submit to wrong and injustice too long—until all power of resistance will have passed from them, or until sensibility to wrong has died within them. The less liberty men have the less they want or desire, and this process of degradation descends until men become so brutalized by slavery as to be unable to comprehend the meaning of liberty. We repeat, there is danger in waiting for a few more turns of the screw—the danger of being pressed so close as to render a recoil impossible. When Alaric invested Rome in the year 408, the inhabitants made an application for terms, but intimated that they would fight desperately if they were pressed too

closely. To this Alaric returned this pithy answer: "The closer hay is pressed, the more easily it is cut." Like the Romans of the fifth century, many workingmen say: "If we are pressed too closely we will combine and fight desperately." And many Labor Reformers also gravely assure us that workingmen will never combine spontaneously and universally until they feel more acutely the sharp sting of tyranny. To all these we say "have a care you do not lose your power of combination and resistance." You, too, like hay may be cut—enslaved—the more easily for being more closely pressed. Combine and unite while yet you may, and let us not forget that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, that it is vastly easier to prevent an evil or a wrong from falling upon us than to remove it after it has developed itself.—*Coopers' Journal.*

TRADES ASSEMBLY CONCERT.

The concert on Friday night last, was not so well attended as should have been. The Temperance Hall, ought to have been crowded to the doors. In all other respects, however, it was very successful. The programme was varied, and those who took part acquitted themselves to the satisfaction of the audience. The duets of the Misses Woods, Miss Blackstone and Whitehouse, the Misses Amos, and Miss Lindsay and Miss Gray, were very pleasingly rendered. Mr. Glickin recited the "Field of Waterloo" and "Downfall of Poland," with fine effect. Mr. Rouse in his comicallies brought down the house. After the concert, dancing was indulged in till the wee sma' hours.

THE RIGHT HOUSE.

We beg to direct the attention of our readers in Hamilton to the advertisement of Mr. Thos. C. Watkins, which will be found in another column. Its an old saying, and as true at it's old, that "a penny saved is a penny earned," and in these days of high prices all study to make the most of their earnings. We would advise those who need dry goods of any description to visit the store of Mr. Watkins, and in price and quality they will find that it has well been named "The Right House."

A. RAFFIGNON.—By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that this gentleman has refitted his place of business, No. 107 King street west, and has now an elegant new soda fountain, with the latest improvements, and it will be kept constantly running during the summer season. There has also been fitted up an ice-cream parlor in a manner that is sure to suit the most fastidious taste. Our numerous readers are recommended to patronize Mr. Raffignon in this his fresh venture.

EATON'S CHEAP STORE is attracting customers from all quarters.

Communications.

TORONTO.

MONOPOLY BY TRADES' UNIONS.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—I shall ask the privilege of space in your valuable paper while I refer to the probability of Trades' Unions monopolizing business under legislation, that would enable them to invest their surplus funds as they might deem proper.

It having come to my knowledge that there is in the House of Commons a strong feeling against giving to corporations or others a monopoly of any kind, I hold that this assertion is not borne out by facts, for the present session will, I believe, prove the most prolific one since confederation, in chartering corporations, that is rapidly forming a net work of monopoly around all worth monopolizing, from our eastern to our western borders. But to return to the question, namely, Trades' Unions as monopolists in business, and supposing their enterprise as a registered union, with full legal business, proves to be the most successful—even to the extent of absorbing—and doing the whole business of their craft in the town or city in which such union was located, it could only amount to successful co-operation where those who produced would meet those who produced on first principles, without the expensive interference of middlemen, and by such an arrangement—utopian though it may appear—who are to be the sufferers? Certainly not the producer, for he would reap the full product of his labor; nor the consumer, who would have his wants supplied at first cost.

We have in those classes, then, the component parts of society, and must seek in vain for the wronged; and this is the only result that can flow from the most successful Trades' Union monopoly; and I feel that every intelligent workingman will say, let it come. But the anticipation of such a result will be the ground upon which the greatest opposition will be raised. There is no hiding the fact that there are fears among the great ones of the earth that the laboring masses are fast assuming a position that enables them to manage, to a certain extent, at least, their own business and their own interests, as evidenced by the co-operative and industrial co-partnerships of the present day; and the powers that be feel that this system will revolutionize our present social and political structure soon enough without legal encouragement. And there is no doubt in my mind that if the labor organizations of this country are granted the reforms in the law for which they look, the day is not far distant when many unions shall have running successful shops under their jurisdiction, employing many of their own members.—Yours, etc.,

JOHN HEWITT.

OSHAWA.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

DEAR SIR,—Having seen a letter in your issue of the 1st inst., signed by William Ramsay, which refers to myself, and places me in a false light, I crave indulgence for a short space in your next issue to make a few remarks relative thereto.

Shortly after my arrival in Scotland, in July, 1871, I contracted with Messrs. A. & W. Smith, Engineers of Glasgow, for some machinery in connection with our water-wheel. When going through their shops, several of the workmen, on learning that I was from Canada, asked me about the state of trade in this country, and also the rate of wages. Amongst these was William Ramsay, who introduced himself to me as a pattern maker. I invariably told them that I always made it a rule, never to speak to workmen during business hours, but that if any of them would call at the hotel, where I was stopping, I would be pleased to give them all the information I possibly could. Mr. Ramsay called at the hotel, and I told him that mechanics received from 5s. to 8s. per day in Canada, but did not mention either Joseph Hall works or any other establishment, and strongly advised him not to leave, as I had just received a paper from Canada, which contained news of a strike amongst the different branches of labor. Being acquainted with Mr. McQuinn, the foreman of the shop in which Mr. Ramsay worked, I applied to him for information respecting his ability as a workman, and he told me that he was not a pattern maker at all, but a sort of handy man they had for carrying patterns to and from the pattern shop to the foundry, and doing other little jobs. He called upon me again, asking me to advance him sufficient funds to bring himself and his family out. This I refused to do, but referred him to Mr. Dickson, who was authorized by the Ontario Government to assist parties desiring to emigrate. After this, I neither saw nor heard anything about him until after I returned to Canada, when I found him employed in Joseph Hall works as pattern maker. Shortly afterwards, I heard that he had been discharged, and on enquiring the reason from the foreman of the pattern shop, he told me that "Mr. Ramsay could not earn his salt in a pattern shop." After this he called at my house, and said he was employed by Mr. Sykes, a carpenter, at 7s. per day, but as the weather was becoming cold, he would prefer an indoor job. I advised him to try the cabinet factory, which he did, and obtained employment. After working there a short time, he again called at my house, and requested me to write to Mr. Edwards, of Toronto, and ask him to remit the \$6 which is allowed to all emigrants who remain in the country for six months, which I did. He then stated that he was perfectly satisfied with the country but complained somewhat with respect to the wages.

After treating him in this manner, entertaining him at my house on several occasions, and doing whatever I could to help him along, you can judge of my surprise at seeing his letter in your last issue. Had he confined himself to the truth, I of course could have had nothing whatever to say; but when he deliberately makes such false assertions, apparently for the sole purpose of injuring me, after having rendered him all the assistance that lay in my power, I certainly deem it my duty to lay the whole facts of the case this before your readers, so that they may have both sides, and be able to judge for themselves. Permit me to state here, that during my thirteen months absence in Great Britain, I never advised either Mr. Ramsay, or any other mechanic to emigrate to Canada, and

and therefore what Mr. Ramsay states is a deliberate falsehood.

Mr. Ramsay says he is going back to the Old Country. What a terrible loss Canada will sustain, surely, and what a great acquisition he will be to Scotland! Is it not possible by some means to retain such a prominent man amongst us? I sincerely trust that some steps will be taken to retain his valuable services in the country.

Yours respectfully,

A. HENDERSON.
Jos. Hall works, Oshawa.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—Mr. A. Henderson has replied to my letter in last week's WORKMAN, in the papers here, and as I presume he will also reply in the WORKMAN. I beg leave to answer his letter, and I can only state that I am prepared to make oath as to the correctness of the statement.

Mr. Henderson distinctly told me in Glasgow, that carpenters receive from 8s. to 9s. sterling per day, in the Joseph Hall Works, Oshawa.

Mr. Henderson stated that I was employed as a laborer in the shop of A. & W. Smith of Glasgow. In answer to that, I give a copy of the character I received from Messrs. A. & W. Smith & Co.

GLASGOW, 8 JULY, 1872.

The bearer, William Ramsay has been in our employment for several years as journeyman in the Joiner and Millwright department of our business. He is a very steady man, and a good tradesman.

(Signed),

A. & W. SMITH & CO.

In addition to the above, I have a certificate from the foreman of the shop in which I served my time, but do not consider it necessary to trouble you with it.

With regard to the workmen in A. & W. Smiths' not knowing anything about the Joseph Hall Works, I leave it to your readers to decide, whether Mr. Henderson can vouch for none of the 300 men in the employ of A. & W. Smith knowing anything regarding the above works.

Mr. H. states in his letter that I informed him I was a pattern maker. I beg most emphatically to state that I never stated to Mr. Henderson or any other person either in Glasgow or here, that I was a pattern maker.

Mr. H. left Glasgow a month before me, to come to Canada as he told me.

Mr. H. stated that he advised me to try the Cabinet Factory. So far from doing so, he advised me not to go to work at the Cabinet Factory, but to go with him to Mr. Dingle and he would get me a job from him.

With regard to my not complaining about the rate of wages, I beg to state that I told him in his own house, that I did not receive the wages which he led me to expect, when he told me that he would endeavour to get me more.

A few weeks afterwards when at work in the pattern shop, Mr. H. came to me and asked me how I was getting on, I answered him, well enough, if he get me the raise of wages he promised me. He told me to just hold on for a day or two. I held on for a short time longer, when I was discharged.

With regard to his promising me twelve months work, I may state that I distinctly asked him what would become of my family if I were discharged in the beginning of the winter, his answer was, "I will assure you of twelve months work, what more do you want?"

Mr. H. used the words falsehoods and slanderous. I leave it to impartial readers to judge between Mr. H. and myself, as to which of us deserves the terms most.

In conclusion I may state that I have other testimonials as to my ability as a workman in addition to those mentioned above, which I will be happy to show to any party who may wish to see them.

Respectfully yours,

WILLIAM RAMSAY.

Oshawa, 7th May, 1873.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—As a sample of how workingmen, who differ from Gibbs, Glen, & Company are treated, I beg to record a *dodge* which has been played on me.

Being under the necessity of moving from the house which I had occupied for over six years, while in the act of removing my effects, I was served with a notice to appear at the Court of Revision, as a person of the name of C. W. Smith, who combines the occupation of cigar vendor with the profession of architect, had appealed against my name appearing on the assessment roll as tenant of the before mentioned house. The object of such appeal evidently being to have my name struck off the voters' list, and to cause me the trouble of applying to the Judge of the County Court to have it placed on for the house I now occupy. The reason of such proceedings being

that I did not vote for Mr. T. N. Gibbs at the last election, believing as I do, that large employers of labor are unfitted to represent workingmen in Parliament. And the fact that Mr. Gibbs voted against the ballot, and also that he uses his position in order to keep wages down by endeavoring to obtain a surplus from labor, justifies my belief as being correct. I actually believe that as a working man I have a right to endeavor to obtain shorter hours of labor, and that wages should be sufficient to enable a man to live comfortably, and that injustice should be exposed, and God helping me, I will endeavor to do so. But such creed being obnoxious to Messrs. Gibbs, Glen, & Co., the individual of the name of Smith, acting I believe, if not under the suggestions, at least, to please the above mentioned parties, endeavour to kill a vote, and perchance, as his pay for doing so, he will be allowed to eat the scraps from his master's tables.

In conclusion, I would warn all workingmen to keep aloof from Oshawa, as living is dear, house rent and fuel as high as in Toronto, and wages lower, and unless they agree in all things with Gibbs Glen & Co., they will find parties like the Smith spoken of above ready to annoy them.

I remain yours respectfully,

JAMES BROWN.

Oshawa, 5th May, 1873.

The WHITE HART, cor. of Yonge & Elm sts., is conducted on the good old English style, by Bell Belmont, late of London, Eng., who has made the above the most popular resort of the city. The bar is most elegantly decorated, displaying both judgment and taste, and is pronounced to be the "Prince of Bars." It is under the sole control of Mrs. Emma Belmont, who is quite capable of discharging the duties entrusted to her. The spacious billiard room is managed by H. Vosper; and the utmost courtesy is displayed by every one connected with this establishment. Adv.

ICE CREAM! ICE CREAM!
THE BEST IN THE CITY.

A. RAFFIGNON

Begs leave to inform the public, and his customers generally, that he has refitted his place, No. 107 King street West, with an elegant new Soda Water Fountain, with the latest improvements, made by Oliver Parker, Toronto, and which will be kept constantly running during the summer season. Also, an elegant Ice Cream Parlor, fitted up to suit the most fastidious taste.

Remember the address—

57-oh NO. 107 KING STREET.
Near the Royal Lyceum

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A LARGE LOT OF

Ladies' Magnificent Costumes

FROM \$2 UP,

JUST ARRIVED.

AT THE "RIGHT HOUSE."

Horrocks' 36-inch White Cotton at a York Shilling; very nice SCARLET FLANNEL, 25c; an immense number of Ladies' and Misses' CANTON HATS, in various styles, at from 12c to 25c. Piles of beautiful fast-colored PRINTS, at from 10c up. A very large quantity of TWEEDS, DRILLS, KENTUCKY JEANS, GAMS, BROOKS, &c., &c., very cheap.

20 Yards of Grey Cotton for \$1.00.

Millinery and Mantles,

In the most Fashionable Styles, and at the Cheapest Rates. SILKS by the Dress, and CARPETS at Wholesale Prices. CARPET YARN for Weavers, and GRAIN BAGS for Millers and Merchants, at Wholesale Prices. FLOOR OIL CLOTHS, very Cheap. REPPS and DAMASKS, at Wholesale to Upholsters and Merchants.

As WATKINS buys his Goods for Cash direct from the Manufacturers in Europe, he is enabled to sell much below usual prices.

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No. 10 James St., near King St.,

HAMILTON.

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EATON'S
CHEAP
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Horrocks' Cotton, yard wide, only 12c.
Cambrie Prints 7c, worth 12c.

Great Bargains in Dresses.

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