

been employing the negro in their factories, pronounce him, for common labour, more efficient and useful than his white rival, and give him credit for the desire and effort to improve and consequent progress in skilled work. Doubtless the coloured men whose merits these employers recognize are the picked men of their race and class. It is, nevertheless, noteworthy that of 9,000 coloured workmen engaged in 300 Southern factories of all kinds, no less than 2,500 were skilled, while the remainder gave general satisfaction. It appears, moreover, that in the matter of wages, the negroes receive the same pay as the whites for the same class of work.

But the fact (if we admit it as proved) that the negro is the equal of the white on his own industrial ground, is more likely to embitter than to mitigate the conflict of race. The utterances that provoked the recent agitation rather go to show that, just in proportion as the brighter and more aspiring negroes of the South become conscious of their superiority to the degraded and worthless class of whites—the “trash” created and fostered by the old dispensation, with its sharply drawn lines, the struggle between the rival races will become more fierce, the jealous hatred more deadly and the task of the peacemaker less hopeful. Rumour is wont to exaggerate, and the situation may be less grave than we have been led to believe. But that a critical hour is approaching it is impossible to ignore.

The recent meeting at Toronto of the American Association for the Advancement of Science seems to have been in every way successful. The 199 papers read covered every department of science from the calculation of the sun's age to the cooking of a beefsteak, on which Mr. Atkinson, the economist, had some useful suggestions to make. There were in all 424 members and associates present, and 201 new members and 72 Fellows were elected. The success of the meeting was largely due to the efforts of Sir Daniel Wilson, Dr. Goldwin Smith, Prof. Carpmal, the Hon. G. W. Ross and other Toronto members who did all in their power to make the visitors feel at home. Canadian hospitality was at its best. The entertainments provided included a largely attended garden party on the lawn of the Government House, and excursions to Niagara Falls and the Muskoka Lakes and Sudbury. Professor Mendenhall and the other officers of the Association expressed the utmost satisfaction with the manner in which the preparations for the meeting had been made and carried out. A lady, who preferred that her name should not be published, gave Professor Putnam, the Permanent Secretary, \$500 as a contribution towards the Association funds for the prosecution of scientific research.

Another meeting, which is likely to grow fruitful in many ways, was the Merchants' Convention that met recently at Hamilton. The address of the chairman, Mr. Knox, and the papers which followed, dealt with almost every subject of interest to the mercantile community. “The changed conditions of business,” “Bankrupt stocks and long credits,” “Selling goods without a profit,” “Insurance,” “Unjust compromise,” “Pedlars,” “The egg and butter trade,” “The evils of the credit system,” were among the topics that gave rise to most earnest discussion. The most important result of the Convention was the creation of a permanent organized body, to be known as the Business Men's Association of Ontario. The objects of this organization are to encourage

well directed enterprise; to promote a high standard of commercial integrity; to bring about co-operation whenever necessary, as in opposing injustice or securing fair concessions; to endeavour to minimize the injury to trade from sales of bankrupt stock and to make the pedlar assume his share of the merchant's burdens.

The Toronto *Merchant*, in commenting on the Convention, points out that of the 730 delegates, the majority consisted of retailers, and notes the soreness exhibited towards wholesalers by some of the speakers at the Convention, especially when discussing combinations and bankrupt stocks. The *Merchant* is, however, pleased to record that so tangible a result has been reached as the formation of a central organization with the object of minimizing the evils complained of. At the same time it points out that, in the United States, where such associations have existed for years, the success of the central or state organizations depends very largely on the vigorous working of local associations. It urges the merchants of Ontario, therefore, to set to work at once in the creation of local bodies, calling upon active business men in Toronto to take the lead.

HAMILTON CITY.

A wholesome rivalry has of late been inspiring the cities both of old and new Canada to add to their attractions while promoting their industrial and commercial importance. In such a race of progress Hamilton was not likely to be last. The name which it earned long ago is unasked testimony to the public spirit and enterprise of its inhabitants. The late carnival has made an impression on those who witnessed it that will carry the evidence of their many-sided energy, their hospitality and good taste to all parts of the Dominion and even beyond its borders. Few towns are, indeed, more favourably situated for the simultaneous development of manufactures, trade and intellectual life. Its site at the western extremity of Lake Ontario is one of the happiest that could be selected. The eminence in its rear—so interesting to the student of the geologic past—contributes not a little to its natural charms and affords a commanding view of a scene which for varied beauty has no superior in our fair country. In the beginning of the present century all that splendid panorama of cultivated land that stretches away for miles and miles in the background was a dense, virtually unbroken, forest. Before the tide of immigration that followed the peace of 1815 had set in, the nucleus of the future city had begun to take shape. Fifteen years later the hamlet had grown to a thriving town, and in 1833 a municipality was organized. The population at that time was about 2,500. Before ten years it was over 7,000. In 1851 it had grown to 14,112, in 1861 it was nearly 20,000, and to-day it cannot be far from 50,000.

That Hamilton is a handsome city it is needless to remind our readers. Its public buildings, banks, schools, churches, and centres of charitable and other institutions are all worthy of its reputation. Its position fits it admirably for trade. It is the centre of one of the most productive agricultural districts in the world. The cereals, vegetables and fruits that may be seen in the Hamilton market are the best advertisement that Canada can show to the curious visitor from Europe. The profusion in which the finest apples, cherries, plums, pears, peaches, and even grapes are raised by the farmers around is extraordinary. For nearly two full gen-

erations the city has had ample railway and steam-boat communication with the rest of Canada and the United States and thus with the whole world. Since 1845 its merchants have been organized as a Board of Trade, and now Hamilton has had the honour of creating a new thing in Ontario—a Business Men's Association. The trade of the city has increased of late years very remarkably, and its manufacturing interests have kept pace with its commerce. Indeed, the factories of Hamilton are among the most extensive, well managed, varied and productive in the Dominion, to whose industrial repute they have greatly added in the chief centres of the United Kingdom and in some of the other colonies. They comprise textile, iron, machinery and various other branches. The sewing machines of Hamilton are famous all over the world.

Intellectually, socially and religiously, Hamilton is behind none of the sister cities which, combined, constitute so large a share of the moral strength of the Dominion. In educational facilities it has always been well provided and has always had the vigorous and hearty co-operation of able and generous-hearted citizens. In the work of philanthropy and charity it is abreast of the best efforts of our enlightened age. On the whole, there are few cities where life can be more pleasantly or profitably spent, or that will more richly repay a visit. This is the universal verdict of all who had an opportunity of seeing Hamilton lately in her gala dress. The carnival, according to the Toronto *Merchant*, “furnished abundant evidences of what Hamilton can do when she puts her best foot forward.” Those who missed it, according to the same authority, “missed one of the finest optical, intellectual and social feasts of a lifetime.” Even the Torontonians who visited Hamilton during that lustrous season was constrained to slay and bury all old jealousies and “to feel a neighbourly pride in the display of wealth and enterprise, to say nothing of the exemplary hospitality of its citizens.”

THE MOUND BUILDERS OF THE NORTH-WEST.

Among papers of interest to Canadians, read at the recent Toronto meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, that of Professor Bryce on the Mound Region of Manitoba deserves special attention. The subject is one on which many volumes have been written by United States archæologists. It is incidentally discussed by Sir Daniel Wilson in his “Prehistoric Man.” The great valley region of the Missouri, Mississippi and Ohio rivers abounds in these relics of a race that has passed away. Such remains are also found in Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota, but until comparatively recently nothing was done to ascertain whether they existed in our own northern country. To the Winnipeg Historical Society belongs the honour of having initiated mound exploration in the Canadian North-West, and the results of the inquiries, conducted mainly under Dr. Bryce's supervision, have been in many ways remarkable. The mounds, Dr. Bryce informs us, have been met with mainly on the Rainy, Red and Souris rivers, and, apart from their peculiar character, are noteworthy as being the most northerly of such finds that research has as yet disclosed. In a previous paper read before the society already mentioned, Dr. Bryce described the Manitoban mound as a “very much flattened cone or round-topped hillock of earth.” From the circumstance