

to multiply our strength everywhere that we can hope to maintain our just demands and make ourselves respected."

We hope this letter will have the effect of stirring up the craft generally, and members of typographical and kindred unions particularly, into active and renewed effort. We trust the lukewarmness which seems, to a great extent, to have taken hold of the organization throughout the United States and Canada, will pass away, and a healthy, energetic and practical movement will not only pervade the whole body, but that the effect of such movement will be felt by every printer on this North American continent.

In this connection we beg to offer a few suggestions and thoughts, which occur to us just now, as to the most feasible and effective way of carrying the International Typographical Union to the van of all labor organizations.

In the first place, there should be unceasing and untiring efforts made for an act of incorporation for the International body. Let that be the first purpose outside of keeping the machinery of the union in good working order. But some will say we cannot get incorporated because a sufficient number of workmen cannot be elected to Congress or Parliament. We ask, why? Simply because the workmen allow themselves to be divided and split up into factions by the politicians and capitalists, who pull together for this purpose and their own aggrandizement, knowing, as they do, that if the workmen were to see, feel and recognize the close brotherhood existing between them, and combine for mutual support and protection, there is no power on earth to prevent them from having as many representatives as they choose. We firmly believe that, under proper leadership, the workmen of the United States, at least, could secure such an act of incorporation, and after they had so taken a step in advance themselves, they might with great mutual benefit aid their Canadian brethren to do likewise.

Another point is, that at the annual gathering of the International body only a small portion of the craft is represented. Every subordinate union should have its representative at these conventions; but many of them are too small and poor to send a delegate. A scheme that would secure a representative from every union would meet with almost universal favor. There is only one way to bring this about, and that is

by the International body paying the expenses of delegates, and taxing the subordinate unions therefor. Representation by proxy has been tried, and has proved a failure. So will any scheme other than allowing subordinate unions to elect their delegates and the International body paying all their expenses from the time they leave their homes until they arrive there again. No other system will ever develop the capabilities of the craft at organization; none other will ever bring together more than a corporal's guard (comparatively speaking); and this is our greatest weakness.

We could say much more on the above topics, but will reserve our remarks for a future number. In the meantime we commend the above to the thoughtful consideration of the officers and members of the International Typographical Union, and all its subordinate branches. We shall be glad to give place in our pages to an interchange of sentiment in this connection, in the hope that it may bring forth fruit at an early day.

#### Technical Education.

The subject of technical education seems to engross the attention of the craft on both sides of the Atlantic, although one must confess that the mother country is far in advance in this matter. The *Scottish Typographical Circular*, in discussing the subject, among other things says:

"Indeed, it is only too true that the sum total of technical education received or possessed by the printers of our day consists of a shifting, hap-hazard, rule-of-thumb expediency, acquired most frequently after the printer becomes a journeyman, at a consequent sacrifice of remuneration, and regulated only by his opportunity or ability to adapt himself to the varied experiences or phases of work which happen to come in his way. It would, of course, be foolish to expect that a systematic and thorough training in the technicalities of his profession would remove all the difficulties and disappointments to which the printer is subjected in his struggle for existence; but that it would remove many of them, by enabling him sooner, and with less pecuniary sacrifice, to adapt himself to a change of circumstances and work, will be readily admitted. Division of labor may be, and doubtless is, a good thing—for the employer, but its immediate effect upon the laborer is to restrict the