

NOTICE.

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

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

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wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not
take responsibility for the opinions of correspond-

All communications should be addressed to the
Day Street, or to Post Office Box 1025.
Our columns are open for the discussion of all ques-
tions 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.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN,
124 BAY STREET.

Meetings of Unions.

TORONTO.

Meetings are held in the Trades' Assembly Hall,
King street west, in the following order:—

Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mon-
days.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Orispins, (159), every Tuesday.
Amalgamated Carpenters, alternate Wednesdays.
Laborers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers and Masons, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

The Amalgamated Society of Engineers, &c.,
meets in Foy's Hall, corner of York and
Richmond sts., on the 2nd and 4th Friday.
The Hackmen's Union meets in the Temper-
ance Hall, on the 1st Monday.
The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Join-
ers meets in the Temperance Hall, Temper-
ance street, on the 1st Friday.
K. O. S. C., No. 315, meets in the Temperance
Hall every alternate Tuesday.

OTTAWA.

Meetings are held in the Mechanics' Hall,
(Rope's Block,) Rideau street, in the follow-
ing order:—

Free-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
Lime-stone Cutters, 1st and 3rd Wednesday.
Masons and Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Council, 1st Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Harnessmakers, 4th Monday.

ST. CATHARINES.

Meetings are held in the Temperance Hall, in
the following order:—

K. O. S. C., 1st Monday.
Tailors, 2nd Monday.
Coopers, 4th Tuesday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD BROTHERS, Newsdealers,
No. 6 Market square, Hamilton, are agents
for the WORKMAN in that vicinity.

Mr. D. W. TERNANT, Niagara Street, St.
Catharines, will receive subscriptions and
give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties
calling on Mr. Ternant will please state if
they wish the paper continued.

TO CITY SUBSCRIBERS.

City subscribers not receiving their papers
regularly, will oblige the proprietors by giving
notice of such irregularity at the Office, 124
Bay street.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 11, 1873.

ELECTION OF WEST TORONTO.

When it became known that the
matter of bringing out a workingman
candidate of their own had been post-
poned for a time, a large number of
representative workingmen held an
informal meeting to consider what
action would be taken, and a committee
was appointed who interviewed the
candidates, and, from what we are in-
formed, at a subsequent meeting it was
resolved they would support the candi-
dature of Mr. Bickford. Various ques-
tions were touched upon—such as the
repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment
Act, a Dominion Lien Law, extension
of the franchise, the contract system of

employing convict labor, etc.; but par-
ticularly did the question of direct
representation of labor in Parliament
come in for discussion. On all these
questions the most explicit answers
were given, and in reference to the latter
point, it was expressly stated that at
the next election for the Local House
Mr. Bickford, the party he represented,
and the organs of that party, would
support a workingman candidate for
that House. In the old country the
labor party have worked in a similar
manner, and by such means the return
of a representative working man will
be made secure. Whilst the working-
men are awaiting the realization of
the power they wield, it must not be
forgotten that they only hold at present,
the balance of power, and they will need
outside assistance to secure success. A
representative workingman candidate
could receive such support from any
party without at all being considered
committed to support the measures of
that party, and only in that independent
spirit could they receive such support
at all. On the present occasion the
workingmen have elected to throw
their influence on the side of Mr.
Bickford, and he has thus become their
candidate, and we record the fact as
such. The matter is now fairly before
them, and we expect they will work
harmoniously and unitedly, keeping the
end in view.

**Workingmen should vote for Mr.
Bickford, who has pledged himself,
the party he represents, and the
organs of that party to sustain a
workingman candidate for the
Local House.**

THE HIGHER WORK OF TRADES
UNIONS.

The legitimate work of all Trades
Unions, we admit, to be DEFENCE—de-
fence of the interests and assertion of
the rights of the worker. The members
of Unions tax themselves voluntarily for
the good of their class and cheerfully
support their brethren, their own
order, when suffering for the assertion
of rights. Money, therefore, is the
basis of their strength—the sinews of
war. They fight against a moneyed
class and a money power, and they can
only fight successfully with similar
weapons. No workingman is just to
his order who refuses to support a
Union, because whether he pays the
tax or not he gets the advantages. The
Union, whatever political economists
may assert to the contrary, keeps up
the rate of wages, and every working-
man would lose far more than the tax
needed for the support of the Union,
if every Trades Union were broken up
and every man left to bargain isolated
and independently with his employer.
Defence, therefore, is the end of Trades
Union, and money is the weapon by
which the defence is sustained.

But the necessity for defence has
created a brotherhood of labor. The
workers meet frequently and regularly
from very habit, and they form an
organization powerful for other objects
and duties, which lie outside of the
direct duty of defence; but which, if
wisely developed and systematized,
would add to their power, their influ-
ence, their prosperity and happiness.
While money is the weapon for defence
against the selfishness of employers,
public opinion is an ally necessary to
sustain the struggle and make it suc-
cessful; and public opinion can only
be influenced by thought and argument,
uttered in language. We have had
some evidence of this in the present
tailors' strike. The employers appeal-
ed to the public—the men appealed to
the public. Each party defended its
position by argument, and found its
advantage according to the ability of
its defence, as well as the justice of its
cause. Now, this suggests the immense
importance of intelligence to work-
men, of ability to reason justly, to
speak well, and write well; and the
Union offers the best advantages for
cultivating this power. Co-operative
societies make it a part of their work
to establish Reading Rooms and Libra-
ries for their members; and it may be

safely stated that much of the intelli-
gence they display in the successful
management of their affairs is largely
due to the mental culture inspired by
habits of reading and thinking. It
would be easy to establish similar means
of culture and enjoyment in connection
with every trade society. Again, the
power to speak and write for the pub-
lic, is, as we said, of the first import-
ance in all free countries where the
Right and the Truth must secure their
supremacy by appeals to the justice and
judgment of men. But this power is so
rarely manifested by working men, that
they too often regard it as a natural gift
rather than the fruit of culture. Even
when admitted to be the result of edu-
cation, it is supposed to require a classi-
cal culture. The truth, however, is,
that a man may by the reading and
study of his own native English, with-
out the aid of any foreign or dead
languages, be able to write well and
forcibly, and to speak with the highest
eloquence. We could crowd this article
with splendid names to illustrate this
statement. But we need no higher
example than those of William Cobbett
or Charles Dickens in literature, or of
Cobden, or Bright, or Spurgeon in
oratory. We have no hesitation in
saying that thousands of the best
newspaper writers of the day have
never studied any language but English.
Let Trades Unions cultivate habits of
mental enquiry and utterance amongst
their members. Let them establish
Reading Rooms, Libraries, and Debat-
ing Societies, in which the members
could acquire the power to speak and to
argue, and be encouraged and stimu-
lated by prizes to write essays on
subjects connected with their own inter-
ests. Let them also follow the example
of the Churches and of Temperance
Societies, and establish winter evening
entertainments of music and recitations.
These and other means of employing
leisure time would add to their public
influence, and give character and dig-
nity to their combinations. But the
higher reward would be the personal
improvement, the moral and intellectual
elevation of their class, and their in-
creased happiness as men. They would
make "the mechanic a better man and
the man a better mechanic." While
personal advancement would be the
sure result, the great object of Union
would receive new power from the
increased intelligence of working men.
They could not only establish their own
press and their own platform, but as
enlightened and educated men be able
to plead their own cause and develop
their own plans; and their power for
good and for their own advancement
would be irresistible. In every struggle
then, when struggle was needed, they
could fight not only by abstinence, but
by that force of opinion which never
fails to conquer when it is supported
by justice. It has been mental and
moral power that has kept them down
and back. The moneyed classes, if they
cannot plead for themselves, can hire
talent and culture to plead for them
and make the worse appear the better
reason. Thus, the moral elements of
society have been arrayed against the
claims of labor. But those elements
are the heritage of no class; and when
working men shall send forth from their
order men of cultivated talents, capable
of defending the Right by just argu-
ment and of refuting error, then the
working classes need never fear misre-
presentation—the moral elements of
society—public opinion will sanction
and establish their just claims.

**Let the workingmen be early at
the polls on Monday next, and vote
for their candidate, Mr. Bickford.**

K. O. S. C.

We have been informed that the
members of the Knights of St. Crispin,
Guelph, are on strike, and they request
all others to give that place a wide berth
for the present.

For all kinds of Plain and Fancy
Printing, go to the WORKMAN Office. Call
and see specimens of work.

THE TAILORS' STRIKE.

The *Globe* of Monday has an article
under the above caption, and its general
tone is, "I told you how it would be!"
The *Globe* says, "we especially con-
demned the 'stand and deliver' atti-
tude assumed by the workmen, which
left no alternative to the masters but
unconditional surrender or the trouble
and inconvenience of a strike at the
beginning of a busy season." On a pre-
vious occasion, when alluding to this
matter, we stated advisedly that before
the men left their employment they had
offered to consult with their employers,
and where it was shown their demands
were exorbitant they would be willing
to make any reasonable concession. Be-
yond this we know that a committee
waited upon the employers to endeavor
to effect a settlement by means of
arbitration, and we know by whom the
overtures were rejected; and how far
this saviors of the employers having
"no alternative but unconditional sur-
render," we leave our readers to judge.
The *Globe* further says, "it is quite
supposable, however, that the masters
may have secured as much labor as
they need without doing anything more
in the case; if so, the workmen have
themselves to blame." Of course, we
are not in a position to say whether or
no the "masters" have secured as
much labor as they need; but we have
read and heard of the expense and
trouble they have put themselves to in
order to get their work out, and we
believe we are correct in saying that
the men who have been engaged to fill
the places of the men out on strike are
receiving all that the men ask and even
more. The *Globe*, however, makes an
assertion for which we were hardly
prepared. It says, "at the same time
when practically the workmen acknowl-
edge that they were rash and high-
handed in what they did it is well that
the employers should meet them in a
kind and liberal spirit, and do the very
best possible for them in the circum-
stances." We believe it is news to the
operative tailors that they have practi-
cally acknowledged that they were
"rash and high-handed." On the con-
trary, we believe they are of the opinion
now, as when they left work, that their
claims were based on justice. If to
acknowledge they were willing to have
a consultation with the merchant tailors,
to submit their case to arbitration, and
be ready to make reasonable concessions
if it was proved that their requests
were more than they ought to be—if
this course of action be construed as an
acknowledgment that they were "rash
and high-handed," then we suppose the
operative tailors have made that ac-
knowledgment from the beginning; but
in our opinion their "high-handed"
conduct would have been shown had
they not been willing to give room for
arbitration—then, indeed, under those
circumstances there might have been
occasion for the remark that the em-
ployers had "no alternative but uncon-
ditional surrender or the trouble and
inconvenience of a strike;" but, as
circumstances alter cases, so the fact of
the operative tailors, from the first,
evidencing a willingness to settle their
dispute by arbitration showed that, far
from acknowledging they were "rash
and high-handed," they considered their
claims were based in justice to them-
selves by their willingness to abide the
result of an enquiry into those claims,
and had the merchant tailors at the
outset met their employees in a "kind
and liberal spirit" we fully believe there
would have been no rupture between
their relations whatever.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We very much regret that we have
mislaid the communication of "D. J.
O'D., Ottawa," alluded to in our last
issue. We hope he will accept this
apology for the non-appearance of his
communication, and we trust he will
favor us with a further communication,
as the subject is one of interest to our
readers. We may, however, possibly
recover the mislaid M.S.S., when we
shall have pleasure in inserting it.
S. R., Toronto.—Communication re-
ceived. All right.

DISGRACEFUL CONDUCT.

On Tuesday night a meeting of work-
ingmen had been called at Blake's
Granary to discuss matters connected
with the election of a member for West
Toronto. The meeting was in the in-
terest of Mr. Bickford, and the speakers
were prepared to advance their reasons
why they had, as workingmen, elected
that gentleman as their candidate and
representative. From the moment, how-
ever, that the chairman was appointed,
it became evident that a number of the
supporters of Mr. Moss, under the
leadership of such men (?) as John
Hollom, Terry-Clark, &c., had made
their way to the hall, not for the pur-
pose of hearing what the speakers had
to say, but for the sole and express pur-
pose of barking free speech. To the
urgent appeals of the chairman that
they would give a fair and impartial
hearing to the speakers, they paid not
the slightest regard, notwithstanding it
was promised that their speakers should
have an opportunity of replying. But
this would not suit the purposes of the
clique, who were determined to prevent
discussion; and the result was that the
meeting throughout was of the most
disgraceful character. So outrageous
was the conduct of Helm, that he had
to be forcibly removed from the build-
ing by the police. Their determined
efforts to bark free speech were not,
however, altogether successful, and we
re-produce in another column an im-
perfect synopsis of the speeches made.

The proceedings throughout were a
disgraceful exhibition of rowdiness of
the lowest stamp, and, if those who
acted so outrageously on the occasion
were of the opinion that in so acting
they were furthering the interests of
their candidate, we can assure them
they are very much mistaken, for we
heard quite a number of intelligent elec-
tors, who went to the meeting to hear
the arguments adduced, and give their
decision accordingly, openly assert that
after such an exhibition of ruffianism,
they would give their votes and all
their influence in favour of Mr. Bick-
ford.

Out of evil comes good, and the
opinion was generally expressed by
those present at the workingman's
meeting, at Blake's Granary,
on Tuesday night, that the dis-
graceful conduct of Dickey &
Neill's "lamps," was as good a
circumstance for Mr. Bickford's
cause as could have occurred.
"Where mob law prevails," said a
bystander, "legitimate argument is
exhausted." Evidently the Govern-
ment party fear to let the intelligent
classes hear the truth, and conse-
quently did not hesitate to employ
their workmen and contractors to
stop the ears of their opponents by
any possible means.

THE WAY IT'S DONE.

We have seen a letter from Montreal
bearing upon the tailor's strike here,
which contains information as to the
means employed by the merchant tailors
of this city to bring workmen here to
fill the places of the men on strike. In
Montreal three Jews, one apprentice and
two women were engaged for a year,
and the most unusual agreement was
made to furnish them with 18 coats per
week, in busy times, and 15 coats per
week in slack times, and if the 15 coats
be not furnished a penalty is to be paid
of \$4 on each coat less that number.
The employers have also bound them-
selves under a penalty of \$800 should
they fail in any of their engagements.
Of course the employers are at liberty
to employ whom they will; but the fact
that they are willing to make with out-
side workmen such arrangements as we
have alluded to above, whilst they have
steadily refused to consider the claims
of the society men in anything like a
fair spirit, shows the animus they en-
tertain towards their late employees.
But a fitting sequel of the means em-
ployed by the merchant tailors to carry
their ends is furnished by the records of
the police courts a day or so ago, when
two of the Jews from Montreal were