

NOTICE.

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

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

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All communications should be addressed to the Editor, 124 Bay Street, or Post Office Box 1025.

We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of correspondents.

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.

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN,
124 BAY STREET.

Trades Assembly Hall.

Meetings are held in the following order:—
Machinists and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.

Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Coachmakers, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Crispins, (159), 1st and 3rd Tuesday.
K.O.S.C. Lodge 356, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Tinsmiths, 2nd and 4th Tuesday.
Cigar Makers, 2nd and 4th Wednesday.
Iron Moulders, every Thursday.
Plasterers, 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Trades' Assembly, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Bricklayers, 1st and 3rd Friday.
Coopers, 2nd and 4th Friday.
Printers, 1st Saturday.
Bakers, every 2nd Saturday.

Messrs. LANCEFIELD, BROS.,
Newsdealers, No. 6 Market Square, Hamilton,
are Agents for the WORKMAN in that
vicinity, who will deliver papers to all parts
of the city.

MR. J. PRYKE, "Workingman's Boot
Store," will also continue to supply papers.

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, MAY 15, 1873.

ON THE MOVE.

We notice that the Trade unionists of Canada are moving towards obtaining a repeal of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. The member for Eastern Toronto last week presented a petition from the Trades' Assembly of this city, and other petitions from various parts of the Province have been forwarded to Mr. Witton, M.P., for presentation. We are afraid, however, that this action has been too long delayed to accomplish the purposes desired this session; but the petitions, will give evidence to the House of the dissatisfaction that is felt with regard to the "Amendment Act." Should nothing be done in the matter this session, it will be no cause for discouragement to those who are making the move, but rather a reproach for their tardiness in completing their arrangements. When the House prorogues, as it will shortly, they must not quietly sit down and fold their arms, waiting till the next session to continue the movement; but in the meantime, now that a beginning has been made, they should continue active, so that the commencement of another session may find them in readiness to carry on their operations. The same contest has been carried on in England year after year, and the desired result has not yet been reached in that country—though it is very near its accomplishment; but we do not think it will require to be agitated year after year so far as Canada is concerned. Let the matter be once fully and fairly brought

before the House, and we are of the opinion that it will be satisfactorily settled.

INCREASED SALARIES.

In the House, on Thursday last, the question of increasing the salaries of the Judges, and various employees of the Government was discussed, and the result was that from the Lieutenant Governors down, the salaries have been increased. The sessional allowance to members, also, was increased to \$10 per day, providing the session be less than thirty days, and if extended beyond that time, they are to receive \$1,000 each, instead of, as before, \$6 per day or \$600 for the session. We notice, also, that it is proposed to increase the pay of the members of the Toronto Police Force.

We do not draw attention to these facts, because we are opposed to the increase—not at all. So far as the officials of the Government are concerned, we are of opinion that there is little or no economy in piling down the salaries of efficient public servants to the last cent, no matter what may be the sphere in which their energies find vent; and as for the members of the police force, no one who takes into consideration the cost of living, could imagine for a moment that \$1.10 per day—the pay of some of the men—is sufficient to sustain them in comfort; and, therefore, we trust the latter will be equally successful as the former in receiving an increase. But what we desire to draw attention to is the ease and facility with which these increases have been made; but when it is the mechanic who asks an advance of pay to the extent of perhaps fifty-two dollars a year, there is too often a hue and cry raised "that the country is going to be ruined," and such like; and it frequently happens that it is only after a resort to the harsh measure of a strike that the advance is conceded. We all know the hullabaloo that was raised last summer when the short time question was being agitated, and the direful predictions that were then made by its opponents. To a certain extent the movement was a success, and we would like to ask what loss has been inflicted upon the country thereby? Of course, we would not dream of making this enquiry from those who, by their continued obstinacy and opposition to the reform, have closed their doors to superior workmen, and have been compelled to employ such other material as they could command. But the question may fairly be put to those who, from the first, have been working under the short time system, and we believe it cannot be shown that there has been the slightest loss whatever, but on the contrary somewhat of gain.

THE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The annual meeting of the members of this institution was held on Monday last, at which there was a large assemblage present. The chair was occupied by the President, Mr. Sweetnam. The report read proved a very satisfactory one. During the year there had been a very large increase of membership—the gain being nearly fifty per cent. The funds were also in a flourishing condition. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. W. Sweetnam; 1st Vice-President, Mr. Thos. Davidson; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. Jno. Shanklin; Treasurer, Mr. Thomas Maclear; Directors, Messrs. Fensom, Ritchie, Gibson, Hall, Hartell, Ashfield, Courtenay, Taylor, Samuel, Matthews, Morrison and Ramsay. We trust the future operations of this admirable institution will be increasingly useful and prosperous.

RECREATION.

We are pleased to notice that large numbers of the city of this city, are making the best of the Saturday half-holiday, by indulging in the healthful exercise of base ball. Clubs have been formed, and for the past few weeks matches have regularly been played. So far the *Leader* boys take the lead.

THE ATLANTIC DISASTER.

In the Dominion Parliament, on Saturday, Mr. Joly drew the attention of the House to a matter which, he said, was sure to elicit the sympathies of all the members. He then alluded to the courage and devotion displayed by the Rev. Mr. Ancient, on the occasion of the wreck of the ill-fated "Atlantic," and thought that the country should acknowledge his gallant heroism, and give an expression of the appreciation in which such devotion must be held by the House. The people who had lived on the coast where the vessel was wrecked, were also spoken of. They had but poor means, but whilst their homes were poor, their hearts were warm, and the hospitality and kindness which they displayed on this melancholy occasion were also worthy of recognition by the House and the country. Hon. Mr. Mitchell, Minister of Marine and Fisheries, said that since the Government had entered upon the system of giving rewards for the saving of life it had been his great aim to let the whole world know that wherever aid was given, not only in our own waters, but in many parts of the world to the seamen of Canada, that the Government had always thanked any gallantry of conduct or any brave effort in a suitable manner, and he was glad to say that Parliament had always seconded their efforts in this direction. He would therefore say that suitable steps would be taken to convey to Rev. Mr. Ancient an acknowledgement of his gallant conduct, as well as to the people on the coast.

DISASTER TO CAPTAIN HALL'S EXPEDITION.

The news of the dreadful disaster which has overtaken Captain Hall's Arctic Expedition, will be read with regret by all. One half of the crew were separated from the ship in a storm, and drifted about among the ice-fields for several months, enduring much suffering, and were finally rescued by the steamer "Tigris." Captain Hall is reported as having died in an apoplectic fit, though there are suspicions that he was killed by one of his men in a mutiny, as Dr. Hayes, the well-known Arctic explorer states he never knew any one to die of apoplexy in that region. Dr. Hall had penetrated further north with his ship than any of his predecessors, although others have gone as far in sledges, the "Polaris" reaching 219 miles further north than Dr. Kane's ship.

A THREATENED WAR.

It is reported that the King of Ashantell, one of the most extensive and powerful sovereigns of Western Africa, has taken it into his wise head to declare war against Great Britain. His army, 35,000 strong, is marching from their capital, and threatening Elmina, a fortified town on the Guinea coast. As Gerald Massey says:

"The lion will open his ponderous jaws,
And wag his dubious tail,"

and down will go the poor King. By the way, we have often wondered what Gerald meant when he talks about the *dubious* tail. Perhaps by and by he will enlighten our darkness on the subject.

EXTRAVAGANCE—POVERTY.

In a lace house in Paris, there hangs a picture, illustrating an incident to which attaches a notoriety that has to a certain extent become historical. This picture is a photograph of the celebrated and memorable lace purchased by Kate Chase.

It was understood and generally conceded to be the finest point lace ever seen or ever made. England's Queen and the then reigning Goddess of Fashion, the French Empress, considered it too expensive and would not purchase it; and it would no doubt have remained unsold to this day had the owner been restricted to an European purchaser. But though the sovereigns of the old world could not afford to buy it, the wife of an American Senator (Sprague) did not hesitate to pay eighteen thousand dollars in gold for it. When it was understood that there were but six and one half yards in the piece,

the magnitude of the price paid may be imagined, if not comprehended.

We give this simply as an instance or a sample of the reckless extravagance that has become a national characteristic of wealthy Americans. We might add and add to this instance thousands of others, and continue adding until there would loom up a mountain superfluous, luxurious extravagance that would

"O'er top old Pelion or the skyish head
Of blue Olympus,"

or beside which Ossa would seem "like a wart." But it would be a work of supererogation, as these things are familiar to every man and woman in the land. We have all heard of the two young misses in San Francisco, who sent an agent in Paris an order for eighty-five dresses; we have all heard of, and many of us have seen the palaces which have been, and are being built all over the country. We all know that when one millionaire finishes a dwelling, rivaling in grandeur and splendor, the magic creations of Aladdin, that it is the ambition of his neighbor to erect something more imposing, more lofty, more spacious and of more ambitious architecture. The brain of the architect is taxed and fatigued in devising and forming plans to vary the ornamental contour of the exterior, and give a grand and magnificent effect to the general appearance. The finest lumber is secured, distant quarries are exhausted—no pains or expense spared in furnishing the best and dearest material.

The interior surpasses and transcends the exterior beyond our power of description, if not our power of comprehension. The very abode of Luxury, the nest of Ease, or the couch of Indolence and Effeminacy could add nothing to the sumptuous grandeur of the scene. The walls are relieved—hidden by immense gold framed mirrors and paintings of a fictitious value so astounding that our finite mind fails to comprehend it without a serious and laborious effort; the floors are carpeted with the choicest productions of Turkey and Brussels; the mantels and chimney pieces are of the finest Egyptian or Italian marble, carved and wrought into the most elaborate designs; the most exquisite and costliest tissues and laces curtain the windows; the furniture is all of the latest Parisian pattern. Veins of hot and cold water run all through the house, baths are found on every floor, pipes convey streams of gas to every apartment, jets of white flame burst out and flood the building with soft, mellow light, at the will of the occupant. The saloons Shilimar, the imperial palaces of Feramoza, or even the paradise of the Peri, or any scene of Oriental splendor ever conceived in the mind of the most imaginative poet, could scarcely excel, in imagery of thought, that which exists in reality in the homes of hundreds of American millionaires.

We may well be excused for commenting upon the extravagance of our aristocracy when foreigners, who are familiar with the modes and habits of living of the upper grades of European society, express their undisguised astonishment at the reckless manner Americans squander and spend money both at home and abroad. But we have not drawn attention to this state of things merely for the gratification of an envious feeling; we experience no such sentiment, and if we did we would be a far greater fool than the stupidest ignoramus among those dyspeptic, enervated, epicurean, animalized creatures. They are to be pitied rather than envied. After a man has once secured a competence, prudence and common sense should tell him that all further efforts to farther accumulate are senseless and suicidal. More than a competence cannot add to a man's happiness; it will not give him a power to further indulge his appetite with impunity; it can not add to his creature comforts, and these people know but comparatively little about the enjoyment of æsthetic tastes. We fail to see how the addition upon addition of jewels, and lands and houses, can enhance a man's happiness after he has already secured abundance of these things. We are rather of the opinion that a further increase of wealth would add to a man's

physical and mental troubles and perplexities.

Goldsmith, in his "Citizen of the World," tells us about a Mandarin who took great pride in appearing on the street, in a robe covered with jewels. On one occasion he was accosted by a sly old bonze, who, following him through several streets and bowing to the ground, thanked him for his jewels. The Mandarin, becoming very angry, cried out, "What do you mean? I never gave you any of my jewels." "No," replied the bonze, "but you have let me look at them, and that is all the use you can make of them yourself; so there is no difference between us, except that you have the trouble of watching them, and that is an employment I don't much desire."

No, we do not envy the rich man, his houses, his gold or his lands, and we could afford to smile at his extravagant expenditure of treasure were it not for the source whence this treasure is obtained. Were it not that wealth breeds poverty, and poverty in turn breeds wealth, we might pity rather than condemn the reckless, unrestrained and wasteful prodigality of the rich. It may be said that a woman has a perfect right to waste her substance in purchasing a flimsy tissue, or in any other manner congenial to her tastes or consonant to her desires. To this we reply that our objection does not extend so much to the manner in which the substance was wasted, as to the manner in which it was originally obtained. Self-indulgence and indolent luxury are in themselves an evil which may possibly be mixed with a shade of negative good. But when the means—money—by which this self-indulgence and luxury are attained, is stripped and wrung from hundreds of poor toilers, the evil becomes intensified and unmixd. Senator Sprague is, perhaps, the largest employer of labor in the State of Rhode Island, and it was by compelling the poor men, women and children in his employ to labor long hours for little pay, that he was enabled to amass so much wealth that his wife knew not how better to expend it than to throw away eighteen thousand dollars, in gold, on a few yards of lace. The evil stands glaringly out in bold relief, when we remember that the amount expended on this trifle would purchase the entire wardrobe of nearly one thousand of the factory girls employed by this woman's husband, and what makes it still worse is the fact that the greater portion of this money was legally stolen from these poor girls.

Our only objection to the erection of costly palaces lies in the startling fact, that whenever one of these edifices goes up the cottages of the poor shrink in size, appearance and comfort, in the same ratio that the palace expands in beauty, comfort and grandeur. A farmer's field we once saw, was dotted over with a number of conical heaps of stone about the same shape and size. Some boys conceiving the idea of building a tower of Babel, or pyramid of Egypt, according to their juvenile fancy, set to work in the centre of this field; to every separate heap, a boy was detailed by the chief, and soon the stones began to flow in a steady stream toward the centre, where the mammoth pile gradually rose and overshadowed its fellows. But as the big pile loomed steadily up, the smaller ones sank steadily down. This same effects is noticeable wherever grand mansions, brown stone or marble fronts are erected. Vast fortunes are ever accumulated at the expense of the people, except in very rare instances; and the power of these aggregations of wealth to press upon the people increase with their bulk and magnitude. These accumulations of money, or centralizations of capital, are a good deal like a gigantic snowball. With every revolution, the ball becomes larger, its power to gather more snow becomes greater, and as it rolls over the field it leaves a barren track behind it. The height above a common level to which a rich man ascends, is about the depths below the level to which the poor man descends. The earth to form a mound is taken from a ditch, and the height of the mound generally corresponds with the depth of