

NOTICE.

I shall be pleased to receive items of interest to the Trade Societies from all parts of the Dominion. Officers of Trades Unions, Secretaries, etc., are invited to send us news relating to their organizations, condition of trade, etc.

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All communications should be addressed to the Editor, Bay Street, or to Post Office Box 1025. No 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 the signature, 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:—
The shipwrights and Blacksmiths, 1st and 3rd Mondays.
Painters, 1st and 3rd Monday.
Tailors, 2nd and 4th Monday.
Carpenters, 1st and 3rd 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 Temperance Hall, on the 1st Monday.
The Friendly Society of Carpenters and Joiners meets in the Temperance Hall, Temperance 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, (Rowe's Block,) Rideau street, in the following 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.
Harnesmakers, 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. TERNENT, Niagara Street, St. Catharines, will receive subscriptions and give receipts for the WORKMAN. Parties calling on Mr. Ternent 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. 4, 1873.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION OF LABOR IN PARLIAMENT.

The question of direct representation of Labor in Parliament has, from time to time, been discussed, and the advantages which would follow, pointed out. The desire of workingmen to have their interests directly represented in the councils of the nation is not confined to this country or continent, but in the mother country, for years, the matter has been seriously contemplated, and at no previous time has the history of the Labor Reform Movement given evidence of greater activity and earnestness amongst the toilers to accomplish this end, than we see displayed by them at the present. Hardly an old country

exchange reaches us, but its columns tell of meetings being held with this one object in view, and if these persistent and earnest efforts are continued, there can be no possible doubt of their eventually succeeding—success being merely a question of time.

So far as we in Canada are concerned, the question of direct representation in Parliament has not received that earnest and close attention that the subject demands. It has been talked about—but if anything in this direction is really to be accomplished, something more than mere talking and arguing will be necessary.

For the past few weeks the question of bringing out a Workingman Candidate for the Dominion Parliament, to contest the Western Division of this city, has been mooted, but there are obstacles in the way at the present time, which cannot be overcome, though there is little doubt that such a candidate could be successfully returned were it possible to bring one forward. The satisfactory and successful working out of this question, then, will depend upon future action; and it will be well if this matter is not lost sight of during, and after, the heat of the present contest. The Local Parliament does not offer so many obstacles to a workingman, there being no property qualification necessary; and, therefore, to that House they can turn their attention with greater prospects of success.

In the meantime, though the workingmen have not a candidate of their own to support, it is not intended to let the present opportunity pass without improvement. A committee, on behalf of the organized workingmen, will wait upon the candidates in the field, and ascertain their views and opinions upon questions affecting them as a class. At the present writing, we are not able to state any particulars, but possibly may be able to do so in this, or, if not, in our next issue.

IS IT TRUE?

We have frequently heard it asserted, during the past few days, that a large portion of the labor in connection with the Canada Car Company works is supplied by the Ontario Government, at the expense of the country. The contract, on the part of the Ontario Government, was to supply that company with the labor of a certain number of convicts, at 55c. per day for the first two years, and the assertion is that being unable to fulfil that contract, the Government are paying the difference between 55c. and the wages of skilled artificers. We know not what truth there may be in the assertion, but as it is current, it is necessary that some definite information should be given the public at once, that its truth or falsity may be known.

A TORONTONIAN'S RECOLLECTION OF LORD BROUGHAM.

COMMUNICATED.

The promoters of the most beneficent movements are but too soon forgotten. Since, however, it fell to my lot some half century ago to make the acquaintance of the distinguished man above-named, (and it gives me pleasure to reflect upon my subsequent interviews with him,) I have thought it possible that by jotting down some of my reminiscences, I might thereby communicate a kindred sentiment to others.

The period to which I refer was that which witnessed the foundation of the London University, the distinguishing feature of which is that it repudiates all distinction of creed, and consequently maintains no barriers for the exclusion of merit wherever it may be found. Lord Brougham was not only one of the principal originators of this University, but continued to foster it and to preside over it up to the time of his decease.

A less distinguished institution, and one which may be said to have contained within itself the seeds of dissolution, arose about this time, and although it owed its origin to the same active mind as did the University, yet even Lord Brougham could not withstand the effect of a fatal mistake. The Useful Knowledge Society is the institution to which

I refer, and from the first it labored under the disadvantage of being of too utilitarian a character. The presidency of the present Earl Russell, and the co-operation of others of the same school, gave it no immunity from the attacks of the late Mr. Cobdett, the author of an English Grammar, "Legacy to Parsons," &c. Mr. C. suggested that weary artificers, after a day's toil, require something more refreshing than treatises on abstruse subjects, and proposed "The culture of cabbages," "Care of animals," &c., as subjects more suitable for the supper hour.

The advice thus tendered was so far accepted that books of entertaining knowledge were substituted for the so-called "useful," and all parties were, doubtless, edified accordingly. Efforts of this kind were the natural precursors of Mechanics' Institutes, which, with Dr. Birkbeck at their head in London, were indebted to the advocacy of Lord Brougham, to the lavish hospitality of the late Sir Benjamin Heywood, and to a coterie of such men as Dr. Dalton, of Manchester; Dr. Sheppard and James Yates, of Liverpool; Dr. Stanley, the late Bishop of Norwich, &c., for their existence. The mention of Sir Benjamin Heywood's liberality (involving an outlay of many thousand dollars per annum), leads me to remark, by the way, that it would be well if in our own day, Sir Benjamin's aims and those of his coadjutors were imitated in relation to social meetings of classes usually kept apart. It was Sir Benjamin's practice to hold conversaziones, to which all were invited who were interested in each other's intellectual, moral and social advancement. It is evident that as individuals advance in personal culture, the barriers which at present separate classes will gradually give way, and each added opportunity for social intercourse will contribute something towards so desirable a consummation. It was at assemblies of the character of those just mentioned, where I had from time to time met Lord Brougham and other celebrities of the period which he adorned. The Manchester Mechanics' Institution was our gathering place, and as Christmas came round the season was duly celebrated by serving up the boar's head, by the burning of the yule log, by waites, cards and addresses suited to the occasion. On one of these occasions Lord Brougham gave us the benefit of his advice on the subject of public speaking. That advice was essentially of a common-sense character, and consisted simply of urging the indispensable importance of knowing something of the subject on which one ventures to speak in public. He remarked that under such circumstances the words might safely be left to flow naturally, and that the speaker "had a right to violate the Queen's English occasionally."

It was not a little refreshing to hear the man who, in 1802, could speak of himself as being "full of mathematics and everything relating to colonies," so recently as 1860 expressing a lively interest in our own beloved country, and advocating the maintenance of her connection with the parent stock. On this occasion I called at Brougham Hall, near Penrith, and conversed for some two hours with its noble owner. Here was the man who had not only lived at time when "the horrors of the slave trade were tolerated" by Great Britain, but had contributed the whole weight of his influence towards its abolition, still debating the prospects of slavery on this Continent. Although conscious of "the vast reforms and improvements in all our institutions, social as well as political," he had been instrumental in effecting, he had certainly lived to illustrate the possibility of arguing and acting on a false premise. He had in his earlier days assumed that education would work moral marvels, and he lived to express his disappointment at the inadequate results of his experience in relation to it.

In the initiatory columns of the *Edinburgh Review* (to which he contributed more than any other writer), he systematically advocated the cause of the United States, but like most men who preceded him, and who will follow,

he realized the difference between the ardent assumptions of youth and the matured experience of his latter days.

He frankly confessed his deep disappointment at the result of the grand experiment involved by the political constitution of a neighboring Republic. Before bringing these remarks to a close, it may be of interest to observe that early in August, 1806, the English Government had received intelligence of the intention of Napoleon to invade Portugal, with an army of 30,000 men, then assembled at Bayonne. The Ministers thereupon resolved to send an army to the Tagus, to be there met by a competent naval force. The combined forces were intrusted to the command of Lord St. Vincent and Lieutenant General Simcoe, with full powers, conjointly with Lord Rosslyn, to negotiate with the Court of Lisbon. Lord Brougham accompanied this special mission to the Portuguese Court, nominally in the capacity of Secretary (in order that a needless multiplication of offices might be avoided), but in reality he acted in all respects as a fourth Commissioner.

General Simcoe was taken ill on his passage out, and became so much worse after his arrival in Lisbon, that he was compelled to return to England, where he shortly afterwards died.

I shall conclude these reminiscences with an illustration of Lord Brougham's practical wisdom. "Now I own," said he on one occasion, "my rule being before the moment of action, always to prepare for the worst, and in the moment itself, to listen to nothing but confidence and hopes. I am always (in every situation) as gloomy while planning as I am resolute in shutting my eyes to the dark side while executing. Therefore, I am now, and have been for some time past, preparing for the worst—I hope without any great reason, but it is safest."

It is a remarkable coincidence that on my arrival in Liverpool in 1868, the first intelligence that reached me was that of the decease of Henry Lord Brougham.

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

By reference to our advertising columns, it will be seen that Mr. MALLON is a candidate for aldermanic honors for St. Patrick's Ward. Mr. Mallon has been long and favorably known to the electors of that ward, and will undoubtedly make an able representative in the City Council.

Mr. JOHN P. BOND has announced himself a candidate to represent St. Andrew's Ward at the ensuing term. His numerous friends are sanguine of his successful return, and we believe he would make a faithful and energetic representative.

Mr. E. DODDS, of the *Star*, is a candidate for aldermanic honors. In the columns of his paper he has fought the people's battles, and he will no doubt be returned with a large majority for St. Andrew's Ward.

Mr. JAMES SPENCE is again out as candidate to represent the noble ward at the Council Board. Mr. Spence confidently relies upon his numerous friends for a triumphant return.

In St. Lawrence Ward, Messrs. Close, Britton and Wm. Hamilton, jr., have formed a ticket, and one, we think, it will be hard to beat. All the candidates are known as men possessing energy and ability; and two of the three have a past record in the service of the public that will assist them in the present contest.

Mr. J. P. WAGNER is in the field as a candidate for aldermanic honor. An energetic canvas gives promise of a successful return.

Mr. WM. THOMAS.—This gentleman is again coming forward for re-election as alderman for St. Andrew's Ward. It will be remembered that at the last election for Water Commissioner, Mr. Thomas was disqualified from running, as he was not a resident in the city, his residence being then outside the city limits. He having since then removed back to the city, he is now fully qualified for the position he seeks. His

past record is favorable, and his past faithful service should entitle him to a continuance of the support of the electors.

THE MAYORALTY.

Mr. A. M. SMITH has received a numerous signed requisition to allow himself to be put in nomination for the office of mayor at the ensuing election, to which he has yielded, and he is now seeking the suffrages of the electors for that position. Mr. Smith is well known to our citizens, having been a representative in Parliament for West Toronto, and in the performance of the duties devolving upon the chief magistrate of our city, his abilities will find ample scope.

Mr. A. MANNING also solicits the votes and support of the electors for re-election as Mayor for the ensuing term.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—The letters of D. J. O'D., Ottawa, and R. F., Toronto, came to hand too late for insertion in the present issue. They will both appear in our next.

Workmen began, on Wednesday, on the site of the centennial Exposition building at Philadelphia, to make sundry excavations, the operations being witnessed with unusual interest. The first work to be done is the sinking of wells, from which the water needed during construction will be taken.

Correspondence.

FALLACIES ABOUT WEALTHY MEN.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)

SIR,—There is no greater obstacle to human progress than established opinion. The creed of the multitude, whether of religion or politics is more potent than law. We may assent and violate an unjust law, if its injustice is admitted; but when an opinion is established, and accepted from generation to generation, without question or dissent, it becomes sacred, not because it is just, but because it is established. It is thus that Error becomes hallowed and then omnipotent. We believe more from habit than from persuasion and conviction, and when the Reformer rises and announces his discovered truth, his greatest obstacle is the orthodox faith in error, the habit of believing that whatever is, is right, and all change or doubt is heretical, wrong and wicked.

It is this habit of belief in the established creed of political economists, that forms the greatest obstacle to the emancipation of Labor from its present dependence on Capital. We believe in rich men. We attach special virtues and talents to their order. We accept the creed that we cannot do without them, that they are a divine institution, and that the world would perish without their assistance. It is an old doctrine, taught alike by political economist, moralist, and divine, that "there must be rich and poor"—not as a consequence of selfish monopoly or improvidence and ignorance, but as a law of the universe, established for the happiness of mankind. The doctrine is a very satisfactory and consolatory one to the rich man. It is very comfortable to his conscience, and flattering to his vanity to believe that "heaven has blessed his store," and made him the patron and benefactor of his species—paying him very well for his work. But when that belief stands as an obstacle to human progress; when the great wealth-producing classes cling to the faith that God designed them to toil, and thankfully receive back from their masters a pittance out of the wealth they created, just enough to subsist upon, and wisely meted out and restricted, so as to make them for life bond-servants and dependent on the rich; the doctrine is false, selfish and detestable; unjust both to God and man, and standing in the way of every effort to elevate the condition and increase the happiness of the multitude.

Let us then without fear examine the fallacies springing from this false faith. The first fallacy is that the prosperity of a community is due to its rich men. Let us not deny the evidences of history. We admit the fact; we deny the truth. The leading merchants of commercial countries have been the active and successful agents of trade and commerce, and by their skill and knowledge have sustained the business transactions of the country. But they have not created the produce of any country, and they have not inspired the demand which causes trade. If, in any community there should be a boot and shoe merchant, buying and selling a certain quantity of boots and shoes; and another merchant with equal capital and another stock equal to the first should enter the com-