

# Ontario Workman

THE EQUALIZATION OF ALL ELEMENTS OF SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL SCALE SHOULD BE THE TRUE AIM OF CIVILIZATION.

VOL. II.—No. 48.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1874.

No. 100.

## Correspondence.

### THE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY.

(To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.)  
SIR.—It is not a little remarkable that I should have resided upwards of six months in Toronto without having discovered that the above designation represents something more than a name (now styled the School of Practical Science). I have not only lived within a stone's throw of the building, but have entered it frequently, and communicated with several officials beneath its roof, and yet I visited the College proper for the first time a few days since, through the courtesy of one who, doubtless, is the life of it. As I am one of that numerous host who have some acquaintance with those apologies for a home, called boarding-houses, I discovered this collegiate refuge for the destitute with the greater glee, and I venture to address you on this subject, with the two-fold object of expressing my appreciation of the wisdom and foresight of the Government in fostering such an institution, and that of pointing out its merits to the multitude who, in probable ignorance of its value, are squandering money and time on less worthy objects. Here I found several well-appointed rooms, in some of which were about forty pupils, engaged in free-hand and mechanical drawing. They have the advantage of the oversight of an accomplished artist, whose pleasure coincides with his vocation to instruct. In addition to cheerily lighted rooms, the pupils' appliances are furnished at cost price, and at the educator, in the present instance, is not of the mud-rake class, the scholars are not molested in commissions, &c., but enjoy this inestimable boon without charge. A valuable library is accessible at the Institution, on Saturdays from 2 to 5 o'clock, and from 7 to 9 o'clock on Tuesdays also from 7 to 9 o'clock. Pending negotiations in relation to the building, the Government, it appears, contemplate developing the present scheme in the much needed direction of a school of mines, &c., &c. With many things in the country (as I am free to confess) repulsive to an upright mind, I desire to express, perhaps the more cordially, my heartfelt appreciation of the privilege of access which I enjoy—not only to the Institution in question, but to the Library of University College, and to the Reading Room of the Young Men's Christian Association, each of which, in their several degrees, and in their accessibility, I regard as grounds of gratulation to the country.

Allow me to remark, in conclusion, that I hope the claims of the ladies will not be overlooked in connection with the new arrangements at the School of Practical Science.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
DAVID EDWARDS.  
34 Bond St., 9th March 1874.

### TRANSPPOSITION No. 2.

Mal res. Jue.  
The az. ran.  
Pur can mea.  
Nil tnp. ase.  
The gan seem.

McG.

### St. Catharines.

### GEOGRAPHICAL CHARADE No. 2.

A river in the East.  
One of the United States.  
And ancient city.  
A city in South America.  
A province in Ireland.  
A kingdom in Europe.  
A kingdom in Africa.  
A place of pilgrimage in the East.  
An extinct Kingdom.  
A city in Italy.  
A city in Ontario.  
An ancient City.  
A river in Germany.  
My initials read downward, will give the name of an American Poet.

McG.

### St. Catharines.

The Right Hon. Wm. E. Gladstone has definitely retired from the leadership of the Liberal party.

There was an eloquent in Ottawa last Friday night. A lady named Bush, aged sixteen, eloped with a fourteen year old girl. That is carrying out the principle of "going it while you are young," with a vengeance.

## Labor Notes.

The carpet weavers of Dewsbury are discussing the necessity for a trades union.

At a recent meeting of the Wislaw miners it was agreed to start a benefit society, in connection with the union, for cases of sickness, accident, and death.

The colliers in the mines at Somersetshire have struck work. They demand an increase of pay. The miners are determined and a strike is threatened.

At a special meeting on Monday, of the Cutter's Branch of the Crispin Society of New York, it was voted to strike to-day for 8 hours work. There are about 300 members, over half of whom have been compelled to work 10 hours a day.

At a recent meeting of the delegates from the London Street Masons—generally known as York and granite masons—the preliminary steps were taken from the consolidation of the whole body throughout the United Kingdom.

Several trade organizations held a meeting last Monday at the Germania Rooms New York, to protest against the action of "super-vising Architect Mullett, who is supposed to be in favor of disregarding the eight hour system."

The strike among the employees of several shoe factories in Philadelphia, reported last week, has ceased, the manufacturers conceding the demands of the strikers. This success has induced the workmen of other shops, as might have been expected, to make the same attempt, so that three more shops are declared out by the committee. No doubt they will be settled the same as the two former, by returning to the old wages. The factories employ together about 300 hands.

At a meeting of the Amalgamated Engine-Drivers and Stokers, held at the Lamb Tavern, Bethnal-green-road, on the 27th ult., after Mr. Charles Noble (in the chair) had explained the objects of the society, the yearly balance sheet was submitted by the secretary. After deducting expenses, a balance of nearly £40 remains in the banker's hands. Several fresh entries having been made, the meeting was adjourned. The members number between 60 and 70.

Sir Thomas Biddulph has just replied to the letter of Mr. Joseph Arch, president of the Labourers' union, respecting the reports by the special correspondent of the *Labourers' Chronicle* as to the unsatisfactory condition of the Queen's labourers at Osborne. He says:—"All persons employed here by her Majesty have the means of representing their case to me, who act in the matters on behalf of her Majesty. I must therefore decline to enter into a correspondence with third parties on a subject which I cannot admit to be one in which their interference would be justifiable."

## LABOR PORTRAITS.

Men who, in advance of law and in opposition to prevailing opinion, have forced into national recognition the hitherto disregarded rights of labor.

### THOMAS BURT.

SECRETARY, NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS; AND  
M. P. FOR MORPETH.

Thomas Burt, who has been returned as member of Parliament by the workmen of Morpeth, was born on 12th November, 1837, at Morton Row, Percy Main, near North Shields. While he was yet a child 17 months old his parents removed to Whitley, from which, however, they had to shift a year afterwards when the pit, was thrown out of gear by an explosion. Their next place of abode was New row, Seghill, now styled Blake Town. Here the family found a home, and plenty of hard work, if little else, for the next five years. Here also young Thomas began that course of learning which has availed him so much in later years, first at a dame's school, then at a more advanced seminary. But while young Burt was picking up such scraps of knowledge as the village school provided, other lessons were being represented to him which made a deep impression on his youthful mind. It was in 1844, when he was only in his seventh year, that the first great strike of miners occurred of which he can have had any experience. Evictions were carried out wholesale. The Burt family, like so many others, had to turn out and shift for themselves as best they could. After seven years they

settled at Seaton Delaval Colliery. Here began that course of self-culture which has gone so far to making up the deficiencies of Mr. Burt's early education. Fortunately for him, there was quite a number of young men in the village who were fond of reading, and eager for useful knowledge. To these young Thomas was drawn by community of tastes and wishes, and by mutual help they made fair progress in their studies, although at that period fourteen or fifteen hours out of the twenty-four were consumed between leaving and returning home.

The year 1860 brought a double crisis in his career. He removed to Choppington and took unto himself a wife—Mary, daughter of Thos. Weatherburn. Marriage in no degree lessened his diligence in study or his devotion to the welfare of those around him. Logic and poetry divided his attention about equally between them. While at Choppington he was secretary of the District Temperance Society, and also of the School Committee—the school being under the joint management of employers and workmen. These honorable distinctions implied that he had already possessed the confidence of the best men in the colliery. It is only right to add, in this place that Mr. Burt, who was to become champion and representative of the Northumberland miners in their negotiations with their employers, acquired none of the admirable fitness he displays in such delicate matters from personal experience of oppression.

It was early in 1864 that Mr. Burt was chosen delegate by the Choppington men to represent them in the council of the union. The Society at that time was the Northumberland and Durham Miners' Association. At a meeting held at Plessey, Mr. Burt proposed the separation of the two counties for union purposes, and this was carried. Whereupon the northern miners were enrolled under the designation of the Northumberland Miners' Confident Association. The Durham miners did not organize themselves until two years later. In 1865 the office of agent to the union fell vacant by the resignation of Mr. Crawford who now fulfils a similar office for the Durham Association. The men of Choppington immediately expressed their earnest desire that Mr. Burt should allow himself to be put forward as a candidate for the vacant post. At first he refused the solicitations of his fellow workmen; but at a second meeting in reference to the vacant secretaryship, they pressed him so warmly that he consented—little dreaming that the nominee of the Choppington men would be successful in the competition. But miners and their interests were under a cloud, and, by general consent, Thomas Burt was felt to be the most competent guide to a happier state of things.

The great Crumlington strike had been in force more than six months in that gloomy year of 1865, when Mr. Burt was called upon to assume the direction of the union. At that time the association numbered only four thousand members; and, if we remember rightly, the first balance sheet he had, in his official capacity, to submit for approval, showed a balance of only £23 to the good. And this in the thick of an extensive strike. How the new secretary labored and schemed and struggled to carry his charge through their terrible conflict, perhaps no one really knows but himself, and that, with a man like him, is equivalent to saying no one ever will know. The men behaved with heroic self-restraint and fairness. Their noble attitude elicited so much sympathy from their brethren in all parts of the country that, after \$4,000 had been collected and expended in assisting them to stand out, a balance of £700 was left over when the strike was brought to an end. This surplus, at the suggestion of the new secretary, was made the nucleus of a central fund, instead of being portioned out either amongst the several collieries in the union, which had previously kept each its own money. That useful nucleus has by this time reached the handsome sum of more than £16,000, while the number of members has increased, during Mr. Burt's connection with the society, from 4,000 to upwards of four times four thousand.

The meeting of the Miners' National Conference held in Newcastle during the month of August, 1868, brought Mr. Burt into greater prominence than he had previously acquired, partly by several instances of what may be called his remarkable administrative sagacity, and partly because of his connection with the Crumlington strike, which had then been proceeding for twenty-three weeks. The serious lessons of the Crumlington strike not only strengthened Mr. Burt's opinion, but

the value of preconcert in view of such trade disturbances, but it would seem to have suggested to him that if the miners were thoroughly organized their influence would be sufficiently consolidated to stand on something like a footing of equality with that of capital and thus in all probability strikes would be averted, which was a far more desirable solution of trade difficulties than the old-fashioned lock-out or strike, by which both parties were sure to suffer and neither party gain any advantage to compensate for its inevitable loss. For the next three or four years, then, Mr. Burt devoted all his energy to the establishing of a solidarity of interest throughout the mining population of Northumberland, and how well he succeeded in his endeavors is so familiar that it looks like a matter of course; and the miners themselves can hardly realize the old state of things in which they were kept asunder, or bound together only by a rope of sand. Not until every colliery in the county was incorporated with the union, and every miner had been thoroughly instructed in the duties and privileges of the new arrangement, did Mr. Burt slacken his efforts, or allow them to be diverted; and when the vast organization once got thoroughly to work there was ample occupation for all his time in merely conducting its routine.

When, then, a movement began having for its object the enfranchisement of the miners in the Morpeth Parliamentary borough, or rather the recognition of their enfranchisement as a right really conceded by the Reform Bill of 1867, it was quite natural that his valuable aid should be solicited, and almost equally a matter of course that he should be selected as the candidate under whose banner the struggle should be carried on. Indeed, he was selected as a candidate before the miners had any expectation of getting the franchise at all.

After the Morpeth register had been enlarged by the addition of more than three thousand new voters, there could hardly remain any anxiety as to what would be the issue of the next election. Mr. Burt himself quietly awaited the course of events, so far as his own position was concerned; but he threw himself with all his characteristic earnestness into the purely political movement for the attainment of manhood suffrage, and into the smaller but kindred scheme for the equalization of the franchise in counties and boroughs. His addresses on these topics strengthened his hold on the general public, and all who read them rejoiced in the good sense exhibited by the miners in putting forth as their candidate one whose views of public questions were so much broader than the area of any sectional interests. While their candidate was thus commending himself to general confidence and good will, the miners themselves, by their delegates, were taking counsel as to the ways and means of supporting Mr. Burt in Parliament, and after full consideration of what was practicable on their part, and at the same time requisite for him, they decided to allow him a salary of £500 a year as agent to the union so long as he should be a member of the House of Commons, arranging at the same time to supply his lack of service in the proper business of the office. When all was completed, the formal business of testing the strength of his position by the getting up of a requisition was entered upon, and speedily as well as satisfactorily concluded. The announcement of Sir George Grey's intention to retire from public life arrived in good time to secure Mr. Burt's return to Parliament with very little opposition.

## CURRENT EVENTS.

The action of Disraeli in limiting his cabinet to twelve members is generally opposed by the press.

A special from Calcutta says 280,000 persons are famishing for the want of food in the districts of Ferozpoor and Boglipoath. In the presidency of Bengal 50,000 persons would perish without state aid.

The Federal Council has ordered to be distributed to the states of the Empire 42,000,000 shalers of the French indemnity.

Proceedings are about to be instituted against several prominent persons on a charge of entering into conspiracy with Orton to get possession of the Thiborne estate.

The Albanese Government announces their intention to continue the fight against the Dutch. The Albanese have a large force of troops in the field.

A CAIRO telegram says,—The army of the people of Darfur, numbering 10,000 men with three guns, which had been sent to assist the hands on the River Gazale, has been completely beaten by a body of Egyptian troops. The chief of the Darfur army was killed, and his flag and three cannons captured. The Egyptian force advanced into Darfur, pursuing and dispersing the negroes everywhere.

At a meeting of the state grange, at Topeka, Kansas, last week, resolutions were adopted requesting the Kansas legislature to pass a prohibitory liquor law, and declaring no person who retails liquor shall be admitted to the order; declaring that the greatest good and highest happiness of an enlightened, virtuous and prosperous people are the legitimate results of thorough and practical education.

On Saturday last a young woman arrived in St. Catharines, from Cayuga station. She was after her young man, who had promised matrimony, and unceremoniously left that place. She succeeded in finding him and bringing him to the police station, where he was allowed the privilege of choosing between matrimony and jail. After a few minutes' consideration he chose the former alternative, and was married in the police office.

The reported killing of the Cuban ex-President Céspedes by the members of the San Quintin Battalion, is confirmed. On the 27th ult. the troops captured a negro, and were ordered to shoot him. The negro promised that if his life was spared he would lead them to where Céspedes could be found. This was assented to and the ex-President was discovered with a few friends five leagues from Asotivadero. His companions succeeded in getting away, but he could not escape, and was closely pursued by a detachment of troops led by a sergeant, turned and fired six shots from a revolver. This was returned by the troops, and Céspedes received bullets in his head and breast, causing instant death. His body was brought to Santiago de Cuba, and was burned on the 1st inst.

The memorandum of the working men to the Austrian Reichsrath, according to a telegram of the *Daily News*, states that there is great distress, not only in Vienna, but in Moravia, Silesia, and Bohemia. In Bohemia famine fever prevails. The memorandum proposes the abolition of the mediæval guilds; the establishment of Workmen's chambers in co-operation with the Chambers of Commerce; universal direct suffrage for the working classes, by which they will be placed on an equal footing with other classes; greater freedom of public meeting; the repeal of the stamp duties on the press; and the suppression of all octroi duties on food. It is stated that the Ministry is resolved to push on several large Government works in order to relieve the distress.

The Council of the National Sunday League have issued a circular to the trade, friendly, and other working-class organizations, and also to the workmen in large shops and manufacturing, inviting them to send delegates to a Conference to be held at the rooms of the Social Science Association, in the Adelphi, for the purpose of considering the best means of making the opinions of the working classes in favour of the opening of the national museums on Sunday afternoons respected by Parliament. It is intended that the Conference should be supplemented by a public meeting at St. James' Hall. Several of the leading men in the London trades have given their approval to the movement.

As an evidence of how necessary it is that all rules etc. for the guidance of trade should be explicitly stated in the by-laws, we subjoin the following:—Messrs. Jackson and Shaw, contractors, were summoned at Westminster police court on Thursday by a carpenter, named Morgan, for 9d., one hour's money, allowed as he alleged, by the rules of the trade for grinding his tools on discharge. A number of witnesses were called, who deposed that in all the large firms in London—Messrs. Holland, Hannen, & Co.—two hours were allowed for grinding, and one witness deposed that having been in the service of the defendants at the new Foreign Office and discharged, he was allowed two hours by the foreman, and paid. The rules for the guidance of the trade, passed and allowed at the late meeting in connection with the strike, were produced, but they contained nothing about the grinding. Mr. Woolrych was of opinion that the claim had not been substantiated; it was a pity a more general practice did not prevail, and that the rule had not been printed. He dismissed the defendant.