

NOTICE.

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

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.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

(INVARIABLY IN ADVANCE.)

Per Annum	\$2 00
Six Months	1 00
Single copies	5c

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Single insertions, ten cents per line. Each subsequent insertion, five cents per line.

Contract Advertisements at the following rates:—	
One column, for one year	\$150 00
Half "	85 00
Quarter "	50 00
One column, for 6 months	80 00
Half "	45 00
Quarter "	25 00
One column, for 3 months	60 00
Half "	30 00
Quarter "	17 00

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

WILLIAMS, SLEETH & MACMILLAN.

Trades Assembly Hall.

- Meetings are held in the following order:—
- Machinists and Blacksmiths, every Monday.
- 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.
- Varnishers and Polishers, 1st and 3rd 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.

Application for renting the halls for special meetings and other purposes to be made to Mr. Andrew Scott, 211 King Street East.

OUR PATRONS.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS THIS WEEK.

"A Merchant is known by his wares."

The attention of our readers is drawn to the following list of advertisements in our columns, and are requested to have them in remembrance when "out shopping."

- The "Queen City" Grocery—W. T. Robertson.
- The "People's Grocery"—Wm. Mara.
- Dentist—Dr. J. Branstom Wilcott.
- Dentist—F. G. Callender.
- Sign Painter—Vol. W. Corin.
- Barrister, etc.—Henry O'Brien.
- Tin and Copperware—J. & T. Iredale.
- Coal and Wood—Victoria Wood Yard.
- Boots and Shoes—McCabe & Co.

WANTED,

A General Servant or Cook.

No boarding house kept. Liberal wages, if well recommended. Apply at 333 Sherborne street, north of Carlton.

The Ontario Workman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, OCT. 17, 1872.

TO OUR READERS.

The last number of the WORKMAN completed the first six months of its publication. Long before, and at the time of its first appearing, the want of a newspaper directly interested in the cause of the working classes—and one which might be regarded as peculiarly their own—was felt and expressed. Believing that the exigencies of the times demanded such a journal, a company was formed among the operative classes for the establishment of such a paper, and the publication of the ONTARIO WORKMAN was the result.

The position we intended to occupy and the objects we had in view in its publication were defined—and were, the discussion of the evils under which labor justly complains—opposition to the creation of monopolies—the shortening of the hours of labor, because of our belief that the knowledge and improvement of the present age have been long enough superseding labor instead of lightening the task of the actual producer—the agitation of a sound apprenticeship system—the advocating of the more general adoption of the system of arbitration in matters of trade disputes and the support of such principles as

would improve the condition of the workingman, and tend to raise him in the social scale.

Since the first issue of the ONTARIO WORKMAN our endeavor has been to keep these principles steadily before us to make the WORKMAN an exponent of the views and opinions of the working classes, and to render it the medium for the interchange of the thought and sentiment of workmen upon the public questions of the day. How far we have succeeded in those efforts, and to what extent the objects of its publication have been realized, we must leave our readers to decide.

Some four months after the issue of the WORKMAN it was deemed desirable to make a change in its management—as the co-operative principle in this instance was not found to work satisfactorily; and the present proprietors—believing in the mission of the journal, and having hope in its ultimate success—have continued its publication as a financial experiment.

The WORKMAN has certainly been sustained, but not to the extent that we were led to believe it would be from the promises made on the announcement of its establishment; and we would therefore make an earnest appeal to all who are interested in the success and triumph of the principles we have enunciated in our platform to extend to us a helping hand, that we may be placed in a position to make the WORKMAN all it should be. We are confident that each present subscriber could very easily induce a friend to subscribe likewise; and if our friends will only take hold of the matter, we are sure they will succeed to a very large extent, and we can assure them they would be amply repaid for their effort in the improvement that we would then be enabled to make in the WORKMAN.

We wish, before closing this appeal, to remind the workmen of the understanding arrived at when the publication of this journal was first mooted—that they would support those business men who patronized the paper by advertising in its columns. A glance at our columns will show that a large number of the merchants of this city appreciate this medium of reaching the mechanics, and we sincerely hope that in the future, as in the past, our friends will continue to carry out that arrangement. The paper is published as the organ of the working classes, and in their interest, and they should feel it incumbent upon them to sustain it in every possible way.

As it is a self-evident fact that a newspaper cannot be published without very considerable expense, we trust that those parties who are indebted to this office in way of subscription will at once remit the same, and also send along the dollar for the next six months.

A TAKING TIME.—A false alarm of fire was raised at the theatre at Nigin, Novgorod, by a number of the light-fingered gentry. During the confusion that ensued, rings, watches, etc., were carried off by the pickpockets to the extent of 100,000 roubles.

The *Globe* in an article on the arrest of M. About, says:—"If the Emperor William and the German nation are not made to wince by the darts of the editor of the *Nineteenth Century*, they will be more *pachydermatous* than we take them for," etc.

The demand for Webster's unabridged is very active just now!

At the Campbell murder case concluded in London last week, the jury returned a verdict of Not Guilty in the case of Coyle. His Lordship then addressed him as follows:—"Thomas Coyle, the jury have taken a very merciful view of your case. I have only one word to add—Beware! You can go."

A meeting of the Toronto Trades' Assembly will be held in their hall, King street, on Friday evening next. A full attendance is requested.

A slight fall of snow occurred in this city on Tuesday.

THE PRICE OF IRON.

The changes in the value of iron during the present year will, when recorded, form a remarkable chapter in the history of that useful metal. In January No. 1 American foundry irons were selling at from \$35 to \$36 per gross ton; now they are worth from \$55 to \$60 per ton. Scotch pig iron has advanced proportionately, and the best Norway steel both in this country and in Europe, has shown a much greater increase in value. The advance in prices began early in the year, and has been gradual but firm up to this time. At first neither importers nor manufacturers seemed to thoroughly understand the causes of the rise in value, and the general impression among consumers was that it would not be great nor lasting. But iron continued to go up and up, and after a time it became known that there was a real scarcity of iron pretty much all the world over. There has been for several years, as everybody knows, a wonderful enthusiasm for building railways. The various roads in Canada, the American Pacific line, and numberless shorter roads have been urged forward with unparalleled vigor; and this with a general activity in manufactured iron at home and abroad, actually caused an iron famine. The consumption became greater than the production, and before even the most astute dealer was aware of it there was a scarcity, and prices were advancing. The rise began in Europe, and other causes than scarcity conspired to force it on. The English coal mines have now been worked to so great a depth that the owners can no longer furnish coal at the former low prices. So the price of coal rose, and iron was of course seriously affected. Then the English and German iron-workers commenced a series of "strikes," which greatly reduced the production of iron just when the trade began to suffer for want of it.

As soon as this state of things became apparent, buyers rushed in and gave heavy orders for all kinds of iron and manufactured hardware. A very active trade was the consequence, and prices advanced continually, until September, when the summit of the inflation seems to have been reached. There now seems to be a serious lull in trade, but whether it is the forerunners of a money panic and a great break-down in values, or of an active winter trade on the basis of prices, none seem able to tell. The money market has been, for a week or two, in a very feverish, agitated state. As is always the case, some men who have unduly expanded their business, during the excitement of so great a rise in prices, have failed, and others will undoubtedly do so. But on the whole the business men of the country seem to bear up bravely and intelligently under the pressure of the present state of the money market, and unless some unforeseen disaster should occur to cause a panic, we do not apprehend serious trouble. The price of iron will undoubtedly decline. New blast furnaces are springing up in all directions, stimulated by the enormous profits the old ones have made the past season. Some of those will soon be sending iron to market, and the supply will, after a time, overtake the demand; but we think this time will be long enough to make the decline in prices so gradual as to cause no very serious disturbance in the hardware trade.

THE WESTERN FAIR.

Last Friday the most successful local exhibition ever held in London was brought to a close, and London has reason to be proud of her Western Fair—the outcome of private enterprise and energy on the part of her citizens, backed up by the hearty co-operation of the farmers and manufacturers of the surrounding country. In four years the Fair from small beginnings has developed into a monster exhibition, almost the equal in every department of the Provincial Fair, which draws support from the public treasury, and has for its field the entire Province. The success attending the efforts of the promoters of

the Western Fair has stimulated other places to follow the example set by London in organizing independent exhibitions, and we have now besides the "Provincial" and "Western," two Central Fairs, and the prospect of having an "Eastern" one added next year.

"HE IS ONLY A MECHANIC."

We heard a young lady say the other day, "He is only a mechanic." The remark struck us very forcibly, and we never see her without looking upon her with some degree of pity. The remark showed how utterly ignorant she was of what a mechanic was. By referring to Webster's unabridged, she will find he is "one who works with machines or instruments; a workman or laborer other than agriculture; an artisan; an artificer, more specifically, one who practices any mechanic art; one skilled or employed in shaping and uniting material, as wood, metal, &c., into any kind of structure, or other object requiring the use of tools, or instruments."—The remark would not have struck us with so much pungency, if she had not applied it as a term of reproach and contempt. Young lady, if your mind is capable of thinking, just put it in operation, and you will see what mechanics have done for the world, and you will especially see how much they have added to the pleasure of your ingrate self. That jewelry that you wear and worship, those silks and laces, bonnets and chignon, that you feel necessary to your existence; that powder, paint and false teeth that you cheat the world with; that mirror that you worship before; that picture of your beautiful self you gaze on so admiringly, and all of the artificial appurtenances that so largely constitute your "make up," all of these are the productions of mechanics. But they have done nobler work for the world than this. They have moulded the ploughshare and shaped the sword; they have made the instruments of peace and war; they have made the world what it is. Newton, who filled with glorious splendor the throne of science; Milton, from whose lips poured the tide of poetical inspiration; Herschell, who placed another star in the canopy of heaven; Shakespeare, nature's sweetest child; Franklin, who snatched the forked lightning from its eternal home and placed it at man's disposal; and Morse, who taught it how to speak our tongue; Fulton, who made palaces walk the waters like a thing of life; Watts, who gave the iron horse his fiery breath and locomotion; all of these are indebted to mechanics for their glorious renown, and but for their aid could never have achieved the success they did, nor could they have made them known to the world. The military men of fame were as dependent upon the mechanic for their success as those in peaceable and scientific pursuits. How could Alexander, Caesar, Napoleon, Wellington or Washington have ever achieved a victory had not the mechanic placed the instruments of war in the hands of their soldiers? They reared the mills that grind out the staff of life; and every church and palace whose shining spire tends upward until its glittering point seems like a star on the brow of sombre night, is his handiwork; and the proud argosy that banters with the mad crested wave, and bears the commerce of nations, receive its shape, beauty and stability from him. In short, young lady, your own mansion, and everything in it which renders it comfortable and pleasant was made by mechanics. Everything that you use in subsequent life will be furnished to you by this class of men, and when your little soul will take flight back into the presence of Him who said, "In the sweat of thy brow thou shalt eat bread," the mechanic will make your case, bear you to a grave already prepared with instruments he made, and when your form shall cease to walk among the haunts of men, will rear a shaft of marble above your dust, returning form, and thereon will neatly chisel the name of one who looked with contempt upon a mechanic.—*Exchange.*

The ninth annual session of the Canada Sunday School Association is being held in Montreal.

POLITICS AND EDUCATION.

Under the new ballot act in England a voter may use a mark if not able to write his name. The *Pall Mall Gazette* hints at an influence which might be brought to bear upon popular education by means of the franchise. It thinks there can be little doubt that if the "illiterate voter" were debarred from exercising the franchise until he could write his name, he would acquire that power in an incredibly short space of time, assuming, of course, that he really cared about recording his vote, and took such an interest in public affairs that he would not mind a little trouble. An example of what may be done by an illiterate person when driven into a corner is afforded by the following circumstance, which, according to a correspondent of the *Scotsman*, lately occurred at Wigtown:—"A man between thirty and forty years of age was committed to prison there to await his trial, and was afterwards admitted to bail upon finding security to a certain amount that he would appear when cited. A bailman was found who subscribed the necessary bond, but it was necessary that the prisoner should sign it too. This, however, he could not do, never having learned to write. No notaries were at hand, and could only be got at great expense. The necessity for his signature was intimated to him one evening at eight o'clock, and as necessity is the mother of invention, he set to learn writing with such a will and with such success, that next morning when the bond was presented to him for signature, he wrote his name to it in a very legible and creditable manner." There are very few persons who, if a sum of money—say £20—were placed to their credit at a bank, and a cheque for the amount placed in their hands for signature, would not in a similar manner speedily get over the little difficulty of writing their names. With a subscription list, of course, the case would be different.

THE COST OF STANDING ARMIES.

From a mass of interesting military statistics published in the *Berlin Post*, of recent date, it appears that the various European powers maintain under arms more than five millions of men in constant readiness for war, besides the reserves and militia, who are subject to more or less military duty. These five millions of men in the prime of life, represent so much labor withdrawn from the useful industries, whose aggregate production would amount to more than the total production of many important countries, as a few only of the European States have a male working population of five millions between the ages of eighteen and fifty. But this loss of production represents only a part of the aggregate loss involved. The non-productive soldier must be paid, and productive labor must be taxed for his wages. He is also a wasteful consumer, and to feed and equip the standing armies employs the labor of at least two millions—perhaps more—of farmers, carriers and artisans, who are thus prohibited from contributing to the natural welfare and prosperity of the community. When all these considerations are taken into account, some idea may be formed of the enormous cost of maintaining exclusive military systems; and when it is remembered that these systems, nominally established to insure internal peace and security from invasion, are a constant temptation to war, with its inevitable accompaniments of waste, destruction of life and property, and increase of taxation, there is reason to hope that the peoples that have long and patiently borne these increasing burdens will soon demand that armies shall be disbanded, military establishments reduced, and international disputes hereafter be settled by diplomacy.

The *Journal de Geneve* publishes a letter from two Catholic priests, who, invoking the authority of the Bible, declare that they will follow Father Hyacinthe's example by getting married, and congratulate him on the reforms which he has begun in the church.

The Indians have been committing serious depredations in Arizona.