

Supplement to "The Freeholder."

WORKINGMEN'S DEMONSTRATION

AT

Toronto, Thursday, May 30th, 1878.

S P E E C H

OF

HON. MR. MACKENZIE.

Hon. Mr. MACKENZIE, upon rising, was greeted with round after round of cheers. When they had ceased he said:

Mr. Chairman,—I am exceedingly obliged to yourself, to Mr. Lenox, and to the other gentlemen for the address which you have presented to me, and also for the remarks with which you, sir, have been kind enough to introduce me in stating the object for which this meeting was called. I assure you that I receive this token of the friendship and the political adherence of the workingmen of Toronto with greater pleasure than any event of my life has ever given me. (Cheers.) It has been represented that I failed in my duty as a member of the Administration in not giving effect to enactments which would have for their object the benefit of the workingman. Now, sir, I look upon this address, coming as it does from the workingmen, as emanating from the true source of political power, and as being a complete vindication of the Government in the course pursued in this country. (Cheers.) For whatever may be said by those who may be a step above the workingman in the social scale in this country, I hold it is the workingman who has made the country. It is the workingman who is to give the country power for the future, and to make it great in the eyes of the world. It is the workingman to whom we must all look, not merely for the fruits of mechanical pursuits common to cities and towns, but also for the cultivation of our fields, the clearing of our forests, the construction of our public works, and, in short, everything that gives character, power, and prosperity to a civilized country. I therefore feel all the greater pride in receiving this token of homage, not to myself, but to those principles of which I at present am only a representative, and I assure you that my colleagues in the Government, and my colleagues in public life in the Parliament of the country will abundantly appreciate the motives which have led the workingmen of this city to adopt this method of displaying his political power and vindicating his political character. You have alluded, Mr. Chairman, to the fact that there have been workingmen's gatherings in other parts of the country as well as in this city, with a view to manifesting their approval of the conduct in public life of the leader of the Opposition. Far be it from me to find any fault with this indication of the political opinions of certain sections of the workingmen. (Hear, hear!) I rather rejoice to know that there is that independence of thought and that independence of action which leads numbers of our fellow-citizens to take a view of political life and political men somewhat adverse to those which we hold ourselves. At the same time, I cannot but express some little surprise that any workingman who looks back to the history of the country, to the history of our race in the Motherland, should, by natural instinct, be a Conservative. (Cheers.) Sir, the power of the workingman is made manifest only when a country becomes civilized and powerful. The power of a workingman is nothing in a state of semi-barbarism,