

Communications.

OUR EDINBURGH CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—Although you have frequently paragraphs in the WORKMAN in reference to trade matters in this country, still I venture to think that a brief statement from one actually engaged in these movements may not be without some interest. Perhaps there is nothing at the present time in Scotland that is causing so much concern as the high price of coal. We, however, may rest satisfied that there will soon be a fall, as an eminent D.D. has written to one of our local dailies, and suggests very authoritatively the propriety of employing our criminals, paupers and soldiers in digging peat for the winter fuel. While making this suggestion, it is unfortunate that the Dr. blames the miners as having caused the rise in price. The coals I am now using costs me 20s. per ton, and six or eight months ago I bought the same coals at 12s. A miner puts out on an average about 3 tons of coal per day, their wages have been advanced during that period about 1s. 6d. per day, but to make sure I do no injustice, I will say 2s. per day or 8d. per ton. In other words, the miner has got 8d. of my 8s., while the coal master gets 7s. 4d., and yet the miner is blamed by nearly all people who get their information from the daily papers, as being the sole cause for the great advance in the price of coals. The miners are now working only eight hours in nearly all the pits, and in some of them an advance of 1s. per day has recently been given unasked, as men are not to be had at present.

That great friend (!) of all political and social progress—the Scotsman, has got into difficulties with the composers who have all left off work, and the paper is now produced by "rats" from London and other places. I will enclose copy of a letter sent by the Father of the Chapel to the Manager before the strike began, from it you will see the grievances of the men. No effort or expense will be spared by the proprietors to get men, while the men on strike are equally determined to keep the office closed. The Trades Councils of Edinburgh and Glasgow have called meetings of delegates and office-bearers of Societies to devise means for supporting the men, and also to consider what action ought to be taken with the view of denouncing the conduct of the proprietors to the public. There is no doubt but the meetings will be well attended, and as all the trade Societies owe the paper some heavy grudges, owing to its continued abuse and misrepresentation of them, there will, probably, be some energetic and decided means adopted. I may also mention that the regulation which has been broken by the Scotsman, has always been duly observed by the Courant (Conservative), and the Daily Review (Independent Liberal); and I am much mistaken if the present opportunity is not taken of showing the Scotsman the power of the men it has so persistently maligned for many years.

Trade in all departments is good, and wages in general higher than has previously been paid in Scotland. Ship building on the Clyde is very busy, and a number of the builders are removing from the vicinity of Glasgow farther down the river, so that they may have more room than they have at present. The building trades are all fully employed throughout the country, and at the highest wages ever paid. In nearly all cases 51 hours per week is the time wrought by operatives in the building trades, and all overtime paid at the rate of time and half.

An agitation for weekly pays has been on foot for some time. The Edinburgh joiners have secured this, and the Glasgow masons have been successful after a strike of six or seven weeks.

Our vaunted Trades Union Bill has been taken advantage of by very few (if any) Trades Societies. I think that the great majority of officials concur with me in the opinion that if we took advantage of the Act for purposes of registration, we would be homologating its obnoxious provisions. We, therefore, rather depend on the honesty of each other, than have all our transactions subject to the inquisitorial gaze of not over scrupulous government officials. Several convictions (chiefly in England) have taken place under the Criminal Law Amendment Act (the twin brother of the Trades Union Act), but these have nearly all been reversed by the Superior Courts on appeal.

Some of our local politicians are in great alarm about the coming municipal elections under the Ballot. They do not know how they are properly to work the Ballot, and there is less than the usual confidence as to results by partisans.

We are to have a visit next week of the Queen. She is to stay for a few days at Holyrood. This is the first visit she has

paid Edinburgh since the death of the Prince Consort.

I may mention before concluding, that I have learned that there are a number of manufacturers prosecuting enquiries as to the cost of importing coals from America, Belgium, &c.

The Iron Trades Nine-hours League held a meeting in Leith last night, and presented their Chairman with a watch and chain, their Secretary with a purse of sovereigns and an address, and their Treasurer with a gold Albert, in recognition of their services in securing the nine hours to the Iron trades in Leith.

W. P.

Edinburgh, 7th August, 1872.

CORRECTION.

To the Editor of the Ontario Workman.

SIR,—In your issue of last week you make a statement in reference to a man being discharged by Messrs. Dickey, Neil & Co., for voting for Mr. Crawford against their wishes, that has no truth whatever in it, and your informant was entirely incorrect when he told you so. By inserting this contradiction you will oblige me, and also remove an impression that the statement was made wilfully, knowing it to be incorrect.

Yours truly,

EMPLOYEE.

Toronto, August 27th, 1872.

We gladly insert the correction as above. As we stated, we received the information on what we considered good authority, but we stated at the time we could hardly believe it to be correct.—[Ed. O. W.]

DR. LIVINGSTONE AND THE SLAVE TRADE.

The following communication from the great traveller, received by Sir Bartle Frere will undoubtedly be read with deep interest: UJJI, Dec. 20, 1871.

MY DEAR SIR BARTLE—Having now a safe opportunity of sending to the coast, I throw aside a good long letter, written more than a year ago in Manyema, to give you the latest intelligence. That is not of a very satisfactory nature, for I have been the victim of misfortune in having my affairs handed over, without my will, to slaves and slave-dealers. The loss of time and of money has been very serious, but I now see a way out of it all.

I thought that all the world knew that our Government was stringently opposed to its officers employing slave labor; but when my friend Dr. Kirk, Acting Consul and Political Agent at Zanzibar, undertook to get supplies and men for me, he went to Ludha, a rich Banian and concealed slave-trader, who entrusted the affair to slaves, and they, after squandering the stores for sixteen months, finished up by selling off the remainder for slaves and ivory. It is a sore story, and I feel unwilling to tell that another lot of £500 worth was taken to Ludha again and entrusted to slaves again, who did the same thing a second time—all except the complete spoliation.

They lay at Bagomoyo, on the mainland opposite Zanzibar, three and a half months, and no one looked near them. * * *

But an American gentleman came here, sent by the son of the editor of the New York Herald, at an expense of over £4,000, and he has done what he can * * * and with the goods he offered, together with the dregs left by the slaves, now a month east of this, I hope to hire men and finish up my work. This gentleman, Mr. Stanley, got a letter on the 13th current from the American Consul at Zanzibar, dated 11th June, and Aden telegrams of European news up to the 29th of April. My latest date is November, 1870, and it, with the goods, has been more than a year on the way. In fact, it would not have been here for months to come had Mr. Stanley not accidentally seen it, and seized it for me. But enough of this doleful tale. I am getting strong again, and propose to go back eastwards a full month, to where the slaves lie, and then go west and south-west to finish up the watershed.

People have been speculating as to where I should come out instead of writing like Christians to cheer me when in. I suspect that beastly ignorance of geography was at the bottom of it. It has been no bairn's play, and I have lost a year in Manyema, trying to follow the centre line of drainage down and by being forced back by slaves when almost in sight of the end towards which I strained. What makes much difficulty is the well known fact that all Banians and Arabs hate my being a witness to the slave trade. The Banian slaves all received the notion that they were not to follow, but, in accordance with some fabulous letter, force me back. This is like the low cunning of low Indians, who carry on the slave trade with their money and let the odium rest with the Arabs. I have now got into the good graces of all the Arabs in

the interior with whom I have come into contact. But the Banians and their slaves beat me with their lies. I wish to mention the only remedy I can see for this East Coast slave trade, that if possible it may be ventilated. It is that one of the English settlements on the West Coast be transferred, by voluntary emigration of the natives, to Mombas, which is ours already, or some other healthy point. Though I say English settlement, I do not mean a settlement of English people. * * *

I mean settlements of the West Coast, which have fulfilled the end for which they were formed. In the able report of Col. Ord, presented to parliament, it is stated that while the presence of the squadron has had some share in suppressing the slave trade, the result is mainly due to the existence of the settlements. This is supported by the fact that in those least visited by men-of-war it has been as effectually suppressed as in those which have been their constant resort. No additional expense would be incurred by the transference of the European officials except that of their passage in men-of-war, and government encouragement to emigration of the native Christian population, if fairly begun, would go on with little more than superintendence. The moral element they would introduce would be of incalculable value. In West Africa the missionaries and others see the effects of missionary labor in the general honesty and uprightness of the colored population frowning down the meanness and duplicity so prevalent in all the Moslem race of Africa. This new Sultan was all that could be desired before the death of his brother Sued Majid opened his way to the Sultanat. Now, though turned around completely in favor of the slave trade, he is none the less thought of by his people. * * * But the introduction of the moral elements in an English settlement, though it may not improve the Mohammedans, will certainly have a beneficial effect on the Africans. They are all favourably inclined to the English now, though they know little else about us except that we never slave.

The Arabs have completely spoiled all the tribes between this and the coast, and they are busy at the same work in Manyema. They manage to diffuse a universal hatred of themselves, and the natives plunder their Arab teachers as shamelessly as they were at first plundered. To "houga," originally and at present, west of this, means "to make friendship;" now it means, "to fine or mulet," and from Mr. Stanley tribes near to this took three bales, some of calico, 1,200 yards, and returned nothing. One chief demanded eighty-five pieces, or 340 yards, and got it. The Arabs completely spoil the people wherever they go, and as for religion, they have never been known to attempt to propagate it. The gospel of the West Coast—immoral traders * * * is simply sneering at good men, whose lives are a standing rebuke to theirs. But let the effects of their labors be compared with the effects of Arab intercourse, and the most obtuse and bigoted would at once award the palm to the Christian missionaries, and they discourage polygamy.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

UNYANYEMBE, March 13th, 1872.

Came here about two minutes south of Speke's Kazeh, on the 18th of February. Mr. Stanley goes off to-morrow home; and when he has sent fifty free men from the coast, I shall start for the ancient fountains. I seized what goods remained after sixteen months' plundering by slaves. Mr. Stanley supplied me with everything I needed, and you may be sure I am extremely thankful to Mr. Bennett for his generosity and to Mr. Stanley for his pluck. Thanks to Heaven, I am now strong and well, and eager to be off and finish the sources.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE.

PASSAGE OF THE MINERS' BILL.

We are indebted to the Glasgow Sentinel for the following very interesting letter from the pen of Alexander McDonald, Esq., upon the passage of the Miners' Bill in committee of the House of Lords:

As the entering of a bill into committee in either House of Parliament may be looked upon as nearly at its final stage, our anxiety as to the fate of the Miners' Bill was considerably increased when we learned that some important amendments were to be proposed by the mine-owners. Further, that these were to be committed to the care of the Duke of Richmond, to be drummed by Cairns and Salisbury. What they could be we could not divine, although we judged that the 54 hours was to be attacked. Wednesday our good friend Pickard joined us, who had been with us in so many hours of anxiety on the subject. Thursday we were joined by Mr. Crawford, and on Friday morning by Mr. Burt. The owners still held their hand. Meanwhile we had done

all we could with the noble Lords Shaftesbury and Kinnaird. On Friday the mine owners' amendments saw the light of day. Then indeed did they offer to the House of Lords that they should reverse the decision of the Commons by making it 56 hours per week instead of 54, also that the time should count from the first of a group of boys going down to the first of the group again ascending—virtually destroying the clause, and allowing the owners a latitude which would render a conviction almost impossible, even supposing they had kept children in the mines twelve hours.

The amendments have the stamp of their own mean parentage—they come from north of the Tweed. No sooner had we got them than we proceeded to find the men on whom we could rely. Glad were we to find that the noble Shaftesbury was all fire, all anger, in denouncing them as "shameful amendments;" that it was a disgrace to "men who called themselves Conservatives" to offer such to the House, and that he would fight them by every form of the House. We were not less pleased to find that the noble Lord Kinnaird was animated by the same spirit. Shaftesbury had put on three amendments that were rejected in the House of Commons. Earl Morley had on quite a host of amendments; all, however, of a kind to give efficiency to the bill; and Kinnaird had a few of the same character. Lord Lytton had one to raise the age of boys to thirteen before they would be allowed to work in the mines.

At the usual hour, five o'clock, the House of Lords met. The first matter that came before the House was a Welsh trust—no doubt of great importance to those whom it concerned, most of all, apparently, to the Bishop of Bangor, who spoke for a long time on the question—but to us it had no charm. In the meantime, Lord Elcho was among the Conservatives, doing all he could to get them to withdraw their amendments, stating to them, in the plainest terms, they might find the agitation for the 54 hours increasing, or there might be less hours at their door before the next session. Mr. Henderson, M. P. for Durlam, and himself a large coal owner, and a large-hearted, noble man, came to us, stating that he regretted much the course taken by the mine owners, and that he had been doing all he could to have the vile amendments withdrawn. Failing to meet with that success he deserved, Lord Elcho went to Mr. Elliot, asking him if he would not get them withdrawn. Mr. Beaumont, M. P. for South Northumberland, also a large mine owner, next came to us, who also had been counselling the withdrawal of the amendments. A rumor now reached us that gave more annoyance, which was to the effect that the Government was going to yield the point,—accept the 56 hours as Mr. Bruce had done in the Commons. Our feelings at this stage we will not attempt to describe. These, however, were soon allayed. Mr. Beaumont went down to the House of Commons and asked Mr. Bruce if that was so, when Mr. Bruce gave him the most distinct assurance the Government was going to stand by the bill as it left the lower House. The Conservatives being in great force this did not entirely set our minds at rest.

The trust disposed of, and Inclosure Bill, &c., the House quickly took up the Miners' Bill. Lord Morley proceeded with his amendments, then followed Shaftesbury, Kinnaird, Lytton, Dunsay, and then Richmond, in moving the 56 hours for the 54. It was quite noticeable that the noble duke had not much heart in his work. He tried to cajole Earl Morley to accept his views. Then came Shaftesbury, Cairns, Harrowby, Salisbury. The debate was short, keen, and cutting for a time. Harrowby counselled the withdrawal of the amendments, others pointed to the House of Commons, when with the best of grace the noble Duke withdrew it, and the boys were saved. Yes, saved, when the bill comes into operation, from the degradation of long hours. Brutal parents, your power for evil to your children by long hours is forever crushed. No more can you drag them out of their beds at three or four o'clock, and keep them in the dreary mine till six o'clock at night. No more can you feed or riot on the health of the tender plants. No longer can you, inhuman employer, keep them working to you for twelve or thirteen hours per day—the strong arm of the law will soon stand forward in their defence. Thanks to all who have joined us in the work—the coming generation will do them justice.

The next question that followed was the insidious amendment to allow the time to count from the first of the group going down. Strongly and hard did Richmond fight for this, and the opposing lords were equally firm. When it went to a division the inhuman interests were beaten by a majority of six. Now the course was virtually a smooth one. Our case was over. The leaders of the mine owners who had,

like ourselves, stood below the bar, disappeared, except Mr. Pease, who stood it out till clause after clause was ratified or amended. How different in 1872 to that of 1866! as clause after clause was destroyed in committee the mine-owners were jubilant—gleeful; it was other times then. Soon was the whole completed; the bill passed through committee, and the report is to be brought up on Tuesday the 30th.

THE METALIFEROUS MINES BILL.

In a few minutes this bill was also sent through committee. Inspection and the protection of youth being now extended to all these, ventilation must now be attended to. No longer, surely, will people be destroyed as we have seen them in Cumberland and elsewhere. They will now, as a class, become men, let us hope.

ARBITRATION BILL.

As this bill was unopposed, on the application of Lord Kinnaird it was held as passed through committee. Thus, in one night, three bills in which we have an interest, passed through committee of the House of Lords. In the years past we could not see this, yet, in the matter we have been doing nothing. It has been by the aid of such men as Burt, Pickard, Normansell, Brown, Halliday, Crawford, Dixon, Casey, Pennman, and others, that the work has been completed. To others that have gone to their rest, to others in distant lands, and last, not least, to the aid of a humane and powerful press, are we also indebted. It is not often the lot of one person to see three bills safely sent through committee—such as the Coal Mines, Metal Mines, and Arbitration bills were. We can now afford to leave the matter to those who come after us. In our long career, the foul-mouthed and lying knaves have often been busy; we now point to our record, and ask them to point to theirs.

THE FACTORY GIRL.

Writing from Boston to the Chicago Journal, a correspondent relates the story of such mutations in a life as may be considered characteristic of American experience. In 1865 there came to the metropolis of New England, from Penobscot, in Maine, a young orphan girl, who, after vainly striving to maintain herself comfortably at home by school-teaching, had decided to essay the fortunes of a factory girl in a larger city. Entering the hoop-skirt manufactory of a private firm in Boston, she devoted all her energies to a mystery of the business, that her confinement to mere drudgery might not be long protracted, and this to such an effect that in a year's time she was promoted to the position of saleswoman.

In two years more her superior mental capacity and practical tact made her the chief saleswoman of the establishment, and through this last position she was brought to the acquaintance of a certain rich California merchant buying goods for his store in San Francisco. The acquaintance matured into a mutual regard of a graver nature. The girl, well as she was doing, had a woman's natural yearning for woman's domestic kingdom, and when the Californian closed his business account for the time by asking the saleswoman to go back with him to San Francisco as his wife, she yielded a graceful assent.

After a quiet wedding, the two departed together for the Pacific coast, where the ensuing four years were passed in all the harmony and prosperity requisite for the smoothest progress of married life. The wife now of a rich man, and the possessor of abilities and personal comeliness to grace a high social station, the former factory-girl assumed a commanding position in the society of her new home, and became a leader in matters of aristocratic taste and fashion.

After four years, however, the Americanism of her destiny found tragic demonstration. Some months ago her husband was tempted into one of those extravagant mining speculations which are the bane of California, and entered too deeply to be able to withdraw before the inevitable collapse and crash. In a few hours of sinking values he was dragged down from wealth to poverty, and revenged himself upon fortune by committing suicide. The sound of the fatal pistol-shot awoke the bereaved wife, from her four years' dream of happiness and plenty to the old reality of her girlish homelessness and want. The expenses of the self-destroyer's burial left her with barely enough remaining from her recent wealth to secure her return to Boston, where she is once more working for a livelihood as though the Californian episode had never brightened her existence.

THE WHITE HART, corner of Yeogo and Elm Street, is conducted on the good old English system, which gives the greatest satisfaction to its patrons. The bar is most tastefully decorated, and the surroundings are all that could be desired. A spacious billiard parlor, and attentive waiters, render the WHITE HART a popular place of resort. adv.