

National Association of United Trades.

"Union for the Million."

FRIENDS.—We feel called upon this week to direct your attention to the increasing claims upon the funds of the Association, hoping that those who are in arrears will exert themselves to pay up their back levies, and invest the Central Committee with the necessary power and means to carry out the objects of the Association to the fullest extent.

Before entering upon this subject we think it desirable to lay before you one particular object proposed to be accomplished by the introduction and practical workings of our "Monster Union," that is, the additional power and influence each trade anticipates acquiring by becoming members of this Association. This is one great object of the Union, and every trade is right in expecting it. But let us consider upon what an accumulation of power and influence depends. Let us endeavour to understand that it is that confers and permanently retains this power and influence. And rest assured, that unless we attend to imparting the requisite means we cannot possibly realize our purposes. Upon what, therefore, we ask again, does an accession of power and influence depend? In answer to this, we say, it depends upon our associated means. And, in proportion as we are constant and punctual in contributing our individual mite, in precisely the same proportion shall we increase our respective local power and influence.

Every single member belonging to the Association as a certain work to do. A work which no one besides himself can do efficiently; so that if he neglects to perform his part, he injures the Society, and he has example before him from the path of duty.

For the trades to acquire an increase of power and influence, the members individually must be active and devoted, and cheerfully co-operating with each other for the attainment and preservation of the rights of labour, and their power will increase with the increase of a spirited co-operation.

This, therefore, is one thing we ask our individual members to do. We want each man to do his part, to attend to his respective duty, to be constant and persevering in his labours, firm to his principles, and not punctual in his contributions; when this is the case, an association strong and healthy would be brought into existence, and the working classes so associated would possess a power of defence that would bid defiance to the most artfully-concocted and well-managed opposition. It is this constancy, this firmness, this personal devotedness, and regularity of subscription, that will insure the necessary means to conduct the movement of this Association in a successful manner; and enable the executive to encounter with courage and energy the attacks of rapacity and wrong, and to brave with manliness and invincible firmness the storms which gather and threaten to burst with unspokeable fury and vengeance upon the heads of the "working bees," to over-throw and crush for ever claims to an equitable remuneration for the labour they perform. Then, fellow-labourers, to your posts like men; let each individual member determine to do his duty; let each resolve that the good work of emancipation shall not be obstructed by any negligence, or want of devotedness on his part. And when every one lays his shoulder to the wheel, and endeavours to help forward the great movement for the amelioration of the physical condition and social redemption of the toiling millions, the work will be comparatively easy; our progression would be without a precedent, while our efforts would be attended with unimpeded and complete success.

The time for this individual activity, and this constant and unintermitting exertion, and this conscientious and punctual observance to the executive claims of the Association has come. The extensive demands of the various trades upon the funds of the Union render it essential "that every man exert his duty." The strong must not delay to exert his strength to aid and deliver the weak, and by organising and concentrating their individual power, bring that power to bear on behalf of those now struggling against the tyrannical impositions and unjust exactions of dishonourable and money-loving capitalists, and enable them to rear an imperishable monument of the power of union, and the folly of employers in tampering with the rights of labour, and for their own aggrandisement reducing the wages of the injured and suffering operative.

This, therefore, is the mode the National Association proposes to assist and increase the power and influence of local societies, by adding to the local internal power already possessed by those trades, the power and influence of the entire Association. But if the trades are careless, and indifferent to the welfare of the combination, how can it be expected that the Central Committee can make the Association as efficient as it is intended to be? The amount of means invested in the hands of the executive must ever determine the nature and extent of their operations. For every one must be aware, that if the available means of the Association are not commensurate with the objects and demands, the Central Committee cannot make up the deficiency.

The Central Committee are fully satisfied that, according to rule 23 page 7, they have the power to call for any levies from the associated trades, as may be required for the maintenance of such measures for the protection of industry to which they may give their sanction," but they are unwilling to avail themselves of the liberty this law authorises, providing the exigencies of the Association can be met without it. Besides, there are a number of trades considerably in arrears, and if these trades will endeavour to pay up their back levies, it will enable the Central Committee, efficiently to conduct the present struggles to a successful termination. When let the trades rally! Let those trades in arrears exert themselves to the utmost to become clear on the books. Let each individual say to himself, "I will pay up my back levies, and resolve, never to miss a single levy imposed upon me for the protection of industry." Let every one who has suffered his payments to run back, only resolve to do this, and you will act nobly and wisely, and set an example worthy of imitation; and at the same time, you will give a determined proof of your moral power, and intention to resist the aggressions of capitalists upon the rights of industry.

The working classes have it in their power, if they will only decide to exercise that power, to put oppression to open shame, and cause tyranny and injustice to shrink back in disgrace, and fix a period to all evil deeds and foul misdoings, practised without a blush, and as a matter of right, upon the industrious classes.

Indeed, if it had not been for the apathy of the working class, the greater portion of the wrongs and wrongs that they are now compelled to endure would have been imposed upon them. They have often calmly and passively suffered their rights and privileges to be encroached upon, until now they are almost lost in a labyrinth of physical and social difficulties and afflictions, from which it will be difficult to extricate them, unless it is effected by one general and national effort.

Indeed, so deeply sunk in wretchedness and destitution are the great mass of operatives, that nothing short of a national combination will secure their elevation; and if they were so minded they could be aided, by co-operation, to raise themselves to that standard of happiness and independence they have, in their indifference and carelessness, suffered to be wrested from them.

Let those who are for bettering their condition immediately determine to become members of the national Association; and if the times are so hard that you can scarcely pay your levies, resolve to make a sacrifice. Let us dispense with half-a-pint of beer per week, rather than suffer ourselves to run in arrears in our contributions. And what man is there who would object to this, when it was done to raise the condition of himself and fellow-workmen? And these small savings to be thrown into one common fund, like the National Association for the Protection of Industry. Were this done what moral power we should possess! What influence we should have in society! And by a vigorous and constant application of this power be able to cast off the shackles and trammels that fetter and obstruct us, and onward march to liberty. We feel satisfied if the working classes only knew their own power and intrinsic value they would never delay to come forward, and by diligently attending to the cultivation and exercise of that power, they would soon be free and well paid for their labours.

It is absolutely astonishing that those who profess all these able professions, and are to human society every thing convenient and necessary to human subsistence, especially when they possess in union and co-operation such an immense power, that when properly applied for their interests would bathe all opposition set in motion against them. But the great mass appears indifferent to know their power, and

spirit of lethargy and supineness characterizes their general demeanour; and a feeling of destructive contentment lulls them into inactivity and heedlessness, while the employer and the oppressor are concerting measures to impoverish and degrade them. Oh! that the working classes could awake! that they would be wise, and well consider that which is so eminently calculated to promote their highest interest, and their family's welfare.

To those who have risen to a sense of duty we say, give your indolent and careless neighbours no rest till you bring them into the field of labour and co-operation. Let every member of the National Association determine to bring another with him, and then we shall swell in numerical strength, augment our pecuniary resources, and with that we shall be able to command a greater amount of moral power and influence, to the terror of evil-doers and to the praise and honour of those who do well.

The Central Committee of the above flourishing institution met on Monday and following days, for the transaction of general business. A mass of correspondence has been received from all parts of the kingdom, and adhesions from the ladies' shoemakers of London, the West-end division, Maidstone shoemakers, Nottingham bleachers and trimmers, Bradford shoemakers, Lynn white-smiths, Wymnolton horse-nail-makers, Glasgow mule-workers, Stockport dyers and cotton-yarn dressers, Rulhven calico printers, Stourport carpet weavers; Manchester silk winders, and Barnhead cloth cutters. Also the following reports from the members of the Central Committee:—Mr Williamson was appointed by the Central Committee last week to mediate with several employers who had been harassing their men. Accordingly therefore to instructions he visited upon the small-ware weavers of Birmingham, in the employ of Mr Carpenter; he found that gentleman had offered a reduction of 1s. 6d. per piece upon an article called six-inch drab belt, for which piece the regular trade-price is 4s. 6d. Mr Williamson called several times upon Mr Carpenter, but could not obtain an interview. Mr Williamson being obliged to leave Birmingham for Manchester upon other important business, made arrangements to call upon Mr Carpenter on his return to London. He then proceeded to Manchester, to endeavour to effect a reconciliation between Messrs Smith and Co. and their hands now on strike, nearly 200 in number. Mr W. waited upon that gentleman, who received him very courteously, but complained very much of the bad conduct of his men, upon which Mr Williamson made strict inquiry, and found, to his satisfaction, that Mr Smith's hands, male and female, had conducted themselves with the strictest order and decorum. Mr Williamson, therefore, cannot help but express his entire satisfaction of the manner in which Mr Parker has conducted that strike.

Mr W. had, also, on the same day, a second interview with Messrs Smith and Sons, on which occasion Mr Williamson endeavoured to effect his object by making a little concession on the part of the men, believing that by this means he should have been able to settle the dispute to the satisfaction of both parties; but Mr Smith would not concede the point, and deviated from several of his own previous statements. Mr Smith still clings, therefore, to paying his men the lowest price paid in the town of Manchester, and of course the pickers and weavers are still determined to stick together and contest the rights of their labour.

SKELMANTHORPE.—On Thursday evening Mr Peel attended a meeting of the fancy weavers of this town, for the purpose of explaining the objects of the National Association, when about 500 were present, apparently all very anxious to know the mode of operation pursued by the central committee. Mr Elliott of Barnsley was called to the chair, who, after very briefly explaining the object of their meeting together, introduced Mr Peel from London, who, on rising, commenced to show the manner in which the National Association was conducted, the objects it proposed to accomplish, and the certainty of success that would attend their operations. At the close of his lecture, a vote of thanks was carried—also three cheers to T. S. Duncombe, Esq., T. O'Connor, Esq., and Mr Wither, Esq., for the manner in which the rights of the working classes were advanced through the medium of its columns. A number of new members were enrolled, and the meeting broke up highly satisfied with the National Association.

N.B. The Leeds district committee, in connection with the National Association, meets every Monday evening at half-past seven, at the Star and Garter, Call-lane, Leeds, where information upon the principles of the Association may be obtained.

STOKE-UPON-TRENT.

The nomination for this borough took place at Hanley, on Wednesday; the candidates were Alderman Copeland, (Conservative), M. L. Ricardo, (Liberal), and Mr T. P. Hewley, a second Liberal candidate. It was announced by handbills that Mr Alderman Copeland was not in attendance, in consequence of some offensive conduct which had been pursued towards the worthy Alderman the day before at Hanley, Burslem, and Tunstall. Mr Ricardo and Mr Healy addressed the electors, after which a show of hands was taken, and declared to be in favour of Messrs Ricardo and Hewley. A poll was then demanded on behalf of Mr Alderman Copeland, previous to which Mr Healy was called upon to sign a declaration setting forth his qualification. The candidate having complied, the polling was fixed for Thursday.

THETFORD.

The Honourable W. B. Baring, and the Earl of Euston were elected as members there being no third candidate.

TEWKESBURY.

At the nomination of Wednesday, Mr E. Strickland, Esq., proposed John Martin, Esq., their old tried, and Mr Philip Thomas seconded the nomination. Mr Prosser proposed Mr Humphrey Brown, a native of the borough; Mr Nathaniel Chandler seconded him. The Hon. William Coventry proposed Lord Lascelles, which was seconded by Joseph Longmore, Esq. Each candidate having addressed the electors, a show of hands was called for, which the major declared to be in favour of Mr Martin and Mr Brown. A poll was demanded on behalf of Lord Lascelles. A close contest is expected.

WARWICK.

The nomination of this borough took place on Wednesday. The Rev. Mr Harris proposed Sir Charles Douglas; the nomination was seconded by Mr Wilmshurst. Mr Twanley proposed the reelection of Mr Collins, which Mr C. Redfern seconded. Mr Keys then stepped forward to propose Mr R. Roberts, which was seconded by Mr Pickett. Mr Roberts expressed in strong terms his disapproval of the income tax. He proposed placing a duty of one half-penny per mile upon all first-class railway travellers, and half that sum on second class passengers.

The show of hands being declared in favour of Sir C. Douglas and Mr Collins, Mr Roberts demanded a poll.

WAKEFIELD.

The nomination for this borough took place on Wednesday. The friends of the respective candidates mustered in large numbers, each expressing their selves confident of winning a majority on the show of hands. There could not be less than 5,000 people present. The candidates were Mr Sanders (Conservative), and Mr Alexander (Liberal).

Mr Alexander was received with cheers. He said he saw no necessity for spending so many millions in maintaining a standing army and navy, and that if he was returned a parliament, he should use his most strenuous endeavours to cancel the income tax, and universal peace. He should vote for a abolition of the game laws. He declared himself the uncompromising friend of civil and religious liberty. He was for a considerable extension of the franchise. He objected to the government plan of education, and expressed himself averse to capital punishments.

On a show of hands being called for, the majority was declared to be in favour of Mr Alexander, and a poll was demanded on behalf of Mr Sanders.

WINDSOR.

The nomination took place on Wednesday in the Town Hall. Mr R. Sharnam proposed, and Mr S. G. Pearl seconded, Colonel George Alexander Reid; Mr J. Glode, jun. proposed Lord John Grey. The nomination was seconded by Mr J. Roberts. There being no opposition, both candidates were declared duly elected.

WALSALL.

Mr Richard James nominated the Hon. E. R. Littleton, which was seconded by Mr J. P. Brevet. Mr John Day proposed Mr Charles Forster, jun., which was seconded by Mr J. Hazledine. Mr Howarth seconded the nomination of Mr Forster, nominated Mr W. H. Cooke. Mr Littleton then addressed the assembly at considerable length, declaring himself to be a moderate and progressive Reformer, agreeing generally with Lord John Russell's administration. Mr Forster followed, giving a similar expression of his political principles. Mr Cooke declared himself to be a Conservative, and holding views somewhat similar to the two Liberal candidates. The greater part of the addresses of the candidates consisted of denying, repudiating, and reanimating. At the close of Mr Cooke's address, a show of hands was taken for the respective candidates, when the majority was declared to be in favour of Mr Forster. A poll was then demanded on behalf of Mr Littleton and Mr Cooke.

England.

Scotland.

Ireland.

Assise Intelligence

member of the Shakespearean Club at Stratford-upon-Avon in the resolution that the committee be requested to communicate with the Archaeological Association, and solicit their co-operation towards forwarding the project in view. The resolution having been carried unanimously, and several other gentlemen having addressed the meeting, the business of the day being concluded.

ROYAL POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE.—The directors, ever anxious to cater for the public amusement, have engaged Mr. J. Russell, *late of Deury Lane Theatre*, to give recitations on various subjects. On Tuesday evening we had the gratification of being present at one of these representations, which is quite a novelty. The powers of the opaque microscope are practically demonstrated by magnifying to colossal dimensions a series of most interesting and highly coloured heads, representing the effects of the passions on the human face. The subjects exhibited chosen on this occasion, was Collin's celebrated "Ode to the passions." Mr J. Russell recited it in a most effective manner, displaying great judgment and feeling, giving the numerous beautiful passages of this elegant poem full force; keeping each subject perfectly distinct and varied. The effect is enhanced by appropriate music by the orchestra, and a recitation, conducted by the actor Mr. Wallis, J. D., who, we observed, had been selected by this admirable selection, being highly appropriate to the various subjects exhibited. There is much to praise in this successful effort at connecting music with the drama and the fine arts. We were happy to see so large and respectable an audience, who testified their approbation by loud applause throughout.

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