

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

All communications addressed to the Editor, must be accompanied by the name and address of the Correspondent—not necessary for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We shall give special attention to all communications addressed to us; but do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents. The employer and the employed are both alike invited to contribute to our columns.

THE DRUNKEN WORKING-CLASS.

To the Editor of the WORKING MAN'S NEWSPAPER.

MOTHERS, daughters, and sisters, is this a character we ought to submit to, and offer nothing in our defence? Can it be possible that the great wealth of Britain is created solely by drunkards? The wise Solomon says, let the poor man drink, and forget his sorrow. With all due respect for Solomon, we say, this is the worst thing the poor man of the poorer classes could do. We make no charge, and we do not complain of drunkenness in other classes of society, but we claim the right to compare them with our own.

At a meeting in connection with the recent city elections, an elector fisherman stated, that the Magistrates could not afford to repair the fishers' houses, and they could not visit the new breakwater, unless accompanied with a lorry-load of wine. This we consider an exaggeration. Had our brother fisher merely said, when the Magistrates visit the new breakwater, they require rather over the sum of ten shillings each, in the shape of refreshments, instead of lumping the sum as a lorry full of wine, he would have stated about the truth, and made a better point with his audience. That many of our number use more strong drink than they are justified in doing, would be absurd to deny, but that among us, as a class, there are more drunkards or drunkenness than in the other classes of society, is doubtful.

We have felt much the odious charge of drunkenness thrown so lavishly at our class, and we have wondered what could be the causes that made us become such drunkards, and we have thought seriously over this, and said, are we, as a class, alone subject to this grovelling vice? In our pursuit of knowledge, we visited the summer great cattle show held on the Links, to observe how the better class conducted themselves in their gatherings, and we witnessed about a dozen of men, in their shirt sleeves, handing out drink to county gentlemen, to farmers, apparently half drunk, and to their friends the butchers, who could not, considering the quantity they put out of sight, be made drunk, either half or whole. We attended the gentlemen's cricket match, at Albyn Place, and here again drink and door money, to pay the expenses; drink again in the ascendant, and no want of the effects produced by drink. We visited a meeting of our own class (we apologise for saying the "roughs.") at Ruthrieston, to see drunkenness, and were not disappointed. On inquiry, we were given to understand, the spirit dealers, for the privilege of supplying that gathering with spirits, for the one day, paid the committee the magnificent sum of twenty pounds; besides six licensed tents, sent special y forward to assist us to degrade ourselves. We have no faith in extremes. We believe that every creature of God was given for man's use, but not for abuse. Women of the working-class, if we are to fight the battle of our order (and it has to be fought with ourselves), place yourselves in the van. Yes, in God, in you we trust; we beg of you for our sake, for the sake of husbands, fathers, and brothers, and for the sake of those who are dearer to you than father or mother, to lend your assistance. We expect of you, that you will decidedly refuse to attend any ball or meeting where strong drink is part of the programme. It has been said, and we think with some degree of truth, that no social gathering can be got up in Aberdeen, but the promoters must become whisky landlords, to assist in paying expenses, whether the gathering be a high class assembly, or workmen's ball. Women of our class, you have only to will it, and the reproach will be removed from us. The man who, for his own sensual gratification, could treat your wishes with lightheartedness, is not worth a woman's thoughts. We are working Christian men, fathers of families; and that religion which we profess inculcates charity; and we think we are justified by religion, to step a little out of the broken track, and have more charity for our neighbour's feelings, and less for our own.

ALPHA AND OMEGA.

OUR RECENT MUNICIPAL ELECTION.

THE ELECTED AND REJECTED.

The following was written some time ago, in anticipation of the appearance of the *Working Man's Newspaper*:—

SIR,—When a candidate comes before the Electors soliciting municipal honours, if he comes of his own accord, he must consider himself among the most gifted of his fellow-citizens; and if brought forward by others, they must of necessity consider him to have those qualifications fitting him to take his place in our Municipal Parliament.

FIRST WARD.

In re-electing Dr Johnston and Mr Abel, the electors have acted judiciously, taking into account the candidates who came forward to oust them.

Mr George Donaldson.—Had Mr Donaldson consulted his real friends, or abided by his first resolution not to stand, he would have lost nothing in reputation. The cause of his rejection was the widespread opinion that his good nature was taken advantage of for the benefit of his brother-in-law.

Mr Mitchell, outfitter.—The electors have sent this gentleman to the fittest place out.

Mr James Clark, bookseller.—It is only death that can rid the electors of this nuisance. We hope it will be a natural one.

SECOND WARD.

We were well pleased to see Mr Gordon at the top of the poll, although a grocer and spirit-dealer, because he conducts an old-established business, without the least fear of either spies or police; and were he on the Bench, he would see that grocers conducted their spirit business on the terms they have the license. If they came before him, they would have small chance of breaking the law a second time. A downright honest dealer like Mr Gordon will do more for legal dealing and Temperance than all the Templars and Police in the city.

Mr Henry Lurchin—a Working Man, and one of the few who do us honour—is where the electors have placed him the second time, and we thank them in the name of every working man who respects himself.

Mr A. Duffus is a man of great ability, but unsuccessful, because the electors have a personal feeling against him. So says the Press. We do not see anything the matter with his person. We think Mr Duffus is a presentable enough man, as far as appearance goes. We believe his one great weakness is modesty, and a shrinking sensitiveness; and were it not for this failing in his character, there is no position in life but he might attain—if not the Premiership, at least the Chancellorship of the Exchequer. We may as well admit the fact, that it is to the envy of his fellow-citizens he owes his defeat. We are reminded of the tale of the Athenian Magistrate, who was requested by a voter who did know him, to write the decree of his own banishment on the voter's. "Still, what harm has he done you?" said the Magistrate. "Nothing," rejoined the other, "but I am tired of hearing him called Aristides the Just." The electors appear to be tired of Duffus the Downright, and have returned him to the bosom of his family, and private life, where we hope he will remain, until he be required to take another journey to London at the public expense.

Mr D. Wright—Mr George Stephenson, the eminent engineer, declared that of all the powers on earth the greatest was the gift of gab. Mr Stephenson must have been ignorant of the power of imprudence, or unacquainted with our townsman, Mr Wright, or he would certainly have modified his opinion.

Mr Robertson, nominee of the Trades' Council. This so-called Council passed a wise rule, when they excluded the reporters of the press from their deliberations. They could improve their rules very much, by adding another for bidding their President again appearing before the public. We sincerely trust we have seen and heard the last of Trades' Council nominees. A word in parting to the Council. The less they are heard of, the more mind will be supposed to be among them.

THIRD WARD.

Mr Hutcheson is considered by his acquaintances, and the electors in general, a nice quiet lad; and after enquiry, we are happy to inform the public that Mrs H. concurs in this opinion.

Mr White.—Who is he? Is he old or young, married or single, a widower or a waif, or one of the fungus family, that spring up in a night and die in a day? We admit our

ignorance. We would not know the Doctor, even supposing we were to pick him out of a kennel, which we would not be the least surprised at, considering who were his supporters. The first time the Doctor's name was brought before the public in connection with municipal honours, was by a brewer's clerk, at a spirit-dealers' meeting; and his only public appearance was at a whisky-shop.

In regard to Mr Paterson, the rejected, we would just remind him that evil communications corrupt good manners, and these manners, in time, might have corrupted a Good Templar. We do not sympathise with, but congratulate, Mr Paterson on the severance of the connection between himself and the Drunken Third.

FOURTH WARD.

Mr Walker.—A man of a rising political character. If he will avoid the temptation of the treacle cask, he will do very well indeed. Seriously, we could wish to see more such men as Mr Walker taking up the business position, as Mr Walker has done; we would then expect to see crushed out a number of whisky grocers, who are the curse of our class.

Mr Lewis Smith.—A gentleman who is highly respected, and was an energetic man of business when the most of the present men of Aberdeen were children. It makes us proud to see a man who is respected by all, whatever their political opinions may be. We thank Mr Smith for coming forward. His presence in the Council will have a redeeming effect.

We are, yours, &c.,

JOHN JONES, AND OTHERS.

MR. DISRAELI AND THE WORKING-MEN OF GLASGOW.

SIR,—Mr Disraeli has been endeavouring to persuade the Working-men of Glasgow, that they are Conservatives, and that he, the leader of the Tory party, would do great things for our class, were he again in power. "Save us from our friends," say we. There is an old saying, "They are always best helped that can help themselves;" and if there were anything like unity among us, and true to one another, we would not require to be patted on the head either by Whigs or Tories.

HAMMERMAN.

THE GRIEVANCES OF A ROADMAN.

SIR,—I was very proud to see bills circulated through the city and its vicinity, announcing the appearance of the *Working Man's Newspaper*. I said to myself, this is now our own paper, and if so, it will surely give publicity to our own grievances in our own way. Now, Sir, I am a roadman, and have been so for a number of years. It is a well known fact that our work is laborious, requiring a great amount of physical energy. We are exposed to the inclemency of the weather, often at very disagreeable work. Other workmen have got their time shortened, almost invariably to 51 hours per week, while we have to work 60. It often strikes me forcibly, when working on any of the roads on a Saturday afternoon, when I see other working men wending their way to their respective homes at dinner time, that we, as a class, are only serfs in comparison, and often makes me exclaim, why are we working, while others of the labouring community are enjoying themselves? If shorter hours be a benefit, as I have no doubt it is in various ways, to the man on the joiner, &c., surely, at least, Saturday afternoon should belong to the roadman.—Yours,

A ROADMAN.