

A WORKMAN'S THOUGHTS.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Sir.—I crave a space in the columns of your outspoken journal for a few thoughts. I am but a working man, and have no time nor opportunity to compare notes with intellectual men, and therefore what I write may be perhaps very crude, but such as my thoughts are I offer them in the hope that some fellow-toiler may respond by your permission and help to advance the "good time coming."

If we look abroad into the condition of the wage earners, we find much to account for the terrible misery that enwraps (almost without exception) those who are called the lower classes; the baneful superstitions respecting kings and priests, coupled as it is in every case with the grossly unfair possession of the land, has everywhere resulted in the demoralization of the people. Tired of looking for any benefit from those who rule, I aim (and I rejoice to know that many concur with me) in looking for relief only from ourselves. Continuously, in the history of the past do we find that the people have been employed in oppressing each other at the bidding of priest or king, and worn out with the struggle, they have no time to enquire how their condition may be improved.

I wish to impress upon all laborers the importance of co-operation. How often do we hear the trite adage that "Unity is strength." The old, old story of the bundle of sticks is unheeded, and kept asunder by the crafty machinations of those who are our enemies. We fail where we should succeed. There must be a complete federation of labor, skilled and unskilled. Trades unions have failed, and too often have degenerated into mere associations for providing benefits in the time of sickness, when their chief object should be to discuss the relations of labor and capital. The Associated Masters are playing a trump card in encouraging the tribute work in mines, most artfully are they endeavouring to destroy the Union by favoritism. I am deeply concerned to find that working men, for the sake of a little extra gain, thus abandon the real point of unionism. The miners should, as one, refuse to recognise the system of tributing; let each place in the mine be fairly cavelled for, and so put an end to the ill-feeling which exists.

Labor is powerful enough if properly organized to obtain speedy attention to just and fair claims, but the miner must not fall into the error of thinking that he is the only factor to be considered, he is but one of many. What I would add is this, let every trade and employment be organized and organized, let the Sailors, the Shipwrights, and the Miners,

Carpenters, Painters, Engineers, Masons, Brickmakers, Plasterers, Printers, Tailors, Carters, Coal-trimmers, Wharf-laborers, Bootmakers, &c., in a word, let all forms of labor, while managing their own affairs, delegate one of their number to form a general council of labor, and in the event of any one branch of labor being unjustly dealt with, the matter could be referred to the general council, when if they sustained the view of the branch interested, they should have power to treat with the employers, and if after proper cause was shewn, the employers refused to accede to the requirements of the council, let all labor be at once suspended until the requirements were granted. We should then have no more nine month's strikes—as at Lambton or at Bulli—where I maintain the workman was sacrificed by his fellows.

A strike would then only take place by the will of the united workmen, and a few days would settle the matter. Capital would then realize its proper value, and the producer of capital would obtain his fair share. Hoping you will insert this in the RADICAL—I remain,

Wallsend,
July 23rd.

A Worker who thinks.

ROY'S CASE.

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Dear Sir,—I see in to-day's RADICAL with great pleasure reference made to "Roy's" case. Unfortunately in financial matters I am not very strong just now, having been out of work about nine weeks, so you will easily understand why a single man cannot afford more.

If you are getting up a subscription list for Roy, I shall be most happy to forward 2s 6d for same, and I have no doubt many of your readers would give a similar sum, and only be too pleased to do so, as I think it is the most deserving case I have ever heard of in "Sunny New South Wales." Trusting you will not think this out of place, and with best wishes for the RADICAL—I remain, yours faithfully,

Darby Street,
Newcastle.
July 26 1887

[The above case is—as we have before pointed out—a fit one in which both Jubilee-Loyalist and Republican can join to do a little good work. Those who are jubilating this year can now show that they are at least sincere in their endeavour to do some practical good with their money during the present period of rejoicing. We will open a list for the purpose of assisting William Roy—the dying hero at present in one of our so-called benevolent asylums—to obtain more comfortable quarters, and better attendance during the time he lives. The smallest sums may be sent—from one stamp upwards—and

we acknowledge the contributions in our columns, which notice will be a receipt for the same. The money will be forwarded to the Sydney BULLETIN to be added to the main list. We feel considerable doubt as to the sincerity of loyal jubilists, and if they rise to this occasion it will at least remove some of these doubts. Communications may be addressed to the Editor.]

(TO THE EDITOR.)

Dear Sir.—There was a man locked up in the Newcastle Lock-up on the night of July 21st, the only one on that particular night. He was fined ten shillings for being drunk, which is no uncommon occurrence amongst men who too freely contribute to the revenue of their country. This is not the worst of it; Newcastle contains another man who rejoices in being a Christian, and whose duty as such should not be to plunge a dagger into a wound already too grievous to bear, but as a good Samaritan rather to pour oil and wine into the wounds of him that had so fallen. Failing his duty, he proves himself a Pharisee, and a canting, hypocritical, humbug. After blowing his own trumpet to the effect that he was saved, and washed as white as snow, and had a clean heart, he thanked God he was not like the man who was run in on Thursday night. He further directed attention to the case as reported in the daily press, and said his hearers would know whom he meant as they could there see his name.

Now Sir, is this Christian Charity? While the poor victim—who is so well-known—was at home praying in secret to his Creator to forgive past sins and if possible to guard him against all future temptations, the Pharisee was at work upon the character of the man who had already suffered enough. If we read the 18th chapter of St Luke, we see what the great Captain whom this man professes to follow says of such; but I suppose this man does not read the book in which the Master's life is portrayed. The ranting Pharisee loves to gloat over the misfortunes of a better man, and one who is qualified to act as his scriptural tutor.

I am Sir,
Yours etc., H. E.

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