

BRITISH WORKMAN



AND FRIEND OF THE
SONS OF TOIL

No. 13. PUBLISHED FOR THE EDITOR BY S. W. PARTRIDGE; A. W. BENNETT; AND W. TWEEDIE, LONDON. [PRICE ONE PENNY.]

TO OUR READERS.

ENTERING on a new year, we feel called upon not only to offer to our readers the usual friendly congratulations of "a happy New Year to you," but also to lay before them a few facts connected with the origin and continuance of the *British Workman*.

For some years we have felt that such a periodical was desirable, and have frequently, but unsuccessfully, urged others more competent than ourselves to undertake the task.

The subject and the object at length pressed heavily on our mind as a matter of duty, and feeling that a higher than human voice called us to make the attempt, we determined to issue a few numbers, and then decide how far we were justified in proceeding further. Those numbers were issued at a considerable pecuniary sacrifice, which almost deterred our proceeding further: but as many appeals to our sympathies by *WORKING MEN* and their friends, reached us from all parts of the country, urging us to "go on," that we determined to continue until the close of the first year; but in so doing we were reluctantly compelled to incur obligations which in ordinary life we have scrupulously avoided.

When we state that the circulation of our first No. was 10,000, of the second No. 15,000, and that we have not yet reached half the necessary issue to cover expenses, our readers will perceive that we have incurred a serious responsibility.

As named in our last, we require a circulation of at least 100,000 monthly, to render the publication self-supporting, and if each of our present readers will procure two additional subscribers, this desirable object will be at once secured. To those friends who have so zealously exerted themselves in attaining the present circulation of 38,000 we offer our best thanks, and earnestly solicit a continuance of their valuable help. To our numerous correspondents whose letters have had no reply or attention, we beg to apologise. We are engaged in business during the day, and having only our leisure hours for literary matters, we have had no alternative but to leave—and this we have done reluctantly—many important letters unanswered. We must in all such cases solicit the indulgence of our friends, and ask them to accept the *will for the deed*.

We need scarcely say that our object has not been pecuniary; our desire being, by God's help, so long as health and strength will enable us to promote (as named in our first Number) the *HEALTH, WEALTH, and HAPPINESS* of the *Working Classes*; and if, to any extent, we succeed in this desirable object, we shall feel amply rewarded. This is the only compensation we seek.

A NOBLE-HEARTED CAPTAIN.

A few years ago, while travelling through Pennsylvania, I was a witness of one of those scenes of genuine kindness, which, contrasting so much with the common selfishness, gladden the soul and waken up its better feelings.

At a point on this side of the mountains, where occurred the trans-shipment of passengers from the west, was moored a canal-boat, waiting the arrival of the train before starting on its way through to the east. The captain of the boat, a tall, rough, but noble-looking, sun-browned man, stood by the vessel, superintending the labours of his men, when the train drew up, and a few minutes after, a party of about half a dozen gentlemen came out, and, deliberately walking up to the captain, addressed him something after this wise—

"Sir, we wish to go to the east, but our further progress to-day will depend upon you. In the car we have just left a sick man, whose presence is disagreeable; we have been appointed a committee by the passengers, to ask that you will not give this man a passage in your boat. If he goes, we remain; what say you?"

"Gentlemen," replied the captain, "I have heard the passengers through their committee; has the sick man a representative here?" To this unexpected interrogatory there was no answer; when, without a moment's pause, the captain crossed over to the carriage, and entering, beheld, in one corner, a poor, emaciated, worn-out creature, whose life was nearly eaten up by the cancer-worm, consumption. The man's head was buried in his hands, and he was weeping. The captain advanced and spoke kindly to him.

"O, Sir!" said the shivering invalid, looking up in his face with trembling expectation, "are you the captain—and will you take me? God help me! The passengers look upon me as a breathing pestilence, and are so unkind. You see, sir, I am dying—but O! if I am spared to reach my mother I shall die happy. She lives in Burlington, sir; and my journey is more than half performed. I am a poor printer, and the only child of her in whose arms I wish to die."

"You shall go!" replied the captain, "if I lose every passenger for the trip.

By this time the whole crowd of passengers were about the boat, with their baggage piled upon the path. They were waiting for the decision of the captain before engaging their passage. A moment more and that decision was made, as they beheld him coming from the railway carriage with the sick man cradled in his stout arms. Pushing through the throng, with his dying burden he ordered a mattress to be spread



JACK AND THE YELLOW-BOYS.

"HALLOA, Jack, you look very yellow," cried a landlord to a Jack Tar, who had once been a good customer.

"No, no, no! Old Timber-toes," cried Jack, "it's my Pocket that's turned yellow since I gave up

drinking." Jack, suiting the action to the word drew about twenty sovereigns from his pocket, and placing them on the palm of one hand, pointed with the other, saying, "See here, Old Timber-toes, it's my Pocket that's yellow with these yellow-boys."

**THE EMANCIPADOS,
OR THE LOVE OF 'LIBERTY.'**

URING the month of September last, a large and interesting party of emancipated slaves from Cuba, after waiting five weeks for a ship, sailed from Plymouth, in the mail packet "Gambia" on their return to their native land—Africa; their passage from England to Africa having been paid for by themselves, with the aid of the Church Missionary Society, Thomas Farnley, Esq., and other friends. Some short accounts of them cannot fail to be interesting to the friends of Africa and the human race. The party consisted of fourteen men, twelve women, and twenty-two children.

Some of them had been carried into slavery more than forty years ago; others had been slaves twenty-five or twenty years. All the children had been born in slavery. One great motive of their migration from Cuba to Africa appears to have been the fear that their reformed or free-born children might be stolen and again sold in Cuba; no documents testifying their freedom being accorded to them, and Negro evidence, whether of their parents or others, not being available in the Spanish colonial courts of justice.

The men were respectable-looking and intelligent; some of them porters or carriers; others of them skilled workmen, as builder, cook, coachman, stone-worker, &c. Many of them were able to read, and received with eagerness the tracts and New Testaments in the Spanish language which were kindly furnished to them by friends in Plymouth.

One man and two women had purchased their liberty by price in a lottery. With these exceptions, by dint of hard labour, each man had first emancipated himself. He had then laboured on until he purchased the freedom of his wife, and afterwards by combined efforts they had effected the purchase of their children. They left two thousand of their countrymen in Cuba, who had, in like manner, worked out their own freedom, and were waiting to find their way back to Africa.

Their desire for freedom and for their return to their own country may be estimated from the fact, that they had in the aggregate paid thirteen thousand dollars for their liberty, and that they also had paid the British Consul in Havannah a large sum for their passage from the West Indies to this country.

It appears probable that Mr. Maxwell Ben Olat, from Gibraltar should have been in Plymouth during their stay at that place; no other person there had sufficient knowledge of the Spanish language to be able to communicate with them freely. They received his religious visits on three successive Sundays, and on other days they lively gratified they listened with marked attention to his Spanish readings and addresses, and responded most devoutly to the prayers he read up; and appeared to have an habitual trust in God, and a constant sense of their entire dependence on His Providence.

The Rev. Mr. Townsend, Church Missionary (of the Abbeokuta Mission), subsequently had them a visit. He found them an interesting party of the Yoruba Tribe, many of them speaking their own language, which they were delighted to hear from his lips.

They were several times visited by Dr. Tregelles, and by Mr. Brown, the Town Missionary; Mr. Thomas Nicholson and Mr. J. Pridoux, of Plymouth, were very liberal in supplying the wants of these interesting strangers.

It may be devoutly hoped, that the Christian attentions these African strangers received, and the many prayers offered for them, will result in some favourable and religious impressions, which will not be lost or forgotten when they arrive in their own country. May God's blessing attend the returns of these captives to their native home!

We are indebted to the Church Missionary Intelligencer, and the Wesleyan Missionary Notices, for the above interesting particulars, and refer our readers to those publications for further details.



LOLD NELSON.

"ENGLAND EXPECTS EVERY MAN TO DO HIS DUTY,"

Was Nelson's celebrated signal to his fleet. Let both Seamen and Landsmen remember that GOD also expects every man to do his duty. It is thus signalled to the world, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it. "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." See the Seaman's spiritual chart, Matt. xxii. 37, 39.



MEETING OF THE EMANCIPADOS AND THE REV. MR. TOWNSEND, AT PLYMOUTH.

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Each, kindly offered by a friend of the Working Classes, for the best Essays on two important subjects, will be announced in our next. The competition is to be limited to WORKING MEN exclusively.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A FAVORITE FRAGMENT—If you write to S. W. PARTRIDGE, our publisher, 9, Paternoster Row, London, with your paper address, he will forward you a sacred Prayer: Hail of the British Workman, to be posted on your factory wall, as you kindly suggest.

ANONYMOUS communications cannot be attended to. NUMEROUS communications are acknowledged with thanks.

THE British Workman has been registered at the General Post Office for transmission abroad, so that single copies may be sent without extra days of publication to almost any British colony by a single postage stamp. Further information may be had at any post office. We hope that our friends will kindly do what they can to extend the circulation in the Colonies.

NEW AND CHEAP POSTAGE.

Those who cannot conveniently order the "British Workman" through a bookseller, can have packets of not fewer than four copies sent, at under four pence to any part of the United Kingdom; the Channel Islands, the Shetland and Orkney Isles; the amount being paid in the Post Office Order, or postage stamp, to Messrs. Partridge and Co. Paternoster Row, London, viz.:

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AN OFFER.

We are glad to find that many persons and others in workshops are consulting for new subscribers. To encourage such efforts we will forward to any person procuring twelve new subscribers (for not less than three months) an extra copy gratis—i.e., a packet containing twelve copies sent post-free, on the amount being remitted in advance as under, by post office order or postage stamps, to S. W. Partridge, Paternoster Row, London. For 12 months 1s. For 6 months 6s. For 3 months 2s.

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We have to thank the editors of numerous newspapers for their favourable notices of the British Workman.

We are glad to find that our notices of Celebrated Mechanics have met with general appreciation. We are now preparing brief Notices of Celebrated Hackmen, Cartmen, Millers, Peasants, Printers, Weavers, &c., and we shall be glad by any assistance which our readers will be pleased to render, in rendering the list as complete as possible.

Several contributions to packets of the British Workman for the colonies in the East will be acknowledged in our next.