

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON PASSING EVENTS.

Mr. Parnell must have been in some anxiety lest his Bill, cut down so fine as it was, should be accepted by the Tory Government. But the master of the Government, Lord Hartington, has a sort of wooden Whig courage, and was not likely to allow them to revolt, and the so-called Unionist-Liberals were still less able to give him trouble; so that Mr. Parnell's victory in the form of a defeat was pretty safe from the first. He has shown his sympathy with the Irish peasant, he has re-established his party in its position of being worth dealing with, even by a government so strong as this one of the Whig in the Tory's skin; nay, it may even come to a matter of necessity with them to deal with him; and finally he will be able to say, "You see how moderate my Bill was, so much so that the very Tories were almost ready to accept it, and here is my Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain who wouldn't let them." Not a bad arrangement on his part, certainly; but then the risk of it! Suppose the Bill had to pass, what *would* he have done then?

Parliamentary leaders must get used to be dragged through the dung-hill of lies and intrigue, or they will be of little service to their party; and clearly Mr. Parnell has a quite philosophical indifference to such trifles. If he can keep it up to the end he will deserve canonisation as a Parliamentary saint; and in sober earnest such toughness and steadiness of purpose are worthy of commendation, even if there is little else in the man. But a pity it is that the end aimed at is just a parliament in Dublin, where all will have to begin again—with Mr. Parnell on which side, the right or the wrong?

All this while, does it ever strike the many progressive politicians who are so anxious about the welfare of the Irish peasants (as they certainly should be) that their interest in the sufferings of people who are turned out of house and home because they cannot pay their rents should not be limited to the other side of St. George's Channel or to "interesting" people like the Highlanders of the west and the islemen? Might not suspension of evictions become an English, nay, a London question, before long? I invite gentlemen who think these matters can have nothing to do with "prosperous England" to stand before some broker's shop in a poor neighbourhood, and see if their imaginations will carry them far enough to fit some tale of sordid misery to a few of the wretched wares that are hung up there for sale.

There have been some useful articles in the *Pall Mall Gazette* lately. The doughty champion of the Ten Commandments (whoever he may be) appears to be taking a holiday just now, and the semi-Socialist writers on the staff are taking advantage of that fact. The article on the Scotch miners will probably be laid aside rather hastily by the optimist bourgeois if he comes across it, for the facts given in it have a very threatening look even to the most short-sighted. It is true that its writer deplors that the worst features of the Socialistic faith are finding acceptance among the workmen there, with their noble earnings of 12s. 6d. a-week for the privilege of working in a slice of hell; but he does not seem astonished at that fact, but rather looks upon it as a matter of course that when men are much ground down they should be inclined to turn towards Socialism as their hope. So curiously have the times changed since Socialism was, as we used to be told, a very few years ago, quite unknown among the British working classes.

"A Month in Search of Work" will be another discomfort to our optimist bourgeois friend, if he should stumble on it, especially if he has read any article that hints at the number of men out of work even now before the winter comes on, and exercises the multiplication-table a little. Mr. Hyndman and Mr. Champion, also, have both been allowed a run in the columns of the *Pall Mall*; and there has been a paragraph on the street-speaking question which is not without intelligence, though the writer perhaps looks through religious spectacles on the subject.

Our readers will have noticed several letters amongst our correspondence on the subject of Vegetarianism, one or two of which were written in a somewhat aggrieved tone, apropos of attacks by Socialists on that doctrine, if one may call it so, though several comrades and friends of ours are vegetarians. It seems to me that there is no need either to attack a vegetarian or to confer a vote of thanks on him, so long as he is one because he chooses to be so on any grounds that please him-

self, whether he makes it a matter of health, or economy, or sentiment. But a man can hardly be a sound Socialist who puts forward vegetarianism as a solution of the difficulties between labour and capital, as some people do, and as one may think very severe capitalists would like to do, if the régime were not to be applied to themselves; and again, there are people who are vegetarians on ascetic grounds, and who would be as tyrannical as other ascetics if they had the chance of being so. I do not mean to say that Socialist vegetarians are likely to fall into these traps; they only make themselves liable to the sneer of an anti-Socialist acquaintance of mine, who said to me one day "All you Socialists have each of you another fad besides Socialism."

The first number of *Freedom* has appeared, published by the English Anarchist-Socialists, and is to appear monthly. In spite of its small size, it is well worth a penny, as the matter is very well written and thoughtful, and must interest all Socialists, whatever their opinions may be.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

## TITHE AND TITHE RENT-CHARGE.

### II.

As tithes form the chief source of income of the regular clergy, our object is to show that with very rare exceptions tithes are not the result of the free-will offerings of our pious ancestors; that before and since the Reformation, their payment has been enforced by law, and in most cases by laws of the most stringent character. We have seen further that the great bulk of the land now paying tithes has been brought into cultivation since the Reformation, and made subject to the payment of tithes by the 5th sec. of the 2 and 3 Ed. VI., ch. 13. By the 5th sec. all corn and hay were to be subject to the payment of tithe, and the clergy had the right to go on to the lands and there claim the tenth part of the produce.

But the farmers began to cultivate hemp, and flax, and madder, as well as different kinds of corn, and the clergy at once claimed tithe on those articles. The tithe, however, was very difficult to determine, but the tithe must be paid. How to solve the difficulty was not so easy. The Government stepped in to the aid of the clergy and against the public, and the 3 W. and M., ch. 3, and the 11 and 12 W. C., ch. 16, were passed to solve the difficulty, by fixing a ground-rent charge of 5s. per acre of all land sown with hemp, flax, or madder. In the reign of Geo. II. an Act was passed (31 Geo. II., ch. 12) for encouraging the growth of madder and ascertaining the tithe thereon. It is not our intention to attempt to enumerate all the various Acts passed to enforce the payment of tithe, but we may here observe that Mr. Leonard Shelford, of the Middle Temple, in his explanatory Notes to the Tithe Commutation Act, states at p. 272 that from 1757 (30 Geo. II.) to 1830, over 2000 Acts were passed affecting the payment of tithes.

By the year 1830 tithe was paid on the following articles: wheat, barley, oats, rye, mullet, peas, beans, tares, sapporn, hemp, flax, hay, turnips, every kind of garden produce, fruit of every kind, wood and underwood, hops, potatoes, etc.; milk, wool, the young of animals, fowls, eggs, barren cattle, the honey of bees, mills, pasture land, etc. The tenth part of all these had to go to the parson for the glory of God. But whether for the glory of God or not, great discontent prevailed, and thousands refused to pay their tithes. In every part of England there was one general feeling of indignation at the rapacity of the clergy. From 1820 that indignation increased from year to year, till the refusal to pay tithes became almost universal. In 1833, in the parish of Abbey Holm, Westmorland, 300 prosecutions for tithes took place. In Leyland, Lancashire, 488 prosecutions; in Standisch and Eccleston, same county, the numbers were 362 and 245 respectively. In Lancashire alone the prosecutions reached in that one year 1319. In the parish of Kendal hundreds of prosecutions took place, and had the rector succeeded in making good his claims his income would have been increased by £10,000 a-year. In the county of Glamorgan thousands of prosecutions took place, and the Solicitor-General for England estimated the cost of the prosecutions at £2,000,000 sterling. Agitation ran high, and the greatest indignation prevailed. The parson must have his tithe as Shylock had his pound of flesh. It is the law of the land, a part of our glorious constitution, that tithes must be paid, and the law must be obeyed. In Ireland the tithe-war became more fierce than in England. Thousands of prosecutions there took

place. When in 1833 the collection of tithes was not longer possible, Parliament stepped in. In that year the clergy of England and Wales were ordered to send in a return of their incomes, based on the average of the three years ending December 31, 1831. In those returns we see the true character of the clergy.

To the order of the House of Commons Committee many of the clergy made no return. The Bishops of Bangor, Carlisle, Exeter, Gloucester, Bristol, St. David's, Oxford, Rochester, St. Asaph, Winchester, and Worcester, sent in no returns. The Bishop of Exeter denied the authority of the House of Commons to demand to know his income. The Bishop of Lincoln wrote to say that he was unable to state the income of his see; the same with the Bishop of Chichester. But the returns, defective as they were, were sent in and laid before the House of Commons, June 22, 1835. As soon as those returns were examined it was known they were not correct. The total gross income is stated at £3,757,513, and the net income £3,045,361. The general impression had been that the income was not less than seven or eight millions per annum, yet here was a return, and by the clergy themselves, representing it at less than four millions. Everybody knew the returns were not truthful, yet who dare accuse the clergy, those holy men, of having made false returns?

As we have stated, those returns were laid before Parliament, June 22, 1835. In 1836, the Act was passed for the commutation of tithes. And now the truth with regard to the income of the Church began to appear. As the tithes were commuted into a rent-charge, the claims of the clergy assumed very different proportions to their stated incomes in 1835. In the return to the House of Commons they had made their incomes as small as possible. In some cases these holy men had no income at all; but as the commutations were made their incomes were found to be very handsome ones. But we must give a few samples, and for convenience we do so in tabular form:

Benefice.	County.	Income as re- turned in 1835.	Tithe Rent- Charge claimed.			Difference.
			£	s.	d.	
Northorpe ...	Lincoln	48	418	2	3	370 2 3
Membury ...	"	83	380	0	0	297 0 0
Coverley ...	Gloucester	320	465	0	0	145 0 0
Stow-Cum-Guy	Cambridge	52	530	0	0	478 0 0
Wisbech ...	"	1779	2354	0	0	575 0 0
Aston-Inghan...	Hereford	84	340	0	0	256 0 0
Bridstow ...	"	276	585	15	0	309 15 0
Great Milton ...	Oxford	198	850	0	0	652 0 0
Minster Lowel	"	Nil.	119	0	0	119 0 0
Kingsbury ...	Middlesex	46	500	0	0	454 0 0
Little Stanmore	"	267	451	5	0	184 5 0

It is hardly necessary to offer one word of comment on the above. The difference between the returns of 1835, purporting to represent the total income, and the tithe rent-charge claimed, is so great that it could not have been accidental. And the tithe-rent charge is only one, though the principal, source of their income. The returns of 1835 were an unblushing attempt to deceive and gull the public, and stamp the clergy with a meanness which one could hardly have thought possible.

The above commutations were made within a few years of the passing of the Act of 1836. We must, therefore, give a few samples of a later date. We take the following from the Report of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for 1878, pp. 87, 99:—

ECCLESIASTICAL PREFERENCE, the value of which has been certified for the purpose of the Stamp Duty, pursuant to the 33 and 34 Vic., ch. 97, Nov. 1, 1876, to June 11, 1877.

Benefice.	County.	Return of 1835.		Net Income, 1877.	
		£	s.	£	s.
Aberdare ...	Glamorgan	108	200	—	300
Bacup ...	Lancaster	113	250	—	300
Benenden ...	Kent	108	300	—	400
Farringhoe ...	Northampton	Nil.	700	—	800
Glaston ...	Rutland	200	400	—	500
Ilminster ...	Somerset	200	500	—	600

From the Ecclesiastical Commissioners Report for 1881, pp. 43, 44, we take the following cases:—

Benefice.	County.	Return 1835.	Rent Charge.			Date of Commutation.
			£	s.	d.	
Alton Pancras ...	Dorset	25	212	0	0	Nov. 13, 1879.
Tarring, West ...	Sussex	Nil	445	10	0	Dec. 4, 1879.
Port Slade ...	"	171	239	19	4	Mar. 11, 1880.
Ribchester ...	Lancaster	128	215	0	0	Aug. 12, 1880.
Spittle ...	Pembroke	79	152	0	0	April 15, 1880.

Taking the returns of 1835, with the tithe rent-charge claimed in lieu of the payment of tithes in kind, there is but one conclusion possible—that the returns were deliberately falsified to make the income of the Church appear as small as possible. And but for the passing of the Tithe Commutation Act, by which the tithe was to be converted into a rent-charge, the attempted fraud might not have been discovered for years yet to come. Those returns were infamous, especially coming from men professing to be the servants of the Most High, whose words should be true and whose deeds should be pure and holy. Yet those returns were an outrage on the common-sense of the nation. But disrespectful as were the returns of the ordinary clergy, those of the highest dignitaries of the Church were far worse. To some of those returns we must now refer.

In 1830, the Archbishop of Canterbury wanted authority to borrow, and his counsel, Dr. Lusington, stated the income of the Archbishop at £32,000 per annum. In making his returns in 1835, on the average of the three years ending December 31, 1831, the Archbishop declared his income to be £19,181, being a difference of £12,819. What an astounding statement! But his Grace declared that the future income of the see would only be £17,060. The commissioners believed him.

His income was fixed at £15,000 a-year, besides two palaces with splendid gardens attached. The excess of receipts over his income he was to hand over to the commissioners yearly, and to make his returns to Parliament every seven years. When his septennial returns for the seven years ending 1843 were laid before Parliament, it was found he had pocketed £28,000 above his legal income. There was not much said about that little item. £28,000 on the part of an archbishop was not so much as would have been 28 pence on the part of a workman. But when his second septennial returns were made for the seven years ending 1850, both in and out of the House a great noise was made. For the edification of my readers, and as a relic of clerical honour and integrity, I give a summary of the second septennial returns to Parliament, only adding the fourth column:

Date.	Receipts.	Salary.	Payments to the Commissioners.	Surplus not paid to Commissioners.
1844 ...	£25,353	£15,000	£5,944	£4,409
1845 ...	29,957	15,000	6,428	8,529
1846 ...	40,663	15,000	7,143	18,520
1847 ...	39,892	15,000	6,952	17,940
1848 ...	30,053	15,000	7,650	7,403
1849 ...	27,234	15,000	8,848	3,386
1850 ...	21,959	15,000	12,925	(£5,066 Deficit)
	£215,111	£105,000	£55,800	£60,187
			Less Deficit,	5,066
			Received over and above his income	£55,121
			Add the sum pocketed in his first septennial return	28,000
			And his Grace kept in 14 years the nice little sum of	£83,121

During the same period the Archbishop of York kept £47,161 over and above his income of £10,000 a-year; the Bishop of London no less than £77,455 above his income of £10,000 a-year; the Bishop of Winchester, £29,513; and so the game went on. The return of the Bishop of Durham we must say a few words about.

The Bishop's salary was fixed at £8000 a-year. But how could Bishop Maltby live on £8000 a-year? It was not likely; hence he was tempted to do wrong. He returned his income, gross, £21,000 a-year; his net income £19,000. And he assured the commissioners that in future the income would decrease. Bishops are always truthful, and the commissioners believed the Bishop. But as in other cases, the income of the see did not decrease. The Bishop paid over to the commissioners every year so much, and all went smoothly along till the first septennial returns were sent in. It was then found there was a discrepancy of £45,000. But that was excusable on the part of a bishop. As we gave the second septennial return of the Archbishop of Canterbury we will do the same with the Bishop of Durham.

Date.	Receipts.	Salary.	Payments to the Commissioners.	Surplus not paid over.
1844 ...	£24,558	£8,000	£13,800	£2,758
1845 ...	22,366	8,000	13,534	832
1846 ...	27,031	8,000	13,823	5,208
1847 ...	39,108	8,000	14,829	16,279
1848 ...	35,124	8,000	13,364	13,760
1849 ...	20,755	8,000	14,364	(£1,609 Deficit)
1850 ...	38,619	8,000	14,256	16,363
	£207,561	£56,000	£98,451	£55,200
			Less Deficit	1,609
			Surplus not given up	£53,591
			Add the sum pocketed first septennial return	45,000
			Grand total in 14 years	£88,591

It is stated that in the fourteen years the Bishops took over half a million above their legal incomes.

It will be noticed that as the time drew near for the septennial returns to be made, as with the Archbishop of Canterbury, so with the Bishop of Durham, he paid over more than he should have done, thereby leaving a deficit. We will not do either of them the injustice to say that it was the result of the "pricks of conscience," because we cannot assume that either of these "fathers in God" was conscious he was doing wrong in keeping what did not belong to him.

Looking at the whole matter, what are we to think of the system that renders such abuses possible? There were fiery debates in the House of Commons, discussions in the press, and a good deal of indignation—and there the matter ended. Yet in the case of Canterbury, London, or Durham, enough was pocketed to have sent a thousand ordinary men into penal servitude. One good thing resulted from the debates in the House. An Order in Council was issued in September 1851, commanding all bishops appointed subsequent to 1847 to send in their returns every six months. None were to be trusted in future for seven years. Also no one was to be allowed to renew a lease where the fine to be paid exceeded £100 without the consent of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners.

But what a state of things! The great dignitaries of the glorious Protestant Church of England, those holy men, those "fathers in God," with the "grace of the Holy Ghost" to boot, not to be trusted for more than six months at a time! But the delinquents were to keep what they had got. And those great lights of the Church sat in the Upper House all those years—sat there as law-makers, while they were pocketing tens of thousands that did not belong to them! Oh, well may it be said that venal are the sins of the great, but mortal the sins of the poor!

J. SKETCHLEY.

(To be continued.)

## THE POOR'S HOUSE.

It may be surmised from the title above, that it is my intention to describe those huge buildings known as "workhouses," places in which a medley mass of unfortunates eke out life's closing day, and oft, too, where the unfortunate mother ushers into the world the poor little infant, who, the chances are, will, after having spent his labour-force in the service of the community, come back here again to die in the place of his birth. That youth of labour and age of ease of which Goldsmith wrote a century ago, is so rarely realised by the toiler that it is safe to say that instead of his having increasing ease with increasing age, more often than not comes increasing want and hardship. Outside the "union" there are huge masses of starved, diseased, and corrupted beings, who, despite their more than miserable surroundings, are not yet debased enough for modern civilisation to obliterate what remains in them of the love of liberty. The fight and struggle for existence they have fought and barely won; and though they have spent all their force fighting their life almost through to overcome poverty, their efforts have been futile and the weaker among them have in despair as a last resource been compelled to seek refuge in the "union." Here we will leave them, for it is not of them that it is my purpose to speak, but of those who live outside.

During the last few years writers, reformers, and capitalists have been busily engaged with pen, tongue, and money, investing in and writing and speaking of those mighty monuments of ingenuity and wisdom—"Model Dwellings." Great clearances of old rookeries have been effected for the purpose of finding "sites" for their erection. The dishouement of the inhabitants consequent upon the demolition of these places has materially increased the overcrowding in those slums as yet untouched by the destroyer's hand. This, however, is not the fault of the Model builders, who, if they are to be believed, are desirous of supplying the dishoused slum-dwellers with good healthy dwellings in place of their dilapidated and unsanitary ones. But in spite of their benevolent intentions, the dishoused poor very rarely find their way into them. A process is adopted by which the most respectable applicants are filtered out, and the result is that a financially stronger class of persons inhabit them in place of those for whom they were supposed to be erected. In construction the Model is somewhat like that other monument of nineteenth century civilisation—the Model Prison. Huge piles of bricks and mortar they are, slung together in the most barbarous fashion, floor on floor, five, six, and seven storeys high, with dirty balconies and with no pretence to architectural beauty. Nasty gloomy interiors, with ceilings and walls whitewashed and coloured in the rudest manner, as though Art had never been born or was long since dead. From a sanitary standpoint they may be superior to that of the dwellings they replace; but the penning of such large numbers up together must ultimately intensify the evils they were designed to obviate. The necessity for these concentrated dwellings is largely due to the enormous migration from the rural districts to the large towns, and the migration is primarily due to the iniquitous land system of this country. This migration has enormously increased the population in the towns. During the present century the population of London has increased from one to five millions, including suburban area, and at the same rate of increase it will reach twenty or thirty millions at the close of the next. Of course this is not wholly due to the migration from the rural parts, but that it is largely so is, I think, indisputable. We have on the one hand huge tracks of land falling out of cultivation and decreasing in value, and on the other small spaces in towns enormously increasing in consequence of the competition for them. This competition is brought about by the centralisation of population, and this gravitation towards and multiplication of numbers within the centres themselves, has made it necessary to house them together in the smallest possible space. The Model has been designed for this purpose. Let this centralisation go on long enough, and despite improved sanitation the Model will become a manufactory of disease terrible to contemplate. So much for the Model, the work of the modern reformer. Now for the slums, as yet untouched by his improving hand. The slums consist of old houses, some of them two hundred years old. Of two, four, and six rooms, they were originally built to house one family, but now afford accommodation for four, six, eight; and even as many as four families in one room. In numbers of them the occupants carry on their business and perform every function of nature, without exception, in one room. In some, where there is a scarcity of water, those engaged in "rabbit-pulling," for which water is required to loosen the fluff, supply the deficiency with their own urine. The stench resulting from this is abominable. The floors cannot be scrubbed, because the stench arising from this process is so overpowering that the filth has to remain, gradually becoming worse. The water-closet accommodation is shocking. In a house in a certain part of Holborn there was one water-closet for the use of two hundred persons. In one house (same place) there was an open cesspool, and the place so swarmed with rats that the terrified mother had to remain constantly on the watch for fear that they would devour her baby, the rats making their appearance twenty and thirty at a time.<sup>1</sup> In 'Social Notes' for 1879, an article was reprinted from *Lloyd's News* dealing with the homes of the poor. It was based upon the report of a reporter of the *Holborn Guardian*. The locality was Baldwin's Gardens, Grays Inn Road. "The poor inmates complained loudly of the authorities pulling down their homes and compelling them to

live in rookeries. In the back yard the sink was blocked up and the water-closet choked. The dust, the people said, had not been removed for four months certain. The water supply to this house, in which there are over thirty persons living, is kept over the closet; and one of the occupants amongst all this filth was washing potatoes to sell baked in the evening to the public. Decency prevents any description of the disgusting state of this yard, caused by the condition of the closet. In the back room on the ground floor the ceiling was tumbling down, the place quite damp, the husband in bed with rheumatics (had been so four months), and a child lying dead on the table opposite. The rain pouring down the stairs, so much so that it was said the collector, when he came for the rents, had to put up his umbrella if it rained before going up-stairs. There were five living in this room, for which they paid 3s. 6d. per week. In the first floor back five persons lived. Great patches of the ceiling were gone and the water was coming through right from the roof two floors above. 4s. 6d. per week was paid for this room. On going up to the second floor, eight persons were found in the front room, the paper hanging down through damp and the rain coming through the ceiling. 5s. was the rent of this hole. In the third floor front there were four large tubs in a row to catch the water. The room stunk with damp and the sky could be seen through the holes in the ceiling, about six square feet of which was gone. Four lived in this room, and the rent per week was 4s. There are eight rooms in the house, for which the landlord receives 35s. a-week." This is truly described as a sickening picture of wretchedness and misery. In the demolition of Tyndall Buildings, Grays Inn Road, the swarms of vermin were so great that the workmen, although used to this kind of work, "struck" and would not start again until a fire-engine had been sent for and pumped them out of existence. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners are the ground-landlords of some of the very worst slums; and from the Middle Ages down to the present time the Bishops of Winchester have leased from them the very worst about Redcross Street and the Mint. "By their fruits ye shall know them."

The less fortunate of the slum-dwellers take up their abodes in cellars of the most foul kind. There is a case recorded in which the common sewer and pipe from above were open, the filthy sewerage from those overhead constantly pouring down into it, being inhabited by a family, who from habit and the nature of their lives took no notice of its existence.

Bad as are the slums of London, it appears from an extract published in *Tit Bits*, and taken from the Berlin *Echo*, that those of Berlin are if anything worse: "There are about 40,000 houses in the Prussian capital. A small number are inhabited by one or two families, but the great majority are divided into several distinct lodgings. Two thousand five hundred contain from sixteen to twenty lodgings; 20,000 from twenty to thirty lodgings; and 10,000 over thirty lodgings each. Seventy-five thousand of these lodgings are composed of one room only, and inhabited by no fewer than 270,000 persons, which is an average of nearly four persons per room; 75,000 other lodgings are composed of two rooms, and occupied by 360,000 inhabitants; while the remaining 30,000 lodgings are formed of three rooms, inhabited by 140,000 people. These figures will suffice to show the promiscuous way in which the masses of the Berlin population are lodged. The houses in the poor quarters are often five or six storeys high, and are built so close to one another that they are nearly totally devoid of both light and air."

Such are the homes of the poor; nice places truly. The "app-dosser," the Embankment outcasts, homeless though they be, are better off in an hygienic sense. But let the poor console themselves. Though in this terrestrial realm they dwell in disease-breeding hovels, when they have left this world of pain and sin "in the mansions of the sky they shall dwell eternal-ly." Meanwhile, they must rest content in the position in which God (!) has placed them, be submissive and humble to their superiors, serve and obey their masters, and above all refrain from coveting their neighbour's goods. This is the hypocritical cant that is preached by the hirelings of the plundering class, preached too in the name of law and order!

Deluded workers, will you for ever remain the slaves of a class? Will you never strike the blow that shall free you from its domination? It is true you are disorganised and ignorant, know not your own needs and how demoralised you are. Until you are educated and organised, Freedom's blow can never be struck. In seeking to emancipate the toiler the Socialist has set himself a gigantic task, and whatever means are employed to accomplish it, the end, its accomplishment will justify. The use of physical force, dynamite, and the like, are however only justifiable when all other means have failed, and in working for the "Social Revolution," the most available weapon should be used first—the force of Reason!

H. A. BARKER.

**Police Interference.**—Wardle appeared at Marylebone Police-court on Thursday the 16th, on a charge of obstruction at Harrow Road, and was committed for trial at Middlesex Sessions on Monday, 27th inst.

**TYRANNY.**—At the boot manufactory of Anderson Bros. there has just occurred one of the most shameless instances of capitalistic greed that we have heard of lately. One of the brothers was about to get married; a foreman told the employes that a wedding-present was due from them to him, and that they must subscribe half-a-crown each to it. Many of them refused and were at the close of the day ordered to pack up their kit and be off. Surely, one would think, this loathsome tyranny would make the fruit of it—that "voluntary testimonial to his goodness"—blister the eyes of its recipient every time he looked at it!—S.

<sup>1</sup> The statements contained in this article are based chiefly upon the minutes of evidence taken by Royal Commission on the Housing of Working Classes.



"HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW: FIRST, FEW MEN HEED IT; NEXT, MOST MEN CONTEMN IT; LASTLY, ALL MEN ACCEPT IT—AND THE CAUSE IS WON!"

Communications are invited from all concerned with social questions. They should be written on one side of the paper only and should be addressed to the Editors of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. They must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance should be attached to them because of the position they may occupy in these pages. None, therefore, are to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.

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All business communications to be addressed to the Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Business communications must NOT be sent to the Editors. All remittances should be made in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE TO ALL SOCIALISTIC NEWSPAPERS.—The *Commonweal* will be regularly sent to all Socialistic Contemporaries throughout the world, and it is hoped that they on their side will regularly provide the Socialist League with their papers as they may appear.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday September 22.

ENGLAND		Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	SPAIN
Justice	San Francisco (Cal.)—Truth	Madrid—El Socialista	El Socialismo
Norwich—Daylight	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	Cadiz—El Socialista	Barcelona—La Tronada
Club and Institute Journal	Washington (D. C.)—National		
Bristol Mercury	View	HUNGARY	
Hull Express	New Haven (Conn.)—Work-	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik	
National Reformer	men's Advocate	SWEDEN	
Freethinker	Newfoundland (Pa.)—La Torpille	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten	
	Portland (Oreg.)—Avant-Courier	NORWAY	
	Princeton (Mass.)—Word	Kristiania—Social-Demokraten	
INDIA	St Louis (Mo.)—Altruist	PORTUGAL	
Madras—People's Friend		Lisbon—O Protesto Operario	
Allahabad—People's Budget	FRANCE	Voz do Operario	
Bombay—Times of India	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	HOLLAND	
Bombay Gazette	Le Socialiste	Recht voor Allen	
	Le Revolte	AUSTRIA	
UNITED STATES	Guise—Le Devoir	Brunn—Volksfreund	
New York—Volkszeitung		SWITZERLAND	
Freiheit	BELGIUM	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	
Truthseeker	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair		
Der Sozialist	ITALY		
Boston—Woman's Journal	Brescia—Lo Sperimentale		

RECEIVED.—"The Great Trial in Chicago"—"A Theory of Life"—"What are the Churches Doing?"—"The Unlearned Lesson."

### THE DIVISION OF THE SPOIL.

WHAT has become of all the wealth? This is the natural question which suggests itself when one reads of the enormous increase in the amount of wealth produced annually since the introduction of machinery. According to Mulhall, the total increase in the national wealth from 1703 to 1774, a period of 71 years, was only £600,000,000, whereas in the 66 years from 1774 to 1840, the time when machinery was beginning to be introduced, the increase was nearly £3,000,000,000, *i.e.*, five times as much, and in the 42 years from 1840 to 1882, nearly £5,000,000,000, or about 16 times the rate of increase from 1703 to 1774. Then what has become of all this enormous wealth? It has certainly not gone into the pockets of those who produced it, the working-classes, for they are as poor now as 100 years ago; nor can it be said that it has been swallowed up by the increase of population. Since 1770 the population has increased about three times, but the amount of wealth in 1882 was thirteen times as much as in 1770.

The capitalist granaries are not far to seek. In the National debt, the various local debts, the railways, foreign and colonial bonds, etc., etc., the employer of labour finds—or rather creates—convenient reservoirs into which to pour his ill-gotten gains—gains wrung every farthing out of the toil of the workers. The devices of the capitalist are many and various. When he has made his fortune, as it is called, either out of the factory or the land, he does not go and spend it all again in buying goods, for he could not use them all if he did. Oh, no; he is far too 'cute for that. What he virtually says to the workers is this: "My dear friends, all this wealth which I own but you have produced, and which I cannot possibly use myself, I will lend to you on certain conditions, although it really belongs to you. You can have it back, but in return you must dig canals for me, make railways, build houses and ships, which will then belong to me. These will make it much easier for my children to make their fortunes too, if they want; but as I am tired of fleecing you myself, and as some of my children will be too proud to meddle with trade, there is one more little thing I shall ask you to do in return. For the use of these houses and ships,

and canals and railways, all of which you yourselves have made, you must agree to pay me and my heirs for ever the small sum of £800,000,000 every year, which I will call rent and interest. In this way I can shift on to other people the task of fleecing you, and I and my children can live our luxurious lives in peace and quietness, unsullied by the dirt of trade. We shall then be called the upper classes, and you must take off your hats to us and give us the best of everything. This is a very beautiful arrangement for me, and you must learn to be content with the station in life to which it has pleased God to call you. My reverend friend here will kindly undertake to prove to you twice every Sunday that it is God's will that this should be so, for which you must pay him a nice little salary. Finally, my good friends, in order to ensure that you shall have no inward qualms and be in no way dissatisfied, I will sell to each of you—it is against my principles to give anything without some return—a copy of this little book, called 'The Principles of Political Economy,' which I have written myself for your benefit. It will show you quite conclusively that the trifling inequality in our lot, whereby I gorge and you starve, is an inevitable result of the laws of Nature, and as it can't be cured it must be endured. Further, I may just add that if you are not convinced with my arguments, as you undoubtedly ought to be, and show any tendency to rebel against this exquisitely arranged order of Society, I have here a nice handy little force of policemen and soldiers, whom you pay but I command, who will at my bidding imprison you or shoot you down without any compunction. So take care!"

In this way we can imagine the capitalist to speak, if he were perfectly honest with himself and with his fellows. Certainly it is in this way that all the great concerns, which have been made by the community, and ought to benefit the community, belong to and are worked wholly in the interests of the capitalist.

The national debt is a little different from the railways, etc., in that the latter are really useful concerns, but employed only in the interests of a class, whilst the former represents fleecings which were absolutely wasted—may, not merely wasted, but employed to destroy other wealth, the product of human labour in other countries, and also the producers of that wealth themselves. Nothing is more significant than the enormous increase in the national debt which followed the introduction of machinery in 1770. Ten years before that date—*i.e.*, in 1760—the amount of the debt was a little over £100,000,000, but sixty years later, in 1820, it had risen to nearly £850,000,000. Mark how neatly the thing was done. The capitalists had more wealth than they knew what to do with, for railways did not afford scope for investment until 1830-40. A Parliament of landlords and capitalists borrowed this wealth that had been exploited from the workers, mortgaging the taxes to the tune of £30,000,000 a-year for all time to come—or at any rate until men learn to see the utter injustice of the whole affair and repudiate the lot. All this £30,000,000 a-year, remember, comes out of the pockets of the producers. And for what was the wealth used? To keep and train a large number of men for the purpose of killing their fellow men; to keep another large number employed in the manufacture of guns, powder and shot, ships of war, etc., all for the purpose of blasting into eternity as many human beings as possible. It is for this that we pay £30,000,000 a-year interest and £30,000,000 more every year for war purposes; and yet, forsooth, these people tell us Socialists that the expenses of a Socialist government will be too heavy to be borne! All the while two-thirds of the whole revenue of the United Kingdom are spent in these utterly useless ways. Such be thy gods, O Capitalism!

Some other hoards there are, and the total provide an income of £1,300,000,000 per annum, all of which is produced by the workers. Out of it the rich and the middle classes take nearly £1,000,000,000, leaving only £300,000,000 for the producers of it. If the whole income was divided amongst those who produced it, it would give to every working-class family an income of nearly £800 a-year.

Ponder well on these figures, you workers, and prepare to take into your own possession and under your own control all this wealth which you have made by the labour of your hands. Prepare to sweep away the cursed system which permits the idle to take more than two-thirds of what you earn. To repudiate all debt, abolish all interest, take over all land and capital, and to force the idlers to become workers,—such is the task we Socialists have set ourselves. Let us not waste our time in idle jarring; rather let us sink all our differences and work shoulder to shoulder for the cause we love, and which shall triumph, as surely as day will follow night.

W. H. UTLEY.

### THE TRADES' CONGRESS.

#### II.

ON Thursday came a discussion on Co-operation. A resolution of vague friendliness towards the co-operative movement was proposed, and a deputation from the co-operators introduced. The deputation said nothing worth remembering, and neglected to reply to Mr. Holmes, of Manchester, who very plainly said that the workers employed in the co-operative movement were "mere wage-slaves and nothing more." C. L. Biggins proposed an amendment in favour of universal co-operation, which was plainly understood and taken to mean Socialism. He was unfortunately prevented from speaking in support of his amendment on the excuse that a question asked by him earlier in the discussion had exhausted his right to speak. In making this ruling it would perhaps be too much to say that the president was unfair. But if he was technically right he was obviously wrong in spirit. And

seeing that so much time was wasted by people who had less interesting things to say than Mr. Biggins had, and knowing also that the Socialist party in the Congress was in a slender minority, he might not have prevented the proposer of so important an amendment from speaking in favour of it. G. J. Marks seconded the amendment, and pointed out that at present the so-called co-operators were making profit out of the non-co-operators, and that if they passed this amendment all the rest of their work would go to the winds and their reputation be saved. Ten votes were given for the amendment and 56 against. Thus fared the first attempt of Socialism to make its way into the Congress. The rebuff is not enough to discourage it, but just enough to make the Socialists a little more active in preparing for the next Congress, by which time the minority should have at least doubled itself.

On Thursday night came the great event—greater than the Congress itself—the banquet. Not the only banquet, for the Congress had complimentary banquets beyond number, at least beyond the number of regular honest meals a man ought to have in a week. But this is *the* banquet, because they pay for it themselves, whereas the others are given by patronising capitalists, town councillors wheedling into popular favour, and thoughtful M.P.'s who, no doubt, put it down in their private accounts as part of their election expenses. There is always a deal of trouble and dispute about "balancing the political parties" in the invitations. The simple and perfect way of effecting this would be to keep them both out. This plan would also, as a matter of course, raise the tone of the company, but the trades' leaders have not yet risen above the stupid and servile idea that a cluster of M.P.'s is an honour to a working-men's meeting. The toasts included the Queen, the clergy, the Corporation, the Congress, the M.P.'s, the ladies, the Press, and the President. The chief speech was by Mr. Broadhurst, M.P., and a weak, wandering, water and milk affair it was. His boast of what trades'-unionists had done was a sorry one, as it must be, since they have only worked for their own interests and nearly always been heedless of the interests of the workers "below" them. He also took occasion to water down the remarks on employers in the president's opening address: "He was quite sure that their president had never intended a single word he had used to be unkindly applied to the large body of employers in this country." Mr. Broadhurst told them plainly not to dispute with their masters about wages, but to turn their attention against the landlords. A pretty piece of advice. Mr. Broadhurst very strangely argued that ground rents rose without the least relation to the rate of wages or the depressions of trade, and if this be so it is difficult to see why wage-earners should bother themselves about ground rent. Superficial and opportunist talk of this kind went down with the delegates, although of course it raised no enthusiasm.

On Friday there was more discussion, Factory Acts and other comforting legislation for particular trades. Mr. Broadhurst was also re-elected Secretary to the Parliamentary Committee, from which it seems that this office is to be kept as a cozy retreat for an individual when his political patrons are out of office. Mr. Mawdsley brought up the report of the Paris International Congress. Mr. John Burnett got up to warn the Congress that if they approved the Paris programme (and surely it is meek and mild enough!) they would be endorsing the French Social Democrats. C. L. Biggins pointed out, in spite of renewed attempts to deprive him of a hearing, that all their business was at least tending towards Socialism; but this was met with expressions of dissent. The programme was rejected except the last clause, which provides for an International Trades' Union Congress.

The last day of the Congress was taken up with minor matters, chiefly amendments to Acts of Parliament, which are discussed every year and seem never to go forward at all. At the wind up there was, of course, a huge string of votes of thanks to all kinds of persons, companies, officers, corporations, etc.

A number of meetings were held during the week in consequence of the Congress sitting. Radicalism, temperance, religion, international arbitration, Socialism, and heaven knows what else, all had their fling. The first and sorriest of them was a meeting on the Sunday before the Congress, to discourse on the "Religious aspect of Trades'-Unionism." It was popularly supposed that this title was a mere cloak for covering a meeting to promote trades'-unionism. There were seven speakers, and as the first four in succession announced themselves local preachers and Sunday-school teachers, and then delivered tame, dreary, spiritless discourses befitting such people, a feeling of disappointment and even dismay spread over the audience. The meeting has been reported as enthusiastic. I beg to say that that report is a lie. There was no enthusiasm and nothing to call forth any. The speakers drawled out a small sermon each and the chairman cautiously spun out another. It was not without some absurd touches either. One speaker began to brandish quotations from Shakespeare—"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players" grandiloquently chirruped forth the speaker, and then came the application. "We are players on the field of labour," profoundly continued the orator, and the audience sleepily applauded, while the smothered laughter went unnoticed. The meeting finished with the doxology, at which I fled.

The Congress cannot be said to be hopeful for the cause of the people, at least not directly. But if it was not infected with the spirit of the new cause, at least it was not foolishly enthusiastic about the old apology for one. Everything went on like a meeting of railway shareholders. There was none of that heartiness and hopefulness which is to be seen in even the smallest body of men who think they are fighting in a great social movement. The whole affair passed off in a callous official kind of way that, however repulsive in itself, suited

the business in hand. The delegates freely abandoned themselves to the feasting and flattery and conventional nonsense offered them by the dignitaries of the town. They put up with intrusions of commonplace cant from patronising bigwigs and suffered without a murmur. In return they passed resolutions complimentary, congratulatory, commiseratory, with a lavish readiness and recklessness that showed how little they valued them. Votes of thanks were indiscriminately chucked at every person and every society that had favoured them with a nod of welcome or approval. No "conference" of promoters of middle-class fads, nor lionising committee, could have done the empty honours and compliments with more profuseness. The workman's aping his betters was raised to the pitch of an organised art and carried out with a zeal that would have done credit to a drawing room of army officers and old ladies.

But in spite of all this there is no reason for grave discouragement. The very completeness and listlessness with which the show was gone through is encouraging, as showing that the delegates have no interest in, but merely indifferent toleration for, all this trivial tomfoolery. The plain fact is that they are led into it, and through it, by the old stagers who figure as their leaders. The first thing is to pitch into and show up these, Broadhurst and Burnett and Burt and the other trimmers. If a few thoroughly earnest and business-like Socialists be on the next Congress they will find it an easy task to shake the foundation of the old supremacy and narrow bigotry in a single session. Plenty of the delegates are ready for a new departure, but none of them have spirit enough to lead the way. Let it be our duty to push our propaganda right into the heart of trades'-unionism, heedless of the cool or angry reception we may get at first, and confident in the ultimate success of our cause. Let us point out the inevitable decline and failure of trades'-unionism if it persists in its present antiquated and reactionary methods, and picture the vast and noble work before it if it will but enter into the work of abolishing this state of masters above and slaves below, and organising the future community of labour and equality of rights.

J. L. MAHON.

### THE REWARD OF "GENIUS."

It is a very common incident at a debate on Socialism for an opponent or doubter to take up the cudgels on behalf of "brain-work" as opposed to hand-work. Even before you avow yourself a Communist (as I have to do), such a questioner is anxious about the future of brain-work in the transitional stages of Socialism. Though this subject has been ably treated before in these columns, I will nevertheless venture on a few plain words in addition to what has been said; which I hesitate to do the less because I have had some small experience of hand-work, though not of the most laborious kind, and abundance of experience of "brain-work," so-called.

Our objectors dwell upon diverse aspects of their anxiety for the future of the brain-workers. Some, for instance, seem most exercised on the question of what is to become of the men of genius when Socialism is realised; but I must beg them not to let this anxiety destroy their appetites or keep them awake at night, for it is founded on a perhaps popular, but certainly erroneous, conception of that queer animal the man of genius, who is generally endowed with his full share of the predatory instincts of the human being, and can take remarkably good care of himself. Indeed, I can't help thinking that even under a Socialistic condition of things he will pull such long faces if he doesn't get everything that he wants, and will make matters so uncomfortable for those that he lives amongst if he falls short of his ideal of existence, that good-natured and quiet people will be weak enough to make up a purse (or its equivalent) for him from time to time to keep him in good temper and shut his mouth a little. I must further say, though, that they *will* be exceedingly weak if they do so, because they will be able to get out of him all the special work he can do without these extra treats. For the only claim he has to the title of a "man of genius" is that his capacities are irrepressible; he finds the exercise of them so exceedingly pleasant to him that it will only be by main force that you will prevent him from exercising them. Of course, under the present competitive system, having been paid once for his work by getting his livelihood by it, and again by the pleasure of doing it, he wants to be further paid in various ways a great many times more. Neither under the circumstances can I blame him much for this, since he sees so many people for doing nothing paid so much more than he is, except in the matter of pleasure in their work. But also of course, he won't venture to claim all that in a Socialist society, but will have at the worst to nibble at the shares of those who are weak enough to stand it. So I will in turn dismiss *my* anxiety, with the hope that they will not be so weak as to coddle him up at their own expense, since they will have learned that so-called self-sacrifice to the exactions of those who are strong in their inordinate craving and unmanliness does but breed tyrants and pretenders.

But furthermore, I do not see, and never could see, why a man of genius must needs be a man of genius every minute of his life. Cannot he work as well as ordinary folk in some directions, besides working better than they in others? Speaking broadly, all men can learn some useful craft, and learn to practice it with ease. I know there may be exceptions; just as there are cultivated people who cannot be taught to write (the late Dean Stanley was one, for instance); but they must be considered as diseased persons, and the disease would die out in a generation or two under reasonable conditions of life. In short, the "man of genius" ought to be able to earn his livelihood in an ordinary way independently of his speciality, and he will in that case be much

happier himself and much less of a bore to his friends, let alone his extra usefulness to the community.

As to the comparative wear and tear of "brain-work"—the work of the man, for instance, who is occupied in the literary matters—the theory of our objectors, apart from their strange ideas of the usefulness of this craft, is that he works harder—they will often say, than the hand-worker. Well, if he works under bad sanitary conditions, doesn't get fresh air or exercise enough, no doubt that does exhaust him, as also if he works too long or is harassed in his work by hurry and anxiety. But all these drawbacks are not special to his craft; all who are working otherwise than in the open air work under the first of these disadvantages, and all wage-earners work under the last of them. There is any amount of humbug talked about the hard work of the intellectual workers, which I think is mostly based on the fact that they are in the habit of taking regular and, so to say, socially-legalised holidays, which are supposed to be necessary to their health, and we may admit are so, but which the "non-intellectual" workers have to forego, whether they are necessary to them or not. Let us test the wear and tear of this intellectual work very simply. If I have been working at literary work for, say, eight hours at a stretch, I may well feel weary of it, although I have not felt it a mere burden all along, as probably I should have done if I had been carrying a hod of bricks up and down a ladder; but when I have knocked off, I can find relaxation in strong physical exercise—can, for example, take a boat and row for a couple of hours or more. Now let me ask is the hodman after his eight hours' work fit for a couple of hours of mental work as a relaxation? We very well know he is not so fitted, but rather for beer and sleep. He is exhausted, and I am on the look out for amusement. To speak plainly, I am only changing my amusement, for I have been amusing myself all along, unless I have added disadvantages to my work which are not essential to it.

And again, has not the hodman's work dealt in some way with his brain? Indeed it has. I have been using my brain, but not exhausting it; but though he has not been using his, he has been exhausting it by his hand-work done at a strain, or else he ought to be able to take the mental relaxation corresponding to my bodily relaxation. In truth, whereas at present the hours of the intellectual worker are really always shorter than those of the hand-worker, the very reverse ought to be the case, or in other words the wear and tear of the hand-labour is far greater.

But our objectors have not as a rule got so far as to consider this matter from the wear and tear side of it. They think that the superior workman should have extra reward because he is superior, and that the inferior must put up with being worn and torn in the service of this divine right. That is their superstition of divine right in this business; but also from the economical point of view they consider that it is necessary to bribe the superior man, for fear that you should lose his talent. What I have said of the man of genius being compelled to work by his genius applies to all superior workmen in greater or less degree, and disposes of the need of a bribe. You need not bribe the superior workman to be superior, for he has to work in any case (we must take that for granted), and his superior work is pleasanter, and indeed easier, to him than the inferior work would be: he will do it if you allow him to. But also if you had the need you would not have the power to bribe, except under a system which admitted of slavery—i.e., tormenting some people for the pleasure of others. Can you bribe him to work by giving him immunity from work? or by giving him goods that he cannot use? But in what other way can you bribe him when labour is free and ordinary people will not stand being compelled to accept degradation for his benefit? No, you will have to depend on his aptitude for his special work forcing him into doing it; nor will you be disappointed in this. Whatever difficulties you may have in organising work in the earlier days of Socialism will not be with the specialists, but with those who do the more ordinary work; though as regards these, setting aside the common machine-work, the truth of the matter is that you can draw no hard and fast line between the special workman and the ordinary one. Every workman who is in his right place—that is, doing his work because he is fit for it—has some share in that "genius" so absurdly worshipped in these latter days. The "genius" is simply the man who has a stronger speciality and is allowed to develop it; or, if you please, has it so strongly that it is able to break through the repressing circumstances of his life, which crush out those who are less abundantly gifted into "a dull level of mediocrity." It is a matter of degree chiefly.

I am afraid, therefore, that our anti-Socialist objectors will have in the future—I mean under a social arrangement—to put up with the misery of not having more than they need forced on them in return for their occupying themselves in the way which pleases them most, and with the further misery of seeing those who are not so intellectual as themselves doing their work happily and contentedly, and not being deprived of their due food and comforts because their work is less pleasing and exciting than that of their luckier fellows. No doubt this will be hard for the geniuses to bear (though harder still, I suspect, for the prigs or sham geniuses); but if there be any truth in the old proverb that "other peoples' troubles hang by a hair," the rest of the world—i.e., all except a very few—will bear it with equanimity. Indeed they well might, if they consider in those happier days what enormous loss the world has suffered through the crushing out of so much original talent under the present system; for who can doubt that it is only the toughest and strongest (perhaps the highest, perhaps not) of the geniuses that have not been crushed out. The greater part of genius, shared in various proportions by so many millions of men, has been just wasted through greed and folly. WILLIAM MORRIS.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE FRENCH LABOUR DELEGATION AND LONDON SOCIALISTS.

*Le Courier de Londres*, a French paper published in London, finds it opportune to censure the French working-men delegates who recently visited England, because while in London they frequently visited Socialistic working-men's clubs. With an odious anger the editor of the above paper attacks our French comrades for having visited the German Communistic Working-men's Club, 49, Tottenham Street, and asks passionately: "Have the French delegates so soon forgotten the deeds of 1870-71, that they are now able to shake hands with those accursed Germans?" This question shows clearly the mean spirit and historical ignorance of the writer, otherwise he would not make the working class responsible for the deeds and crimes of the ruling classes or their servants; but it is more than mean and ignorant to fling such a reproach at a body of Socialistic working-men, because it is well-known and has become an historical fact that the Socialistic working-men of both countries (France and Germany) loudly protested against the massacres of 1870-71 and their consequences, but they protested in vain, because the ruling classes and their servile newspaper editors did their utmost to stir up national spite between the two nations and so made themselves partners in the crimes committed by the Governments of Germany and France.

We think it well at the present moment to bring these historical facts again to the memory of the editor of *Le Courier de Londres*, and of the people at large, because at the present moment the ruling classes and their servants of the Press again try very hard to prepare the different nations for a new massacre against each other, only for the purpose of strengthening the tottering thrones of European monarchs, and the position of the capitalistic class. In the face of these facts we are very glad to see that the workers of different nations take every occasion of shaking hands with each other and exchanging their ideas about Socialism or Communism. We are very glad to say that it is our conviction that these proofs of international and fraternal harmony are increasing day by day among the working classes of all countries.

This was clearly shown at the entertainment given by the German Communistic Working-men's Club in honour of our French visitors, when the speakers of all nations pointed out the necessity of international union, and especially cautioned the working-men against being tools in the hands of the ruling classes in getting up a new murderous war and fighting against their fellow workers who accidentally speak another language.

In conclusion, we may say that we very much enjoy such spiteful expressions from our antagonists as we have quoted above, because for us it is a sure sign that we are on the right road, and that before long we will lead our noble principle to victory in the struggle between the proletariat and their oppressors.—For the Com. Arb. Bild. Verein.

H. CROESSEL, II., Secretary.

### A FRATERNAL GREETING FROM NEW YORK.

We have received a telegram from comrade Rosenberg, saying that a Socialist mass-meeting of 10,000, addressed by Aveling and Liebrecht, unanimously resolved, "That this meeting at Cooper Union assembled, declares its full accord with the principles so ably advocated by the orators of to-night, and sends a message of sympathy to the Social Democratic party of Germany and the Socialist League of England, who sent over to us their three ablest representatives to spread the noble principles of Socialism among the working-men of America."

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST AND LABOUR NOTES. GREAT BRITAIN.

The lace makers of Nottingham are proposing to reduce the wages in some branches of the lace industry to the extent of 50 per cent. A general lock-out is feared.

The Staffordshire chainmakers who are out on strike, have succeeded in wresting an advance in wages from some of the employers, and have allowed the men to return to work in these shops. A victory, but how small a one. How long is this intestine strife, where the losses are all on the side of the workers, to last? When will they learn that it is not a paltry advance in wages to which they have a right, but the whole of the produce of their labour.—U.

HULL.—A meeting of the Trades and Labour Council was held on Thursday last to receive reports from the delegates to the Congress. Mr. Maddison repudiated the claim of Mr. Hyndman in the *Pall Mall Gazette* that he was a "Social Democrat." C. L. Biggins remarked upon the tone of the Congress towards Socialism, and criticised their timidity in rejecting the Parisian programme. J. L. Mahon objected to the conduct of some members of the Council in denouncing the French Socialists while they were admittedly ignorant of their aims. He pointed out that the Congress only represented a part of the working-class, and that the progress boasted of in the condition of the people only applied to the trades' men: the condition of the poorest workers, such as needlewomen and common labourers, being worse now than it was before. He warned them against giving too much attention to reforms in our present system, as such reforms only affected the better-off part of the working-class and left the condition of the poorer untouched. He also alluded to the attempts of the middle-class to fawn upon the trades-unionists, and to split the workers into two sections—a higher and a lower; the higher to play the game of the middle-class and assist in keeping down the lower. The short speech was well received by most of the Council, but one old member rose to protest against Socialism being talked in the Council, and threatened his resignation if it were continued. He also complained about Socialistic literature being given to the members, and refused to withdraw his threat. The local Radical papers complain about the attention given to Socialism by the Council.—J. L. M.

PRESTON.—The prospects of the workers for the coming winter are gloomy, and those of the manufacturers—as those who do not spin are oddly called—are even darker. Many mills will give insufficient employment, and others will run without "profit" to avoid the more serious loss of idleness. The

state of trade is curiously anarchical. Different rates of payment obtain in various towns, but the workers do not combine to sustain the higher rates, and the various groups of workers, weavers, spinners, etc., act without any co-operation towards a common interest. A proposal to reduce wages five per cent. in north-east Lancashire has failed, owing to a want of union among the employers. A proposed demand for an increase will fail owing to a want of union among the "hands." A local strike led on Friday to a demonstration, that came near ending in riot. A crowd which assembled near the mill for the purpose of burning an effigy of an unpopular "master" was dispersed by the police, but subsequently re-assembled and accomplished its purpose on a piece of waste land in the neighbourhood. The prevailing desire among both capitalists and men is for a "good bloody war." The modern way to prosperity is through destruction and death. Yet our brothers in Chicago are doomed to the hangman, and the "good bloody war" men are Christians bound for heaven!—W. S.

LIMERICK.—The Congregated Trades of Limerick and Messrs. Hayes, builders, are at variance, owing to the latter employing non-society men. The trades have decided to boycott Messrs. Hayes in every possible way.

A great mass meeting of the Scotch miners was held at Motherwell on September 11th, attended by about 20,000 men, to discuss their grievances and to organise for their remedy. The miners in Scotland number nearly 70,000, and are miserably paid; 12s. 6d. per week has been the highest wage during the summer. The miner gets from 8d. to 1s. for every ton of coal raised, whilst the landlord of the ground on which the mine is sunk, who never did a stroke towards the work, gets from 1s. to 1s. 6d. as royalty on every ton, and yet people are astonished that Socialism is spreading amongst the miners.

### AMERICA.

NEW YORK.—The quarrel between the Cigarmakers' Unions, "Progressive" and "International," has now resulted in lasting peace, and in the amalgamation of the two societies under the name of the "Cigar-makers' International Union of America." We have received an official circular from the National Executive Board of the C.M.P.U.A., declaring it dissolved, and requesting its members everywhere to merge in the local International Union.—S.

Henry George has been nominated by the Labour Party as a candidate for the position of Mayor of New York at the next election in that city. He has accepted the nomination on condition that it is backed up by an address with at least 30,000 signatures. It is rumoured that one of the Vanderbilts will run against him, but this seems too good to be true.

At Chicago three more Anarchists have been arrested, Jehl, Batzel, and Kloth. It is said that cannons (?), swords, and fire-arms were discovered in Kloth's house. The prisoners will be prosecuted for conspiracy.

The fisheries at Labrador have failed utterly this year, the result being that sixty-five thousand people are destitute. Unless the Government aid them, thousands will starve in the coming winter. It is feared that the Newfoundland fishermen are in almost as deplorable a condition.

### FRANCE.

Duc Quercy and E. Roche have been released from their imprisonment after undergoing more than five months of their term. This is truly a generous "free pardon."

BORDEAUX.—We are informed of a serious agitation among the working-tailors here; the outfitters are taking advantage of the crisis in the trade to lower the price of work one-third, wages being thus reduced to such an extent that the workers are scarcely able to live however miserably.—*Cri du Peuple*.

DÔLE (Jura).—We have from this place a grisly story of a tin-plate worker being burnt alive in the municipal "lock-up," where he was thrust for having been found by the police in a mild and amiable stage of intoxication. On seeing flames issue from the lock-up, and hearing unmistakable cries, the officials on duty set to work to look for the key of the place, which had been mislaid! The discovery of it came too late for the victim of a meddlesome and arbitrary police.

VIERZON.—The glass-engravers at Vierzon-Forges, 90 in number, have left work in consequence of the iniquitous fines to which they have been subjected. They have sent a delegation to parley with the master; the place is very quiet.

Jacques Charlemagne, master of a porcelain-factory at Vierzon, has been exploiting his men to such an extent as to make them protest by a general strike. Now, Charlemagne (it reads like a Bab Ballad), was once on a while a guileless worker himself, and among the first founders of the "Chambre Syndicate," in 1869, and an ardent defender of the vindication of the rights of man. But Charlemagne looked around him and thought it would decidedly be better fun to grind than be ground, so he set to work and raised himself to his present estate. "To what base uses may we come, Horatio!" Here is a big name lying in the dust, and the mighty aspirations of a "defender of the rights of man" shrunk and shrivelled away indeed!

RONCHAMPS.—The mining company made their last month's payments, contrary to custom, three days before they fell due, and distributed the money to miners in the pit instead of at the central bureau. The company thus shows itself much disquieted by the attempts at meetings among the men; in one of the pits a speech was made on the payment of wages, in which they were bidden to drink if they must drink, in some other café than the one where the obnoxious Rondet was to be found (who is there for the purpose of organising some kind of society among the men); they were also forbidden to hold meetings and consultations among themselves. This is very open and frank on the part of the masters, and the miners answered as openly and frankly by holding a meeting the same evening.

LE HAVRE.—The sanitary conditions of the prison of this town and the food supplied to the prisoners are alike detestable. We have been informed that a wretched woman, condemned to several months' imprisonment for some insignificant offence, has gone mad after being kept for some while in a punishment-cell. Public opinion is up in arms and demands an enquiry.—*Cri du Peuple*.

### BELGIUM.

VERVIERS.—Fines are a considerable item in the incoming of monies to the owners of a wool-spinning factory here, one would think, to judge by their number and the frivolity of them. One woman had to pay 3 fr. at the end of a week, out of a wage of 2 fr. a-day (in which she works 13 hours). These women have only 10 minutes stoppage of machines allowed them in which to clean the same. This not being sufficient, they are obliged to continue while the machines are in motion, a dangerous proceeding, which of course results in frequent accidents.

### HOLLAND.

The Court at Amsterdam has sentenced the Dutch Socialist Belderock to a year's imprisonment for insulting the king. Ansele, of Ghent, is also in prison.

The appeal of Domela Nieuwenhuis, editor of *Recht voor Allen*, against the sentence of a year's solitary confinement passed upon him for insulting the king, came before the Court of Appeal at The Hague on Sept. 16th. It was shown that Nieuwenhuis was not the writer of the incriminated article, but Boelens of Amsterdam. Judgment will be delivered next week.

### BOHEMIA.

The trial of the revolutionists from the neighbourhood of Reichenberg and Tannwald, most of them being workmen at the glass factory there, has just been concluded at Prague. One of the prisoners was acquitted, the others were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment ranging from 14 days to four months.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

### Notices to Members.

General Meeting.—Monday 27th, at 9 p.m.

Reading Room.—Open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Library.—The librarians, May Morris and W. Chambers, attend on Mondays and Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m.

### Branch Subscriptions Paid.

Croydon, to May 31. Mile-end, to June 30. Dublin, Hammersmith, North London, to July 31. Birmingham, Bloomsbury, Bradford, Clerkenwell, Hackney, Leeds, Merton Abbey, Norwich, to August 31. Manchester, Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Marylebone, Oxford, to September 30. Branches not mentioned here have not paid to date, and some are months in arrears. This laxity on the part of Branches is one of the greatest hindrances to the propaganda of the League.—P. H. W., Sept. 14.

### BRANCH REPORTS.

(Reports and Notices should be addressed to the printer, and to insure insertion in the current issue must reach the office not later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.)

BLOOMSBURY.—On Friday, September 17th, we held a business meeting. Members of the Branch are earnestly asked to come to our open-air stations to sell literature and help the appointed speaker.—W. A. C.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, September 15, Wm. Morris lectured to good audience on "My Education;" an animated discussion followed; fair sale of literature, and 2s. 7d. collected for Propaganda Fund.—On Sunday evening, September 19, T. E. Wardle and B. Somerville addressed a large meeting on the Green. A further meeting was held in the hall, addressed by T. E. Wardle, on "Terrorism and Classes v. Sexes"; good discussion; one quire of *Commonweal* sold, and 1s. 10d. collected for Propaganda Fund.—W. B.

CROYDON.—Last Sunday morning, W. A. Chambers spoke at the corner of Canterbury Road to an attentive audience. In the evening he lectured to a well filled room on "The Teachings of Socialism." Good collection and sale of literature.—A. T.

MARYLEBONE.—On Sunday morning, Arnold and Utley addressed a large meeting at the corner of Salisbury Street. A constable insisted on taking the names and addresses of both speakers, and it is quite evident that the police have determined to stop our meetings at this spot.—In the afternoon, Arnold and Wardle spoke to a large and sympathetic audience in Hyde Park, and 8s. were collected for the Defence Fund. We appeal to all lovers of free speech to support us at our open-air meetings.—H. G. A., sec.

MILE-END.—On Sunday, September 19th, Henderson gave a vigorous lecture to a large audience on the Waste on Socialism. Van der Hout, who acted as chairman, exposed the capitalistic cry of "foreigner," which Socialists are so often met with. A resolution condemning the police authorities in interfering with our speakers was unanimously carried.—H. DAVIS, sec.

MERTON.—On Saturday, we visited Wandsworth and gave away back numbers of *Commonweal*.—On Sunday, we held our usual open-air meeting on Mitcham Fair Green, addressed by F. Kitz, who gave a sketch of the "History of Our Old Nobility," and the means whereby they have robbed the people of these islands of their land, violence and organised brigandage in the past had bred the landlordism of to-day, the effects of which are a miserable peasantry, and overcrowded cities and towns, wherein the dispossessed scramble at the factory gate for a subsistence. We met with an enthusiastic reception. 49 *Commonweals* and fair amount of pamphlets sold. In the evening we held a parade, and gave away a large number of leaflets, and returned to the club-room, when comrade Mainwaring delivered a short address, criticising Bradlaugh's allegations against Socialism. He (Mainwaring) disputed Bradlaugh's title to be a leader of the working-men when he says that the margin of profit to employers is too small, whilst miners are only getting 8s. per week; and as to Socialists only seeking notoriety, he had only incurred prosecution which nearly lost him his employment. Mr. Bradlaugh, of course, as every one knows, "never" has sought notoriety or filthy lucre. Comrade Blundell closed the meeting with music and song.—F. KITZ, sec.

NORTH LONDON.—At Ossulton Street, on Tuesday, Allen, Wardle, Henderson, and Nicoll spoke. Sale of *Commonweal* improved.—At Harrow Road, on Saturday, Henderson had scarcely spoken ten minutes before a body of police surrounded him, and, as he refused to stop, took his name and address. The following resolution was immediately put and carried unanimously:—"That this meeting denies that any real obstruction whatever is being caused, and condemns the action of the police in endeavouring to stop free speech here." After an hour's meeting the crowd quietly dispersed, in spite of the efforts of the police to make a row by rushing in amongst the people as soon as the speaker stopped.—At Regent's Park, on Sunday morning, Cantwell and Nicoll addressed a good audience. Three new members, and sale of *Commonweal* increased one quire during the week.—F. H., sec.

GLASGOW.—On Friday evening, September 17th, an open-air meeting was held at Golden Cross, where Adams, Watson, and Glasier spoke to an exceedingly sympathetic audience. Sunday evening in our Rooms, Mavor gave an excellent exposition of "The Currency Question." A discussion followed.—Monday evening a successful meeting was held at Parkhead Cross. Owing to some misunderstanding of arrangements, speakers did not turn up on Saturday at Rutherglen, or at the Green on Sunday afternoon, and although many of our comrades were at both those places at the appointed time, no meeting was held. Care will be taken that no such misunderstanding will occur again.—J. B. G.

HULL.—On Tuesday, 14th inst., a reading was given, dealing with the "Peasants' Revolt" of 1381, and the causes which led up to it.—On Sunday the 19th, J. L. Mahon spoke to the members on "The Study of Political Economy."—E. T., sec.

IPSWICH.—A meeting was addressed on Sunday, 19th, at 11 a.m., by Barker, of Norwich, about 800 persons being present; one quire of *Commonweals* were sold, together with a number of pamphlets. In the afternoon another meeting of about 1500 was addressed by Barker and Bailey (of Ipswich), and 6s. was collected to defray lecturer's travelling expenses. This is a splendid field, and only needs a few more like Bailey (who is out of work at present through his views) to push Socialism. Both meetings were held on the Ship Launch. Twenty names have been given in as members, and leave is now asked to declare this a Branch of the Socialist League.—C. W. M.

LEEDS.—On Sunday morning, September 19th, we held our open-air meeting on Hunstet Moor. Maguire addressed a large and sympathetic audience on "Usury." Sale of *Commonweal* two quires, also fifty copies of Kropotkin's "Appeal to the Young."—In the evening we held a meeting in Vicar's Croft, when Maguire and Sollit addressed the audience on the "Morality of the Present System." After the addresses a small capitalist spoke a few words in opposition, which did not apparently suit the audience very much. He also asked our comrades if under Socialism the men with the best talents would come to the front. Maguire answered in the affirmative, and said that one great fault of the present system was that the worst instead of the best men were the most likely to succeed.—F. C., sec.

MANCHESTER.—We have had a good week-end of propaganda. On Saturday evening, McGrove, Parkinson, and Unwin went to Middleton, and held a meeting in the market-place. We soon collected a good crowd, which seemed interested. After about half-an-hour the passage of two bands rather broke up our meeting, and gave an opening for about half-a-dozen roughs, who managed to spoil the rest of the meeting by shouting and shoving. We sold some *Commonweals*, and evidently succeeded in rousing a good bit of interest in Socialism.—On Sunday morning we held our usual meeting on the Brick Croft; the weather was very fine, and the audience a good one. We distributed handbills of Morris's lecture for the 27th. In the afternoon, Mason, Parkinson, Cadie, and Unwin went to Ashton, it was drawing towards tea-time when we got there, but we managed to get a fair audience in the market-place, and much interest was shown. We announced that we should speak later in Henry's Square, and turned up there accordingly at 6.30. We began by singing "The March of the Workers," which soon drew an audience, and we recognised many of our afternoon listeners amongst them. We got a very large meeting before we had done, and sold a good few pamphlets, the *Commonweals* being sold out. There is good ground in Ashton, and we think a little propaganda work would soon result in a Branch.—R. U.

NORWICH.—Last Sunday, we held a good meeting at St. Mary's Plain, at 11 a.m. Twenty *Commonweals* were sold. Market-place at 3, and audience of about 800; thirty papers sold. A lecture was given in Branch meeting-place at 7.30 p.m. by Mowbray to a crowded audience, not even standing-room being left, on "Toryism, Liberalism, Radicalism, and Socialism: Which will Benefit the Workers?" Mowbray again lectured on Monday night on "The Blessings of Civilisation."—We had a meeting at a village called Drayton at 11 on Sunday morning; Houghton, Pitt, and Morley addressed the meeting, and 8 papers were sold, making a total for the day at all meetings of over four quires. We shall again visit Drayton on Sunday, October 3.—C. W. M., sec.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS.—An open-air meeting was held on Monday evening, the 13th inst., on a piece of waste ground at the corner of Fargate and Surrey Street. Though there was absolutely no obstruction to traffic, or impediment of any kind to the public, and though previous meetings have been perfectly orderly and quiet, a policeman interfered on the ground that leave must be asked of the borough surveyor before the meeting could be held. This, considering that the said piece of ground is commonly used by salvationists, band-organ men, and others, seemed rather too much, and it was determined to hold the meeting as usual. John Furniss, Edward Carpenter, and Mrs. Maloy addressed the meeting as Socialists, and Wallace Nelson as a Land Nationaliser. The police took the names and addresses of the speakers. The crowd was large, numbering 400 or 500, and though there was no disturbance, yet, owing to the action of the police, it was not so perfectly quiet as it had been on previous occasions.

PROGRESSIVE DEBATING SOCIETY.—On Sunday the 19th, Beckett lectured to a large and appreciative audience on "Wealth," giving rise to an animated discussion.—P. M. R.

LECTURE DIARY.

London Branches.

- Bloomsbury*.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, W. Friday September 24, at 8 p.m. P. Fersenheim will open the discussion upon "The Social Position of Women."
- Clerkenwell*.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday September 26, at 7.30 p.m. Readings and Music. Wednesday 29, at 8.30. W. C. Wade, "Faith, Hope, and Charity."
- Croydon*.—Royal County House, West Croydon Station Yard. Sunday at 7.30 p.m. A. K. Donald on "Self-Preservation."
- Hackney*.—Kenton Coffee House, Kenton Road, Well Street, every alternate Tuesday at 9, for the enrolment of members and other business.
- Hammersmith*.—26 Upper Mall, W. Sunday Sept. 26, at 8 p.m. a Lecture.
- Hoxton* (L. E. L.).—Exchange Coffee House, Pitfield Street, opposite Hoxton Church, N. Sunday at 7.45 p.m.
- Merton*.—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Sundays and Wednesdays at 8 p.m. On Tuesday September 28, at 8 p.m., a Concert will take place, to inaugurate the winter season indoor lectures of the Branch, and aid the Defence Fund of the League. Admission by Programme.
- Mile-end*.—Members of this Branch are requested to meet at 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road, to-night (Saturday) at 8 o'clock for the transaction of important business.
- North London*.—32 Camden Road. Meeting every Friday at 8 p.m.

Country Branches.

- Birmingham*.—Carr's Lane Coffee House. Every Monday evening, at 8.
- Bradford*.—Scott's Temperance Hotel, East Parade, Leeds Road. Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m.
- Edinburgh* (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Friday at 8 p.m.
- Glasgow*.—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John Street, open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. every day. On Saturday afternoon, September 25, open-air meeting at Rutherglen at 5 o'clock.—On Sunday afternoon, at 4.30, open-air meeting on the Green.—On Sunday evening, in our Rooms, at 7 o'clock, lecture on "The Trades' Union Congress," by John Warrington.—On Monday evening, at 7.30 o'clock, open-air meeting at Parkhead Cross.

*Hull*.—Foresters' Hall, Charlotte Street, every Tuesday at 8 p.m. September 28, "Socialism and Politics."—Communist Club, Blanket Row, on Sunday 26, members' discussion; G. Smith will speak on "Society v. State."

*Ipswich*.—Mrs. Garner's, "George Inn," Woodhouse Street.

*Leicester*.—Radical Club, Vine Street. Tuesdays, at 8 p.m.

*Manchester*.—145 Grey Mare Lane, Bradford, Manchester. Club and Reading Room open every evening. Business meeting every Thursday at 8 p.m. On Monday evening, September 27, William Morris will lecture in the Ardwick Temperance Hall, Pin Mill Brow, Ashton Old Road. All our members are urged to muster on Saturday evening, September 25, to meet comrade Morris in our club room.

*Norwich*.—No. 6 St. Benedict St. Lecture and discussion every Sunday and Monday at 8 p.m. Reading-room open every day from 8.30 a.m. to 10 p.m.

*Oldham*.—Mrs. Wrigley's Coffee Tavern, 9, Old Market Place. Wednesdays, 7.30.

*Oxford*.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street.

Open-air Propaganda for the Week.

LONDON.

Date.	Station.	Time.	Speaker.	Branch.
Sat. 18.	Harrow Road ("P. of Wales")	8	T. E. Wardle	N. London.
	Hyde Park (Marble Arch)	7	W. H. Utley	Clerkenwell.
	Canning Town (Beckton Rd.)	11.30.	Somerville	Clerkenwell.
	S. 19.—Croydon—Cross Roads,	11.30.	A. K. Donald	Croydon.
	Canterbury Road			
	Marylebone—corner of Salisbury St. and Church St.	11.30.	F. Henderson	Marylebone.
	Hackney—Well Street	11.30.	H. Davis	Hackney.
	Hammersmith—Beadon Rd.	11.30.	The Branch	Hammersmith.
	Hoxton Ch.—Pitfield Street	11.30.	Westwood	Hoxton.
	Mile-end Waste	11.30.	J. Lane	Mile-end.
Tu. 21.	Mitcham Fair Green	11.30.	H. A. Barker	Merton.
	Regent's Park	11.30.	R. A. Beckett	N. London.
	St. Pancras Arches	11.30.	W. A. Chambers	Bloomsbury.
	Walham Green, opposite Station	11.30.	The Branch	Hammersmith.
	Hyde Park (near Marble Arch)	3	J. Lane	Marylebone.
	Victoria Park	3.30.	F. Henderson	Hackney.
	Clerkenwell Green	7	F. Henderson	Clerkenwell.
	Tu. 21.—Euston Road—Ossulton St.	7	The Branch	N. London.
	Mile-end Waste	8	The Branch	Mile-end.
	Soho—Broad Street	7.30.	Somerville	Bloomsbury.
W. 22.—London Fields—Broadway, opposite "Sir Walter Scott"	8.30.	F. Henderson	Hackney.	
	Th. 23.—Hoxton Ch.—Pitfield Street	8	H. Graham	Hoxton.
Mile-end Waste	8.30.	D. J. Nicoll	Mile-end.	
	Hyde Park (Marble Arch)	7	W. Chambers	Bloomsbury.

PROVINCES.

- Bradford*.—Corner of Godwin St. and Sunbridge Road, every Sunday, at 6 p.m.
- Ipswich*.—Ship Launch, Sundays at 11 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.
- Leeds*.—Hunstet Moor, 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, 7 p.m., Sundays.
- Manchester*.—Corner of Gorton Lane and Ashton Old Road, Sundays at 11 a.m.; Gorton Brook, every Sunday afternoon, at 2.45.
- Norwich*.—St. Mary's Plain, 11 a.m.; Market Place, 3 p.m.—Sundays.
- Oldham*.—Curzon Ground. Sundays, afternoon and evening.

SOUTH-WEST HAM RADICAL ASSOCIATION, Congregational Schools, Swanscombe Street, Barking Road.—Wednesday October 13, at 8 p.m. W. Morris, a Lecture.

PROGRESSIVE DEBATING SOCIETY, "Beehive," Warner St., New Kent Rd., S.E. September 26. W. A. Chambers, "Teachings of Socialism."

ST. PANCRAS ARCHES.—Sunday Sept. 26, at 11.30. Debate, "Will Temperance or Socialism Benefit the Universe most?"—Mr. Smith; Thos. E. Wardle. Comrades, attend! attend!

PECKHAM REFORM CLUB, Queen's Road, S.E.—On Sunday, September 26, at 8.30 p.m., C. W. Mowbray will lecture on "Woman, Her Place under Socialism and To-day."

FREE SPEECH DEFENCE FUND.

Already acknowledged	£19 13 10½	N. London Branch, Sept. 19,	
J. Waddington	0 1 0	Regent's Park	0 7 2½
Marylebone Branch, Sept. 19,		Clerkenwell Branch	0 2 2½
Hyde Park	0 8 0	Manchester Branch	0 8 6
Birmingham Branch	0 11 0		£21 11 9½
		F. H. W., Treasurer, Sept. 22.	

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

In response to an Appeal for Special Donations to a Fund being raised for the support of this Paper, the Treasurer has received the following sums since the beginning of August this year:

Already acknowledged	£8 10 6	W. Barker, Lowestoft	0 5 0
Hammersmith Branch (weekly contribution 10s.)	1 0 0	Bloomsbury Branch (5s. weekly)	0 10 0
Collected by W. Morris	5 0 0	—two weeks	15 6 0
T. Binning (weekly)	0 0 6		£15 6 0
		F. H. W., Sept. 21.	

THE VIERZON STRIKE.

We, the English Socialists, as a token of solidarity with our French comrades, open herewith a subscription on behalf of their wives and children. All amounts sent to the Secretary of the League will be forwarded to *Le Cri du Peuple*.

W. Morris, 5s.; May Morris, 5s.; Charles, 3s.; H. H. Sparling, 1s.; Webb, 6d.; Fersenheim, 1s.; Chambers, 6d.; Lerner, 6d.

THE

PRACTICAL SOCIALIST.

AN EXPONENT OF EVOLUTIONARY SOCIALISM; BUT DISCUSSION OF ALL ASPECTS INVITED.

EDITED BY THOMAS BOLAS.

MONTHLY, ONE PENNY.

W. REEVES, 185 FLEET STREET.

SOCIALISTS should read BRONTERRE O'BRIEN'S great work—"THE RISE, PROGRESS, AND PHASES OF HUMAN SLAVERY: How it came into the World, and how it shall be made to go out." 148 pp., demy 8vo, cloth lettered. Published, 1885, at 3s. 6d.; now offered post-free, 1s. 3d.—GEO. STANBING, 8 FINSBURY STREET, E.C.