

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON PASSING EVENTS.

MR. LABOUCHERE speaking at Manchester on a Gladstonian-Liberal resolution in favour of Home Rule, had naturally not much opportunity of speaking of the general Radical policy: what he did say showed how feeble he really thought the Radicals and their changes. His amendment of the programme of the Leeds Conference comprised pretty much the Radical platform as it used to be: this platform would now be on the point of being established if it were not that the opinion of the people is now not so much passing beyond these measures as getting on to another line. The end once proposed by Radicalism was the utmost development of the system falsely called that of free contract, that is absolute freedom of the fleecing of labour by money. That end is now seen by everyone to be worthless or unattainable, and the result is that the means necessary to its attainment are no longer interesting, and that the Radical party as a party is "unemployed"; and even such a brisk politician as Mr. Labouchere, has to put forward its programme speaking from the teeth out. There is no longer any heart in it, and no life, and it has to compete for attention with other lifeless things such as Protection, Paternal Government, the honour of the British Empire, and the rest. Therefore honest Radicals think there is reaction, which is a very great mistake. All that has happened is that the Radical ideal is worn out and has to take its place with other worn-out ideals and be a plaything for those who have nothing to do with practical politics, to use those much abused words in their right sense. Such things are fit subjects for debate in the House of Commons, which means that they are done with everywhere else.

What Mr. Labouchere said about Ireland is out of date since the new adventure of the Government into coercion. As Lord Salisbury promised us at the Mansion House the other day, the Tory Government has announced its sole function to be that of acting as bumbailiff to the Irish landlords. It must be said that in so doing it has shown a much keener appreciation of the meaning of Irish agitation than the Radicals have. To defend property at all hazards and in spite of any suffering that may be caused to innocent people—that is the function of Constitutional Government. The Irish agitation attacks property, ergo, it must be put down at any cost.

W. MORRIS.

It is not only the Government that is making plain the point at issue in the Irish land-war. The people are preparing in many ways that show how the struggle is narrowing its ground and becoming more deadly the more it is understood. The "Plan of Campaign" alluded to last week as put forth by *United Ireland* has been adopted on several estates, and is giving rise to the greatest hopes on the one side and liveliest apprehensions on the other.

On Lord Dillon's estate in Mayo, from whence he has wrung £20,000 a-year, mostly earned in the harvest-fields of England, as the land can barely be lived on and cannot be made to produce the rent as well, his tenants have resolved to adopt the plan, should his sublime lordship refuse their application for a reduction. From Wicklow, Clare, Cork, Leitrim, and Kilkenny similar reports are received.

The most keenly dreaded part of the plan is the depositing of the rent that the tenants are willing to pay in the hands of an anonymous trustee for safe keeping—and further use should occasion require. This disposes finally of the fear always felt hitherto of a landlord's being able to frighten the more timorous or bribe the more mercenary of the tenants into betraying their fellows. As the *Westmeath Examiner* of November 20 well says:

"The rent struggle has now commenced in good earnest. The fight is going on fiercely in most of the counties in Ireland. *United Ireland's* excellent Plan is being extensively availed of. Landlords and tenants alike recognise that if the tenants on any estate work out this Plan to the fullest extent they cannot for any length of time be refused such fair terms as they demand. The two vital points in this Plan are union amongst the tenants and the lodgment in the hands of a trustee of the rent which they consider fair. Without these the tenants cannot expect to do anything. These points are absolutely essential to gain success. The tenants should see to it that these conditions be fulfilled. There can be no backsliding—no traitorism in the ranks; such is securely guarded against. So the tenants should not have the old fear of one another—the fear which existed in other times and during other fights."

Would that workers everywhere were as united and resolved as the

men of Ireland—but for a nobler object than the *reduction* of rent! The Government that adopts coercion hastens on this end.

Unlike Sir Charles Warren, to whom he was compared when appointed, Sir Redvers Buller has no taste for the inglorious work of defending the spoilers of a people; he cannot stoop to be the willing tool and subservient bravo of the privileged; his humanity asserts itself, and official wrath is waking against him. He is sure to be recalled, and replaced by one readier for the vile work he will not do.

Back to the immemorial plan of those in authority has the Government again turned in the Irish affair. Proclamation of meetings, prosecution for "intimidatory language," threatened suppression of the popular press, and all the rest of the well-worn tricks are to be—are being reproduced. It is ever so. Wrong, buttressed though it be by the superstition of centuries, trembles before untrammelled speech and flies for refuge to brute force as to the last appeal. One day the lesson so long taught by the Governments of the world will be learnt by the peoples—and then?

The murder of the old widow Lebon by her two sons, daughter, and son-in-law, and their trial and condemnation at the Blois Assize Court, have, says the *Daily Telegraph*, "furnished the occasion for a good deal of unfavourable comment on the character of the French peasantry in general." For the sake of her savings, £32, the poor old woman had been murdered by roasting alive, so that it might be thought she had herself fallen into the fire by accident. "Sordid, pitiable greed," and "cold-blooded, brutal murder" are fine phrases, rolling well from bourgeois lips, but not applicable only to the peasantry of France or elsewhere. Were they sought out there might be found among the philanthropic phrase-mongers some arrayed in broad-cloth and fine linen, to sustain whose delicate lives widows and orphans have been immolated wholesale.

To an impartial observer what difference other than of degree can be traced between a highway robber and a wrester of unpaid labour, or between a murderer and one whose gain is wrung from the misery of the masses?

France, or rather the bourgeois Republic that usurps her name, is in difficulties. "Financial deficits," and all the rest of the ills that Governments are heir to. Republic or despotism, whatsoever be the form of the Government or political system, there must be again and again inevitably these kind of troubles until the people take all things into their own hands, organise production and distribution for their common benefit, and put an end to the universal waste entailed by monopoly and competition.

H. HALLIDAY SPARLING.

## A WORKMAN'S VIEW OF AUBERON HERBERT.

THE greatest drawback to a proper and careful analysis of such vital and all important topics as Individual Liberty is the limited time at our disposal. Mr. Auberon Herbert lectured here on that subject lately, and many were present who not having time to speak were nevertheless able to point out grievous errors enunciated by our worthy and earnest lecturer. But I regret to say that there appears to be a tendency on the part of some teachers to indulge intentionally in mistakes, in order that their ideal may receive assent in preference to any other. For instance, what did the lecturer mean by stating that Socialism wants to gain power? Does he mean that this is the object of Socialism? If so, let me tell him that nothing could be further from the truth. True, Socialism may find itself forced to utilise power against opposing power in order to bring about the tranquility and equilibrium sought, just as the defender of individualism uses the force of persuasiveness and contention against those adverse to its doctrine. The teaching of Socialism, as I have learned it, has proved to me the ignominy of man in usurping power over or commanding in any way his fellow-man; and this holds good not only with the individual but national life. It was Socialism which taught me to look with abhorrence and disgust upon the man or men who seek to become masters of their fellow-men. And what to a free mind can be more revolting than the fact that we are obliged to look upon our fellow-creatures in the light of masters and slaves? It was Socialism also which instilled into me a desire to esteem, love, respect and be grateful to all who, possessing talents, utilise them for the advancement and

advantage of their less fortunate fellow-creatures. Socialism, I again repeat, does *not* seek to command, but portrays a method whereby men may become the helpmates and teachers each of each. Is this not preferable to the prevailing system which permits of no alternative save that of slave or master? Socialism is the inspiration of Justice, Truth, and Love. All that is noble, good, and true in the cause of which this teacher of individual liberty is so ardent an advocate is embodied in Socialism. Again, in answer to a question put forth in the discussion, he gave us the idea that he is a staunch supporter of competition. Now what could be more inconsistent? Here is one who denounces the right of one man to possess power or command over his fellow, and shortly after he declares that he will support competition, which is a system that offers to the cunning and fraudulent a means of obtaining power over their less crafty and more helpless fellow-creatures. Competition, as it now exists, is the greatest scourge that a people could be afflicted with. With competition for nobleness of heart and mind all Socialists would heartily agree; but with the fratricidal struggle for advantage that now rages, or with any attempted modification of it, a Socialist can but wage unrelenting war. Even granting that quite free competition is not necessarily an evil, it cannot be attained until Socialism is realised. If all those gentlemen who devote their talents and education to threshing straw would work for Socialism, the happiness of the world would be brought nearer.

JOHN DENBY (Preston).

## A DREAM OF JOHN BALL.

(Continued from p. 275.)

He left off as one who had yet something else to say; and, indeed, I thought he would give us some word as to the trysting-place, and whither the army was to go from it; because it was now clear to me that this gathering was but a band of an army. But much happened before John Ball spoke again from the cross, and it was on this wise. When there was silence after the last shout that the crowd had raised a while ago, I thought I heard a thin sharp noise far away, somewhat to the north of the cross, which I took rather for the sound of a trumpet or horn, than for the voice of a man or any beast. Will Green also seemed to have heard it, for he turned his head sharply, and then back again, and looked keenly into the crowd as though seeking to catch some one's eye. There was a very tall man standing by the prisoner on the horse near the outskirts of the crowd, and holding his bridle. This man, who was well-armed, I saw say something to the prisoner, who stooped down and seemed to whisper him in turn. The tall man nodded his head and the prisoner got off his horse, which was a cleaner-limbed, better-built beast than the others belonging to the band, and the tall man quietly led him a little way from the crowd, mounted him, and rode off northward at a smart pace.

Will Green looked on sharply at all this, and when the man rode off, smiled as one who is content, and deems that all is going well, and settled himself down again to listen to the priest.

But now when John Ball had ceased speaking, and after another shout, and a hum of excited pleasure and hope that followed it, there was silence again, and the priest addressed himself to speaking once more. He paused and turned his head toward the wind, as if he heard something, which certainly I heard, and belike every one in the throng, though it was not over loud, far as sounds carry in such clear quiet evenings. It was the thump-a-thump of a horse drawing near at a hand-gallop along the grassy upland road; and I knew well it was the tall man coming back with tidings, the purport of which I could well guess.

I looked up at Will Green's face. He was smiling as one pleased, and said softly as he nodded to me, "Yea, shall we see the grey goose fly this eve?"

But John Ball said in a great voice from the cross, "Hear ye the tidings on the way, fellows! Hold ye together and look to your gear; yet hurry not, for no great matter shall this be. I wot well there is little force between Canterbury and Kingston, for the lords are looking north of Thames toward Wat Tyler and his men. Yet well it is, well it is!"

The crowd opened and spread out a little, and the men moved about in it, some tightening a girdle, some getting their side arms more in reach of their right hands, and those who had bows stringing them.

Will Green set hand and foot to the great shapely piece of polished red yew, with its shining horn tips, which he carried, and bent it with no seeming effort; then he reached out his hand over his shoulder and drew out a long arrow, smooth, white, beautifully balanced, with a barbed iron head at one end, a horn nock and three strong goose feathers at the other. He held it loosely between the finger and thumb of his right hand, and there he stood with a thoughtful look on his face, and in his hands one of the most terrible weapons which a strong man has ever carried, the English long-bow and cloth-yard shaft.

But this while the sound of the horse's hoofs was growing nearer, and presently from the corner of the road amidst the orchards broke out our long friend, his face red in the sun near sinking now. He waved his right hand as he came in sight of us, and sang out, "Bills and bows! bills and bows!" and the whole throng turned towards him and raised a great shout.

He reined up at the edge of the throng, and spoke in a loud voice, so that all might hear him:

"Fellows, these are the tidings; even while our priest was speaking

we heard a horn blow far off; so I bade the sergeant we have taken, and who is now our fellow in arms, to tell me where away it was that there would be folk a-gathering, and what they were, and he did me to wit that mayhappen Sir John Newton was stirring from Rochester Castle; or, maybe it was the sheriff and Rafe Hopton with him; so I rode off what I might towards Hartlip, and I rode warily, and that was well, for as I came through a little wood between Hartlip and Guildstead, I saw beyond it the gleam of steel, and lo! in the field there a company, and a penon of Rafe Hopton's arms, and that is blue and thereon three silver fish; and a penon of the sheriff's arms, and that is a green tree; and withal another penon of three red kine, and whose they be I know not.<sup>1</sup> There tied I my horse in the middle of the wood, and myself I crept along the dyke to see more and to hear somewhat; and no talk I heard to tell of save at whiles a big knight talking to five or six others, and saying somewhat wherein came the words London and Nicholas Bramber, and King Richard; but I saw that of men-at-arms and sergeants there might be a hundred, and of bows not many, but of those outland arbalestes maybe a fifty; and so, what with one and another of servants and tip-staves and lads, some three hundred, well armed, and the men-at-arms of the best. Forsooth, my masters, there had I been but a minute, ere the big knight broke off his talk, and cried out to the music to blow up, "And let us go look on these villains," said he; and withal the men began to gather in a due and ordered company, and their faces turned thitherward; forsooth, I got to my horse, and led him out of the wood on the other side, and so to saddle and away along the green roads; neither was I seen or chased. So look ye to it, my masters, for these men will be coming to speak with us; nor is there need for haste, but rather for good speed; for in some twenty or thirty minutes will be more tidings to hand."

By this time one of our best armed men had got through the throng and was standing on the cross beside John Ball. When the long man had done, there was confused noise of talk for a while, and the throng spread itself out more and more, but not in a disorderly manner; the bowmen drawing together toward the outside, and the billmen forming behind them. Will Green was still standing beside me and had hold of my arm, as though he knew both where he and I were to go.

"Fellows," quoth the captain from the cross, "belike this stour shall not live to be older than the day, if ye get not into a plump together for their arbalestiers to shoot bolts into, and their men-at-arms to thrust spears into. Get you to the edge of the crofts and spread out there six feet between man and man, and shoot, ye bowmen, from the hedges, and ye with the staves keep your heads below the level of the hedges, or else for all they be thick a bolt may win its way in." He grinned as he said this, and there was laughter enough in the throng to have done honour to a better joke. Then he sung out, "Hob Wright, Rafe Wood, John Pargetter, and thou Will Green, bestir ye and marshall the bow-shot; and thou Nicholas Woodyer shall be under me Jack Straw in ordering of the staves. Gregory Tailor and John Clark, fair and fine are ye clad in the arms of the Canterbury bailiffs; ye shall shine from afar; go ye with the banner into the highway, and the bows on either shall ward you; yet jump lads, and over the hedge with you when the bolts begin to fly your way! Take heed, good fellows all, that our business is bestride the highway, and not let them get in on our flank the while; so half to the right, half to the left of the highway. Shoot straight and strong, and waste no breath with noise; let the loose of the bow-string cry for you: and look you! think it no loss of manhood to cover your bodies with tree and bush; for one of us who know is worth a hundred of those proud fools. To it lads, and let them see what the grey goose bears between his wings! Abide us here, brother John Ball, and pray for us if thou wilt; but for me, if God will not do for Jack Straw what Jack Straw would do for God were he in like case, I can see no help for it."

"Yea, forsooth," said the priest, "here will I abide you my fellows if ye come back; or if ye come not back, here will I abide the foe. Depart, and the blessing of the fellowship be with you."

Down then leapt Jack Straw from the cross, and the whole throng set off without noise or hurry, soberly and steadily in outward seeming. Will Green led me by the hand as if I were a boy, yet nothing he said, being forsooth intent on his charge. We were some four hundred men in all; but I said to myself that without some advantage of the ground we were lost men before the men-at-arms that long Gregory Tailor had told us of; for I had not seen as yet the yard-long shaft at its work.

We and somewhat more than half of our band turned into the orchards on the left of the road, through which the level rays of the low sun shone brightly. We kept pretty near to the road till we had got through all the closes save the last, where we were brought up by a hedge and a dyke, beyond which lay a wide open nearly treeless space, not of tillage, as at the other side of the place, but of pasture, the common grazing ground of the township. A little stream wound about through the ground, with a few willows here and there; there was only a thread of water in it in this hot summer tide, but its course could easily be traced by the deep blue-green of the rushes that grew plenteously in the bed. Geese were lazily wandering about and near this brook, and a herd of cows, accompanied by the town bull, were feeding quietly still, their heads all turned one way; while half a dozen calves marched close together side by side like a plump of soldiers, their tails swinging in a kind of measure to keep off the flies, of which there was great plenty. Three or four lads and girls were sauntering about, heeding or not heeding the cattle. They looked

<sup>1</sup> Probably one of the Calverlys, a Cheshire family, one of whom was a noted officer in the French wars.—Ed.

up toward us as we crowded into the last close, and slowly loitered off toward the village. Nothing looked like battle; yet battle sounded in the air; for now we heard the beat of the horse-hoofs of the men-at-arms coming on towards us like the rolling of distant thunder, and growing louder and louder every minute; we were none too soon in turning to face them. Jack Straw was on our side of the road, and with a few gestures and a word or two he got his men into their places. Six archers lined the hedge along the road where the banner of Adam and Eve rising above the grey leaves of the apple-trees challenged the new comers; and of the billmen also he kept a good few ready to guard the road in case the enemy should try to rush it with the horsemen. The road, not being a Roman one, was, you must remember, little like the firm smooth country roads that you are used to; it was a mere track between the hedges and fields, partly grass-grown, and cut up by the deep sunk ruts hardened by the drought of summer. There was a stack of faggot and small wood on the other side, and our men threw themselves upon it and set to work to stake the road across for a rough defence against the horsemen.

What befell more on the road itself I had not much time to note, for our bowmen spread themselves out along the hedge that looked into the pasture-field, leaving some six feet between man and man; the rest of the billmen went along with the bowmen, and halted in clumps of some half-dozen along their line, holding themselves ready to help the bowmen if the enemy should run up under their shafts, or to run on to lengthen the line in case they should try to break in on our flank. The hedge in front of us was of quick. It had been strongly plashed in the past February, and was stiff and stout. It stood on a low bank; and besides the level of the orchard was some thirty inches higher than that of the field, and the ditch was some two foot deeper than the face of the field. The field went winding round to beyond the church, making a quarter of a circle about the village, and at the western end of it were the butts whence the folk were coming from shooting when I first came into the village street. Altogether, to me who knew nothing of war the place seemed defensible enough. I have said that the road down which Long Gregory came with his tidings went north; and that was its general direction; but its first reach was nearly east, so that the low sun was not in the eyes of any of us, and where Will Green took his stand, and I with him, it was nearly at our backs.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be continued.)

### IS SOCIALISM SPREADING?

MR. BRADLAUGH, if a recently reported interview in the *Evening News* be not a joke, has been trying to calm the fears of the "respectable" building-society, bank depositing, shopocracy and petty bourgeois, to whom he has now rattled, by assuring them that Socialists are either crack-brained enthusiasts or canting rogues, and that Socialism is not making and cannot make any perceptible progress in this country. If Socialists were at all likely to be discouraged, or to do anything but laugh at such utterances from such a quarter, they might take heart again to find another proof amongst many of the spread of Socialistic opinion in the following very unorthodox sentiments, which are taken from a leading article in the *Daily News* of November 25:—

"People who have once found that they can support themselves in idleness by sending their children to beg will not return to industry. They are as demoralised as the indolent younger son who has been at Eton and cannot imagine why he should ever be doing any harder work than is demanded from a decorative private secretary. The street cadgers are not morally one whit worse than this desultory young gentleman, and as long as we cannot help supporting them they will go on begging."

Again:

"We cannot do this, and we cannot do that," people cry, because it is 'economically unsound.' But this is no reason for never doing anything at all. If nearly everything that is proposed be economically unsound, what is left that is economically sound? Is it to extort the utmost possible percentage out of work paid for at wages which must be eked out by prostitution, theft, and beggary? If that kind of economy be sound economically, it is rotten every other way. One might feel it a relief to do something positive that was wrong, rather than to sit still for ever doing nothing in the odour of economical sarcasm. It is not institutions, enactments, and laws that can destroy poverty of the blackest sort; it is nothing but a sense of brotherhood and a sense of honour. Who does not denounce the usurer who makes thirty per cent. out of the folly and ignorance of undergraduates? If that money stinks, as Vespasian said a certain revenue did not stink, why should twenty per cent. made out of work paid at starvation wages be acceptable and honourable? Not many of us, perhaps, would like to be wealthy on little rents screwed out of starving peasants. Are the rents of plague-stricken and poisonous hovels in London more free from stain? Is it impossible in the nature of things that human beings should extend universally to such gains the odium that already attaches to exorbitant usury? Is wealth acquired by a system of artificially nursing superfluous public-houses honourably got? Should gentlemen keep and stimulate the demand for liquor? These are matters that divines may put to the consciences of their flocks. The prospects of Society will begin to improve when men agree to say of money thus gotten, *Olet!*"

T. B.

Some unemployed men were charged at West Ham Police-court the other day with begging. What on earth are the unemployed to do? They can't get work, and they must not beg or steal. Their numbers increase rapidly, and they are not likely much longer to be content to sink away and die quietly in the slums. Who can doubt that at some not distant day they will "arise in unvanquishable number," and claim their places at Nature's table, now denied them by the rapacious classes who "rob and rule" us?

### NO POOR.

AH, BROTHERS, when the world is wise,  
Will want and woe endure?  
There dawns a day before our eyes  
When earth shall have no poor;  
God gives enough of good for all,  
And some day soon, we trust,  
An equal share to all will fall,  
And men to men be just;  
The day of justice comes at last,  
The People's day, be sure,  
When want shall be but of the past,  
And earth shall have no poor.

We have been blind—we have been dumb;  
At length we've eyes that see;  
At last our time to speak has come  
And men we claim to be;  
What care we for your prate and fuss  
Of who are out or in,  
Unless your ruling give to us  
The lives we mean to win?  
The rags—the hunger of the past  
No longer must endure;  
The People throned in power at last  
Will see there are no poor.

W. C. BENNETT.

### Lissagary's 'History of the Commune.'

THIS important work has at last appeared in English, and we do not hesitate to say that it ought to be in the hands of every Socialist. The history of the Commune, as presented in the generally unbiassed narrative of Lissagary, bears a profound moral with it. It is the story of the struggle of noble enthusiasm, genuine disinterestedness and devotion, and, in the ordinary sense, great opportunities, with foolish vanity, personal squabbles, inefficiency of organisation, and pedantry, resulting in the ascendancy of the latter, and consequent general collapse. The Versailles entered upon a victory already prepared for them. And it will be so again in the next great popular movement, should due subordination of function and organisation not be able to keep the whip-hand of mere confusion, cliquishness, and faddism. But the moral to be drawn is of more immediate application than to the next popular rising. To compare small matters with great, there are Socialist organisations (save the mark!) in existence to-day which are literally qualifying for disaster when the time comes. We see precisely the same elements at work in them which caused the fall of the Commune with the horrors of the "bloody week." Again and again as he reads the story of the tragedy of '71, the friend of the Cause feels inclined to wring his hands over the opportunities lost. Lost because everything was in confusion, nearly everybody was wanting to do everybody else's work, and consequently doing no work at all, and in many cases doubtless with the best intentions. Even at the supreme hour, when the Versailles were actually inside Paris, there was a chance of rolling back the invasion by means of a cross fire between Montmartre and the Pantheon, had these portions been properly fortified and garrisoned; but there was no one there. Again, when the Commune was in death-throes, street after street was sacrificed because officers and others carrying important messages were stopped and forced to assist in the ordinary work of barricade making—the last defences being thus literally immolated before a false and idiotic notion of equality.

We wish that every true Socialist at heart whose head is led astray by disintegrative tendencies would read, mark, learn and inwardly digest the important lessons of this volume. The cause was wrecked in 1871, in great part at least, not because of spies or traitors, for there were marvellously few of those who took any prominent part in the movement who can fairly be accused of sinister motives, or of attempts to make personal gain out of it—but because of well-meaning conceited, faddy, cantankerous persons, who wasted time in long-winded speeches about personal matters, etc., and who would neither do any work themselves nor let any one else do it. Other follies there were of course, although they were doubtless partly caused by the above, such as making decrees and not getting them respected. The case of the hostages was one of the most fatal of these. Had the archbishop been shot on the first corroboration of the fact that Federal prisoners were being butchered at Versailles, the butcheries might have been checked. As it was, he was reserved only to be shot after there was no good to be got by shooting him at all, save to give the civilised world an opportunity of displaying its capacities in shamming horror. The translation of the book, we should say, is excellent.

E. B. BAX.

If your assembly can't agree about its duty in politics, drop the subject and go ahead in the study of the principles until all learn more of the *Industrial News*.

"Where," cried Abe Hewitt, "where is the man who said that the 68,000 gentlemen who voted for our admirable friend Henry George were anarchists and communists! My feet are cold, and I would like to warm them by kicking the curmudgeon who slandered these 68,000 gentlemen."—*John Swinton's Paper*.



"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 invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None 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.

Rejected MSS. can only be returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them.

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### 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 December 1.

ENGLAND	New Haven (Conn.)—Workmen's Advocate	ITALY
Justice	Paterson (N.J.)—Labor Standard	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Norwich—Daylight	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	SPAIN
Club and Institute Journal	Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	Madrid—El Socialista
Bedford and County Record	Knights of Labor	Cadiz—El Socialismo
Londoner Arbeiter-Zeitung	Salem (Oreg.)—Advance-Thought	Barcelona—El Grito del Pueblo
Freethinker	Portland (Oreg.)—Avant-Courier	La Tronada
INDIA	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	PORTUGAL
Madras—People's Friend	Detroit (Mich.)—Labor Leaf	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Allahabad—People's Budget	FRANCE	Voz do Operario
CANADA	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	O Seculo
Toronto—Labor Reformer	Le Socialiste	Villafranca de Xira—O Campino
Montreal—L'Union Ouvriere	Le Revolte	Oporto—A Derola
UNITED STATES	La Revue Litteraire	AUSTRIA
New York—Volkszeitung	Guise—Le Devoir	Brunn—Volksfreund
Freiheit	Lille—Le Travailleur	HUNGARY
Truthseeker	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Der Sozialist	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair	ROMANIA
John Swinton's Paper	En Avant	Bucharest—Pruncul Roman
Tax Reformer	Liege—L'Avenir	Jassy—Lupta
Boston—Woman's Journal	Antwerp—De Werker	DENMARK
Liberty	SWITZERLAND	Social-Demokraten
Denver (Col.)—Labor Inquirer	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	SWEDEN
Cincinnati (O.)—Unionist		Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
Toledo (O.)—Industrial News		
Cleveland (O.)—Carpenter		

### SITTING ON THE SAFETY-VALVE.

A GENTLEMAN, who ingeniously signs himself "Y. Knott," writes to the papers to suggest that Trafalgar Square should be turned into a flower-garden to prevent demonstrations from being held there in future, and instances the case of Kennington Common by way of a "precedent," this always carrying great weight with the middle-class mind. Perhaps this gentleman imagines that when he has suppressed the expression of discontent, no discontent will exist; or it may be that he considers no amount of distress so dangerous as the assembling of a large number of the "lowest classes" in a given locality. Such ostrich-like obliquity can only cause us to wonder at the persistence with which the lords of creation try to identify themselves with their humbler neighbours.

Amusing, too, are the efforts of the *Standard* to pooh-pooh the demonstration held on the 21st, by putting the number of processions at the lowest possible figure, making out the assemblage to consist mainly of middle-class sight-seers, confining the cheers of the crowd to the immediate supporters of the speakers, and reporting highly-coloured dialogues between respectable working-men about as natural as the pictorial representations of the Lord Mayor's Show.

By the way, the persistency with which newspaper-writers and others attempt to distinguish between the "respectable working-man" and the "London rough" is very noticeable. It does not seem to strike them that the rough is merely the respectable working-man driven or starved out of respectability. Even Lord Coleridge, presiding some time ago at a thieves' supper, told the guests that Society first made them thieves, and then punished them for being what it had made them.

I think that the worst thing that could happen to the Socialist propaganda would be for nobody to take any notice of it. One would suppose that this simple proposition would have been clear to most people by this time; but press and pulpit continue to pour forth denunciations of revolutionary ideas, and all sorts of vain attempts are made to stem the progress of them among the working-class. This, of course, the upper classes cannot do; having left the lower pretty much to themselves in the past, they need not wonder if the latter suspect the disinterestedness of a sudden interference with their political

aspirations. Hence mere brute force, on which it is obvious that Society ultimately rests, must be exhibited in all its nakedness, to prevent the outward embodiment of the new ideas. By thus sitting on the safety-valve they are doing their best to burst the boiler, or blow themselves up.

It does seem strange that all the lessons of history and of reason are lost upon the rulers of Society. People often say that what we have to do is to teach the rich to be generous; that when Socialism is understood by the privileged classes, they will accept it. But it seems that they never will understand it, because they are guided not by reason but by instinct, which is simply a blind impulse towards self-preservation, as they understand it. But this same instinct is working in the people themselves, only stronger and more imperious, for their need is greater. It is this force which urges all social problems to their solution; a selfish force indeed in the rich and strong, but in the poorer mass only the force of hunger. When this name is given to the demand of the people for the satisfaction of their reasonable needs, for the necessities of their life in fact, it will be seen to be one that must and will be granted sooner or later. REGINALD A. BECKETT.

### TOWN AND GOWN.

HAVING an engagement a little time back whereby I was obliged to go to Oxford, I was able so to time my visit that I should be there on the evening of the usual weekly meeting of the Oxford Branch of the Socialist League. Not having lately travelled by the Great Western Railway, I was unaware of there being third class carriages to the fast trains, I therefore booked by second class. I hardly regretted this after being seated, as my company was instructive. As soon as we were out of the darkened station I turned to the work I had to attend to and studied my papers of instructions. When this was done I looked out on the country to see if Moule and Wey were in flood, for it was raining heavily, as it had done for some days. This relaxation from the study of papers induced, I suppose, a lady opposite to say to me that it was a bad day for the wedding, and was I going to it? I said no, and that I was never at a wedding, to my comfort, but that I supposed a wet day did not much matter for a wedding, but was certainly trying at a funeral. The lady was good-natured enough not to be put out by this somewhat rude indifference to so soul-moving a contrivance as a modern wedding, and entered freely into jests at the expense of the unhappy who had not the courage or the wish to refuse to go to weddings. Our conversation lulling a little, I turned to consider and make a note or two as to what I should say at the meeting in the evening if I were asked to join in the discussion, and I mused over the text for debate which had been sent to me by the friend, who would be my host at Oxford. This was it: "For lack of knowledge." My friend had added as note, "This lack of knowledge, that is most fatal to progress, is the lack of knowledge of how others live and feel." One of my notes was, "Hear the other side, the most important and least allowed to speak; the 'other side' is practically dumb." When I had noted down thus far we were at Reading, and two other passengers got into the carriage. One of them was an English Church dignitary of such extraordinary cleanness of person, that I gaped with wonder at what soap and patience could do on a human being destined for the shining courts of paradise. This almost transparent image evidently did not belong to the aforesaid "other side." If the Royal and Imperial Queen of England, Ireland, India, etc., etc., had got into the carriage, with all her finest State robes on, and the fourpenny-bit of a crown stuck on the tip of her top-knot, it would hardly have been a greater contrast. Well, my mother-of-pearl-like Churchman found a friend in the lady who had talked awhile with one who was not all transparent, and they fell to on gossip, leaving me free to think of the "great unwashed." Occasionally, what I wrote in my note-book got mixed up with the conversation of my opposites, and the incongruities must have cast a humorous smile on my otherwise absorbed face. As I went on I wrote down "these dumb have to depend upon 'middlemen'; now middlemen have, deservedly, a bad name, as their usual quality is not that of impartial judge between differing people, but rather that of the advocate for himself or his class; and for types of middlemen we may say, on one side, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and on the other, Mr. Bradlaugh; both respectable people," etc. While I was writing down this wise reflection, he with the little dignitary rosette on his hat-band, was so impressive on the subject of some sapling of his order doing pretty well at college, but as not being particularly bright, that my ears were engaged on his talk whether I enjoyed the distraction or not. It seemed to me, as my thoughts coursed at lightening speed, that a second-class carriage was not a bad place in which to consider causes of ill or well.

When I got to Oxford, and had done my particular business, I went to the College where my host was at his business; the work of putting two and two together, and, in the matter of academical life, finding (though he is a mathematician) that they make five, or perhaps seven, but certainly not four. After a simple lunch of bread-and-cheese, and quick talk on things various and moving, I left him to his further "nut-cracking," and went on my way, having first agreed to be back at College at 6 o'clock to meet two or three undergraduates, who were friendly to the cause of the people, at a modest dinner before going to the Branch meeting. I then wended my wet way about the still beautiful old city and University, and, as it was a place that had concerned me in my earlier years of life, I found much to make me notice, that any town not ugly in England, now, was a surprise as well as a

delightful wonder. One of the things claiming my attention was of history, on points of date of the construction of one of the ancient buildings, and in turning over books, what struck me most was, that the founders, in the main, gave their estates for the good of "poor scholars," and my mind recurred to the transparent dignitary of the morning and his saplings to be provided for! Oxford is a place having this advantage over funerals in churchyards, that if you have thick shoes and an umbrella, you need not be wearied in mind though it may rain "cats and dogs," and the cats be "gib cats," and the dogs muzzled and likewise "melancholy."

I was back at College eager and hungry at 6 o'clock, and while my host was washing his hands I introduced myself to two undergraduates—somewhat fearfully, I must say—but as I was in for the penny of Socialist ignorance, I might not be disturbed at being in for the pound of sucking learned students. They met my somewhat old-fashioned advances with very becoming friendliness, and we four sat down to dinner, in an ancient seat of learning, in a beaming frame of mind, though the minds themselves were almost as various as the direction of the weather-cocks on the many steeples of the place. Now, catch an "Oxford man," a young one, just on the second or third rung of the ladder of learning, and, not unjustly, you may expect he will be reserved, or antagonistic, or bumptious, or in other ways inhuman, but the colleagues at my host's table were neither, they were good company with natural tact; and, as it will out, neither of them asked me what I thought would be a good rendering of a passage in Plato! So far, for awhile, with "Gown." We four now trudged through the lit wet streets to the meeting-place of the Oxford Branch of the League.

The Temperance Hall is a good enough and airy room, not so large as to look dismal with a small meeting, and yet with space to hold a hundred or more, easily. On entering I saw a known comrade, the representative of the Oxford Branch at our last congress. I was at once at home and in good company. After awhile, chairman and secretary were in place, and the work of the evening began by the aforesaid congressman opening the discussion—the subject pitched upon having been chosen from the curious letters which had lately appeared in the *Daily News*. Facts and figures were given in proof of our lack of knowledge, and of how things went from bad to worse because so few amongst us noted amazing anomalies wrapped in customs of the Mumbo Jumbo, "respectability;" the devotees of this great god not being anxious to encourage knowledge which might reduce the offerings at the highly favoured shrine;—Silence being Golden here, surely! Well, our company, amounting to some twenty-five or more, among which were two or three women, followed on in discussion, and in that curious variety of ways in which I have observed different people look at the same facts. Still, the points were kept to, and the arguments carried on in a spirited way. One of the undergraduates spoke, and without regard to the possible consequences to himself. There was considerable freedom of speech from the more distinctly "working men," and illustrations were vigorous and often greatly amusing, so that we were in no way dull. The writer of this article put in his railway-considered words to an audience too kind to be harshly critical; and my college host added a short speech in a way very much unlike an Oxford "don," but humanly wise; and so we came away. As my feet clattered in the now quiet eleven-o'clock streets, I thought "Here are the founder's 'poor scholars'!" No need here, if things were as they should be, for long galleries of well-filled libraries being only accidentally tenanted with a student as at present, day after day. It does not need a very strong imagination to see your cobbler, or seamstress, or wheelwright, mason, or girl schoolmistress busy at his or her work for half the day and treading the quadrangles of the quiet colleges for the other half, and no man saying them nay.

I parted with my host under his college gateway, after witnessing there, at past eleven o'clock at night, a half-comical, half-rough bit of wrestling bear-fight between three or four students; just to get their wind, I suppose, after, perhaps, some heated controversy on the merits of a deceased jockey—who knows? I came away to the inn for the night, and slept the sleep of—say—one who has slept for years under the sound of the bells from the many towers of this noble city.

At breakfast in the morning (it being degree time) there were some out-of-college young fellows in the coffee-room. One of them was silent and sullen over the fire, seemingly as if he had too much care on his mind, or too little. After a while another student came in; he was bright enough and company for me. He had taken his degree the day before, and smiled pleasantly at his own name in the *Times* as a B.A. He fell to asking what I thought of the translated Welsh prayer given in the newspaper as having been offered at a "Gorsedd of the Bards of the Isle of Britain" in the Temple Garden the day before. I read it seriously and said I thought it admirable. He told me it was much briefer and better in the original; at which I expressed an old longing I had to know Welsh. My friend thought this strange, for he said, most people speak slightly of the Welsh and their language; to which I repeated to him Carlyle's saying, concluding with "mostly fools." From this we (my friend was a Welshman who could talk Welsh, and from Jesus College of course) got to talking of various things, and among others of the Welsh poets, of the Icelandic sagas, of George Borrow, of William Morris, and as much other talk as could possibly be put into half an hour. When I left, he asked me why Morris did not go to Wales and preach Socialism? I answered, "Why not? the Welsh people at all events are worthy of the effort." As long as I live I shall say that a good free honest companion is the best of boons in the wide world. Given that we get Socialism there will be more of them, and what is perhaps better still, a less number of unfree,

cross-grained darkeners of counsel and other learned and ignorant pests of the present state of things,—existing, let us hope, only to die, and that quickly. This seems as if all I had to say which would in any way interest my comrades is said; but it is possible that those of them who have not looked about such a place as Oxford still is might be interested in my saying a word or two to picture one of the pleasantest colleges? I wanted some further information about the buildings of it, and my host in the afternoon, when he had done the first part of his day's work, good-naturedly offered to get me inside the library. We called at the porter's lodge and found the authorities were out at exercise; but while thinking of what next to do, one of the powers came into the quadrangle who was personally known to my host. This lock-compeller addressed my host in a half-jocular half-cynical way as a "Dynamiter;" upon which my friend introduced me as another of the same trade! However, we found our way into the library; and although Cerberus was in a hurry, he got interested in my questions and doubts as to facts, or things stated to be facts, and stayed longer than we expected. On his leaving, my host said, "Well, you can leave us here alone a little; we will promise not to blow the place up, and will shut-to the door with its spring lock." Some laughter and some shrugging of the shoulders, and we were alone to enjoy there what was a pleasure indeed. A great, long, handsome old wide gallery of a place, misty towards the end from its great length. Bookcase after full bookcase, set at right angles to the walls, windowed right and left, leaving a private chamber with its double bench and reading desks, space after space the whole length of the room. Overhead, the old oak cradled roof which clearly belonged to the same walls before they were transformed in Queen Elizabeth's time. In truth, this portion of the building was part of what remained of Chichele's monks' college, taken over by the founder of the present college. At the end of this, the old library, was the new one at right angles to it, and of even greater length—built by Inigo Jones in James the First's time. Here you have two great libraries only crying aloud for "poor scholars" by the hundred to fill them and be filled by them with such good as heads untrammelled by hypocrisy, misbelief, class fear, and other devils, could make use of.

PH. W.

#### THE OLD, OLD STORY.

A FEW days ago the *Daily News* published the opinions of a Dr. Zinkgraf on the social conditions of the Congo. Dr. Zinkgraf pathetically expatiates on the cruelties of the native races towards the negroes, the reason of his objection being, apparently, that solitary confinement or hard labour would be as effectual punishments. Dr. Zinkgraf is very solicitous about the negro's self-respect, and about his having an "aim in life." "It is work," says Dr. Zinkgraf, "which teaches him his personal value and the aim of his existence." Now for giving him the "aim of his existence," and a value for his personal labour, Dr. Zinkgraf evidently thinks the negro ought to be truly thankful to the European, the fact of his retaining this personal value for himself or giving it to his benefactor being a matter of no consequence. Poor negroes! How happy were you before you knew anything about "personal value" and "aims of existence!" But there is worse in store for you. Hear the learned doctor! "Before the negroes are capable of adopting the Christian religion truly and with result, their whole nature must have changed, and this can only be brought about by their being kept to physical labour under energetic guidance, so that they may come to acknowledge its value." Penal servitude is thus an indispensable preparation for the true Christian spirit. One of these days we may hear of an insurrection in Congo, and a necessity for the establishment of order by martial law. But the Revolution may also come in Europe before the governing classes exactly expect it. And then the personal value of Dr. Zinkgraf, and other very energetic guiders of niggers, may sink very low indeed, and the aim of their existence be considerably modified. Tormenting niggers for the good of their better selves may not be quite so profitable when there are no Governments at home ready to assist them with Gatlings and "square formation."

E. BELFORD BAX.

#### LITERARY NOTICES.

"A Letter to Employees of the Midland and other Railway Companies" has been issued by Edward Carpenter on behalf of the Sheffield Socialist Society, and may be procured from that body at the Wentworth Café, Sheffield. It is a calm logical exposé of the way in which railroad corporations pile up their profits out of the labour of their servants, and occasion is duly taken to point the moral of the tale.

The *Southport Standard* of November 13 has an article summing up its late battle with a sweater, in which it has been virtually victorious though technically cast in damages. Were all the local journals of the kingdom as courageous as this one, and would speak out, less wrong would be done the well-nigh helpless workers.

A mass of literature, emanating from various railroad and emigration agencies, lies—in a double sense—upon our table. Lurid light is cast upon the tangled webs of falsehood by the letters and papers continually being received from colonists inveigled out of England by their specious promises. Beside them is, among others, the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* of October 7, containing several advertisements and notices of monster meetings of the unemployed, and admissions of general distress. Whosoever monopoly has set its accursed foot there is poverty, and labour suffers.

'Lays and Legends' (Longmans, Green, and Co., 5s.), by E. Nesbit (Mrs. Bland), is a collection of poems, most of which have already appeared in various periodicals. While they are not of the highest, they are yet of very high excellence. The shorter poems are strong and tuneful, and may be read with enjoyment and remembered with pleasure. The really powerful 'New Year Song' on p. 100 is a veritable gem.

S.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

### THE LONDON SOCIETY OF COMPOSITORS AND THE PROPOSED FEDERATION OF THE METROPOLITAN PRINTING AND PAPER TRADES.

A Special General Meeting of the London Society of Compositors was held at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, on Saturday last, to consider the Report of the Delegates appointed to devise a scheme for the Federation of the Metropolitan Printing and Paper Trades. The meeting emphatically affirmed the principle of federation, in spite of some paltry cavilling and vexatious opposition on the part of a section of the members, but unfortunately allowed itself to be bamboozled by a pompous flatulent individual of the name of Radley. He, whilst pretending to be in favour of federation, took up a very large share of the time of the meeting with an harangue of the most narrow-minded pettifogging character in proposing an amendment in regard to the representation on the executive of the federated bodies, which showed that it was not federation but domination that he desired. The Report had stated that it was a vital point in regard to the proposed federation that it should be on the basis of equal representation and voting power; but this obviously reasonable proposition to all those who fully realise the true principle of equality and brotherhood which is implied in Trades' Unionism was too wide for the narrow soul of Mr. Radley, who was so full of his own importance and that of the illustrious Society of London Comps. that he could apparently conceive of no virtue and intelligence outside of our ranks, and appeared to be possessed with the idea that the sole motive that could possibly actuate other societies in federating with us would be in order to plunder and destroy our magnificent and wealthy organisation. Possessing the fatal gift of fluency, by the aid of specious clap-trap and the meeting being somewhat out of the control of the chairman, who is yet new to his duties, this mischievous amendment was carried by a small majority, and the matter is remitted back to the delegates. It is earnestly to be hoped that all those who feel the importance of this question of federation will take care to be in force on the next occasion the question is brought forward, in order that there may be no further delay in giving practical effect to the principle of federation to which the London Society of Compositors is committed.—T. B.

### UNITED TRADES' COMMITTEE OF CARPENTERS AND JOINERS.

The undersigned members of the London United Trades' Committee, acting as the representatives of the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners in the London district, beg to inform the public that we know of no authority whereby Messrs. Scott and Wilkinson took upon themselves the liberty to represent the Society before the Prince of Wales at Sandringham, as no member was officially appointed to do so.—(Signed) John T. Mackie, chairman, Robert A. Stonehouse, F. Moore, John Smyth, Josiah A. Powell, F. Gregory, James Maxwell, David Duncan, John Kennedy, Charles Lye, and G. Drew, secretary, United Trades' Committee of Carpenters and Joiners. [Possibly the "representatives" of some of the other trades who took part in this humiliating business had equally little authority, and if so we hope that their Unions will follow the example of the Carpenters and Joiners.]

### THE MINERS' NATIONAL CONFERENCE.

MANCHESTER, Nov. 25.—At to-day's sitting it was resolved: "That in view of our latent productive ability the time has arrived when seven hours should in all cases constitute a working-day; and, further, that each delegate go back to his men and propagate the above as a policy after which we meet again at a conference to be agreed and arrange if possible, when the system of seven hours shall be commenced." A resolution proposing a stoppage of work for ten days in January was negatived. A resolution was adopted approving of the Seven Hours (Mines, Scotland) Bill, and recommending the labour party in Parliament to support the measure. A resolution was passed in favour of a Royal Commission on the question of royalty rent and way-leaves, and another declaring that men should have three years' experience before they were allowed to work alone in any dangerous place.

### NEW COLLIERIES' FEDERATION.

WOLVERHAMPTON, Nov. 30.—Yesterday a new federation of miners was started at Wolverhampton. It embraces North and South Staffordshire, Warwickshire, and Shropshire. Twenty delegates, representing ten thousand paying members, assembled, and organisers were appointed to visit the districts and explain the rules of the federation. Mr. E. Edwards, Burslem, was appointed president. Encouraging reports were given touching unionism in the various districts, and the belief was expressed that a powerful federation would be built up in the Midlands. The conference adjourned till December 20.

### SIGNALMEN'S HOURS OF DUTY.

LEICESTER, Nov. 24.—A well-attended meeting of the night signalmen of the Midland Railway Co. in the Leicester district was held here to-day. The chairman explained that the Company had just issued a circular establishing a fourth class. The wages of the first-class men were from 21s. to 23s.; second, 20s. to 22s.; third, 19s. to 21s.; and fourth, 17s. to 19s., the last named also being without bonus. The chairman concluded by submitting the manifesto of a Leeds Committee declaring for the eight hours' movement. A signalman explained that on the previous night he had worked thirteen hours; that 148 trains had passed him; that over 2000 lives had been entrusted to his care; that he had made 3500 figures: 1500 bell beats, 2300 dial signals, and pulled over the levers 500 times. For the whole of that he had been paid at the munificent rate of 3½d. an hour. (Shame.) He moved that the meeting should approve the Leeds Manifesto and award it its undivided support. This was carried unanimously, and delegates to the Leeds meeting were appointed.

### THE SPINDLE AND THE LOOM.

COLNE.—THE WAGES AGITATION.—On Tuesday, Nov. 23, a shop meeting of weavers employed at Messrs. Hartley Brothers and Houldsworth, and also of Messrs. Eccles and Co.'s Winewall Mill, weavers, was held in the Co-operative Assembly Rooms, Cotton Tree, for the purpose of considering the present unsatisfactory rate of wages paid at these firms. A deputation of five from the Colne Weavers' Association were also present. A number of new members were entered on the register of the association. Ultimately it was resolved that the meeting be adjourned.

IN THE JUSTICE.—At a certain mill in this district there is a ring throstle spindle which had the misfortune to break one or two spindles in doffing. She was stopped 1s. 9d. for each. Recently she happened to be out of the alley, when one of the spindles flew out on the floor and broke. For this,

again, she had to stand another abatement of 1s. 9d. She returned rather early one day to the mill from breakfast. The engine had been running all the meal-time, and her frame was stopped. The overlooker came to her and told her to set her frame on. She then told him she would not until the proper time of starting. She thought the overlooker was picking at her when he passed all the other frames, and this made her more defiant, and she told the overlooker that he could give her notice from that date. He told her she would have to leave right away. The female was wronged, firstly, by being abated 5s. 3d. for something accidental; secondly, by the overlooker passing all the other frames and telling her to set her frame on, which was provocation; thirdly, by the overlooker trying to compel her to violate the Factory Act by running her frame in contravention to the factory laws.—*Cotton Factory Times.*

### STRIKE AND LOCK-OUT OF MILL HANDS AT DUNDEE.

Last Monday morning a strike on a limited and a lock-out on an extensive scale took place at the Camperdown Linen Works, situate at Lochee, a suburb of Dundee, and belonging to Messrs. Cox Brothers, jute manufacturers. The works are the largest of the kind in Scotland, and give employment to more than 5000 hands. The strike broke out among a number of young women engaged in the power-loom department, in consequence of dissatisfaction with the present rate of wages. As they did not return after breakfast-time, the whole of the looms in the factory were stopped simultaneously, by order of the employers, and the work was brought to a standstill. Shortly afterwards the engines were put off, and all the departments of the Camperdown Linen Works were closed. 5000 work-people are consequently thrown out of employment. It is said that in the course of the day representatives of the workers waited on the employers to ascertain when work would be resumed, and the answer was, "When the bell rings." The strike and lock-out caused much excitement in Lochee, as a large proportion of the inhabitants depend on Messrs. Cox for employment.

### AMERICA.

The cotton mill operatives at Fall River have determined on a movement for an increase of 13 per cent in wages. The scale was cut to that extent in 1884, and the condition of the cotton market and the market for the manufactured product is better now than before the reduction. The mills have recently declared dividends, but they show no disposition to concede the demand, and it is likely to lead to another of those great strikes for which Fall River is notorious.

Writs have been served at Providence, R. I., on the Riverside Oswego Mills to recover the sum of 1000 dollars on each of the forty-eight cases of foreign labour imported, this being the penalty incurred by importing foreign labour under chapter 164 of the United States statutes at large.

The Miners' Association of the Connellsville coal region, whose membership is 12,000, has presented demands to the operators for uniform house-rents of 1 dol. per month for each room; 1 dol. per month for coal to be carried to the houses; that scales be placed on each tipple; that coal be paid for by weight, not measure, and check-weighmen be allowed; wages paid every two weeks, without cash deductions for store orders; a new scale for car workers; that trappers and boys' wages be advanced from 68 cents to 1 dollar per day; and that the association be recognised. The local K. of L. will support them in their demands.

The Plumbers' strike in New York still continues with no break in their ranks. Since the strike 109 firms have yielded to union rules and these shops are among the largest. The men are as determined and confident as ever.

### "A CALL FOR A CONVENTION OF TRADES UNIONS."

A circular headed as above has just been received, which we gladly publish as evidence of the growth of that spirit of solidarity amongst the workers which it is the special mission of the Socialist League to stimulate:

"CLEVELAND, O., November 10, 1886.—To the Officers and Members of all Trades Unions of America—Fellow Workers: On May 18, 1886, a conference of the chief officers of various National and International Trades Unions was held in Philadelphia, Pa., at which twenty National and International Unions were represented, and twelve more sent letters of sympathy tendering their support to the conference. This made at that time thirty-two National and International Trades Unions, with 367,736 members in good standing. . . . The time has now arrived to draw the bonds of unity much closer together between all the Trades Unions of America! We need an annual Trades Congress that shall have for its object: 1. The formation of Trades Unions and the encouragement of the Trades Union movement in America. 2. The organisation of Trades Assemblies, Trades Councils or Central Labour Unions in every city in America, and the further encouragement of such bodies. 3. The founding of State Trades Assemblies, or State Labour Congresses to influence State legislation in the interest of the working masses. 4. The establishment of National and International Trades Unions, based upon the strict recognition of the autonomy of each trade, and the promotion and advancement of such bodies. 5. An American Federation or Alliance of all National and International Trades Unions, to aid and assist each other, and, furthermore, to secure national legislation in the interest of the working people, and influence public opinion by peaceful and legal methods in favour of Organised Labour. 6. To aid and encourage the Labour Press of America, and to disseminate tracts and literature on the labour movement. With these objects in view a convention of all Trades Unions in the United States and Canadas will be held at Druid Hall, 146 South Fourth Street, Columbus, O., to begin on Wednesday, December 8th, 1886, at 10 a.m. The basis of representation will be: From National or International Unions, less than 4000 members, one delegate; 4000 or more, two delegates; 8000 or more, three delegates; 16,000 or more, four delegates; 32,000 or more, five delegates, and so on. From each local Trades Union, not having a National or International Union, one delegate. But no Trades Union shall be entitled to representation which has not been organised three months prior to the session of this convention. . . .—Yours fraternally, P. J. McGuire, secretary, Box 180, Cleveland, O. Committee: W. Weihe, Iron and Steel Workers; P. F. Fitzpatrick, Iron Molders; A. Strasser, Cigar Makers; Chris. Evans, Coal Miners; P. J. McGuire, Carpenters."

### FRANCE.

TROYES.—Enquiry Commissions and Labour Commissions are quite the order of the day now; at Troyes the Municipal Council has voted the constitution of a Labour Commission to watch the interests of the workers and inquire into all labour questions, etc., etc. This is very comforting to the worker, especially now the winter is setting in, and he will want some heartening up to go through with it without too loud a voice of complaint.

**ATHIS-MONS (ORNE).**—A certain man is pointed out to us who possesses almost all the land of this Commune, and who is "without a penny" when the question of paying workmen arises. He is brother to our former ambassador at Berlin. These persons are forced to exploit one way or other; else how would they live? When they pay, they pay little; this one has perfected the system, for he pays not at all.—*Cri du Peuple.*

**PARIS.**—At a factory of "unbreakable dolls," a very successful industry, apparently, a family of three persons skilful at the work can gain 240 francs a month between them, from which must be deducted one-fifth for materials, leaving 192 francs, an average of 64 francs a-piece. Yet the head of this business, M. Jumeau, in a pamphlet-advertisement distributed among his customers comfortably asserts that a woman can make a good day's wage of it, and that the work is well paid. In 1885, this good man was "decorated," heaven knows for what, whereupon the poor servile toilers of his ateliers subscribed to present their illustrious chief with the "star of honour."

#### AUSTRIA.

**VIENNA, Nov. 20.**—The following statements are designed to enlighten the English public a little on the situation of the Austrian proletariat. In Gasser's iron-foundry at St. Pölten deductions are made from the starvation wages already paid to supply the expenses for lighting and other things. In Harland's factory in the same town workers are forbidden to accept any magistrate into the common friendly society, or to visit public meetings, under pain of immediate dismissal. In Dania's factory, Vienna, X District, we find 26 workers and 26 apprentices, with salaries from 60 kr. (1s. 11½d.) to 1 fl. (1s. 2½d.) weekly. They never obtain even this completely, owing to deductions that often amount to half the wages. They are indemnified by excellent treatment—slaps, boxes on the ear, and kicks are in order. The smithy is full of smoke, owing to the defective furnace, which forces the smiths to go out alternately to breathe, and most often to take cold. The door is near the place where the iron-workers swing their hammers, so that a man entering incautiously runs the risk of being killed. When the factory inspector approaches, a foreman runs to the forge and stops the swinging. Wages are paid very irregularly. It is forbidden to complain to the factory inspector on pain of dismissal. Another paradise, especially for apprentices, is Schranz and Rödinger's factory. One instance will do. On October 23 Mr. Schranz seized an apprentice named Adam by the hair and kicked him viciously. When the lad attempted to run off, this "employer" threatened him with an iron pole, and the boy was again subjected to slaps and kicks.

We have a law introducing the eleven hours normal working day, but at Alt-Rohrlau, near the famous Karlsbad, in some houses it is made to last from five o'clock in the morning to one o'clock at night. In a factory-hell of that town women obtain the gigantic salary of 20 kr.—i.e., 4½d.—per day! At a tailor's in Wamsdorf in Bohemia the workshop is also a winter stable for poultry. Remarkable invention of Mr. Smrcek—such is the name of the humane gentleman—at the side of labour-saving machinery we have in the civilised nineteenth century also stable-saving workshops! All this is nothing when compared with an act of savage cruelty which took place in Brünn. At Brand and Shuilier's the apprentice Filka was cudgelled to death by the foreman Duffek. Up till now the murderous scoundrel is free from any prosecution. Comment is needless.—F. S.

**TURIN.**—The Italian Typographical Association of Turin has set on foot a struggle for the emancipation of Turinese printing. They have presented a tariff to the masters, fifteen of whom have accepted it. The rest have not yet consented, wherefore 300 men are on strike, and hope to be successful, as the funds of the association are considerable.

*Notice.*—The Strike Committee of the Socialist League invite communications from all interested in the Labour Struggle. H. A. Barker, General Secretary; H. Charles and V. Dave, Foreign Secretaries; T. Binning, Treasurer, and Editor of the Labour Column.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

### THE VIERZON STRIKES.

The following letter has been received from Madame Lafargue at Paris:

"You will have learned how the Municipal Council has just refused the sum of 4000 francs claimed by Vaillant for the men at Vierzon. A group of Socialists are getting up a subscription in aid of the men on strike, and are making an appeal for help to the 'citoyennes Socialistes de tous les pays.' In my sister's absence I write to you, with the request that you will appeal to your countrywomen to help us in a cause which is that of the working-classes, and therefore of the women of all countries. The smallest contributions will be welcome.—Sincerely yours, LAURA LAFARGUE."

This is an appeal which certainly ought to be responded to, and I may say that I should be very glad to receive any contributions from my fellow countrywomen who are interested in the work of our foreign comrades, and sympathise with those families of Vierzon who are now suffering for the courageous attitude maintained by the workers of that commune.

Kelmscott House, Upper Mall,  
Hammersmith.

MAY MORRIS.

### SOCIALISTS AND THE NEWSPAPER PRESS.

There is an idea in the minds of many of the sympathisers with the Socialist movement that their advocates do not attempt to defend their principles more generally in the newspapers. My purpose in writing is to assure those doubters that letters after letters are sent to the editors, but they close their columns and will not allow this subject to be discussed. I have sent several letters, notably one in reply to a Mr. Griffiths which appeared in the *Echo* lately, a paper which professes to be Radical in its opinions and has for its motto "Be just, and fear not." And in the face of all its professions of Radicalism its conductors are base enough to sneer and jeer in their Notes at the efforts of honest men who are trying to mitigate the condition of the poor and unemployed, besides professedly opening their columns to a correspondence and then closing them to all but those who will attempt to write down the movement. The fact is, those men know that the theory of Socialism is true, and their fear is that its triumph is near if they allow a free, fair, and honest discussion in their papers. Under these circumstances the duty of Socialists is clear; it is to agitate, educate, and organise.

PHILIP R. DOMONEY.

Southampton, Nov. 25.

## REVOLUTIONARY RUMBLINGS.

### BRITAIN.

It is not often that the proceedings at the Surveyors' Institute are interesting to the general public, but the opening address of the president, Mr. Beadel, M.P., last week, contained some statements which are calculated to make an impression on the public. According to Mr. Beadel, who was no doubt careful to be correct, the average selling price of agricultural land in England fell from £52 per acre in 1875 to £32 per acre in 1885; and we all know that many landowners would be glad to get £30 an acre to-day if they could. But not only has the value of agricultural land fallen, but the bulk disposed of during the last ten years has diminished by two-thirds. Moreover, since the Socialistic agitations began land has become practically unsaleable. The question which occupies many shrewd minds is whether the bottom has been reached; but it must be confessed that the outlook for those pecuniarily interested in land is not very encouraging at present.—*Financial Chronicle.*

### AMERICA.

#### A. R. PARSONS AND THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR.

**CHICAGO, Nov. 17, '86.**—To all local assemblies of Knights of Labor, and kindred organisations throughout the world: Greeting.—Albert R. Parsons has for about ten years past been a member in good standing of the Noble Order of the Knights of Labor, bringing to this Assembly (L. A. 1307) a transfer card signed by our general worthy foreman, Richard Griffiths. His career as a Knight has been without a blemish. Indicted for alleged conspiracy in the so-called Haymarket murder, the States' Attorney frankly declared that he and the other defendants in the so-called Anarchist trial were selected to be proceeded against not because they were more guilty than others, but because they were recognised leaders in the movement evidencing the discontent of the wage-class. Brother Parsons voluntarily presented himself for trial, coming like a true Knight to the conflict, strong in conscious innocence and upheld by a resolute courage. The trial was but a travesty on justice. The rulings of the presiding judge compelled the defendants to accept a jury most of whom confessed in advance their pre-judgment of the case. The evidence failed utterly to connect the defendants with the throwing of the bomb, save the testimony of the impeached Gilmer, whose story was rejected by every man of honest intelligence. The verdict was merely the response of a jury of employés to the demands of their employers and the rancour of a panic-stricken and deceived public. We pronounce it an outrage, and claim that its execution, if carried out, will be simply judicial murder. In taking this action and requesting your co-operation, we are not unmindful of the fact that our late General Assembly at Richmond went no further than to commend these men to mercy. But with a fuller knowledge of the facts in the case and of the processes of this cruel trial and unrighteous conviction, we feel constrained to put on record our condemnation of this judgment and to demand as the simple meed of justice what our Order at large has asked as the boon of mercy. We ask you to join us in our protest against this proposed crime, and that you at once notify this Assembly of any action you may take in the matter.—Local Assembly 1307. Address all communications to Fred W. Long, Recording Secretary L. A. 1307, 217 West Adams Street, Chicago, Ill.

### FRANCE.

**THE CHICAGO ANARCHISTS; PARIS, NOV. 27.**—Most of the members of the Paris Municipal Council and the Council General of the Seine held a special meeting yesterday, and signed an address to be forwarded to Mr. MacLane, the United States' Minister, requesting him to intercede with the Governor of Illinois on behalf of the Chicago Anarchists now lying under sentence of death.—*Reuter.*

**TOULON, Nov. 26.**—Five Socialists have been sentenced to fines and costs for holding a meeting on Socialism the week before. Nothing daunted, they intend convening another meeting to collect money for the fines on Tuesday next.

**BONCHAMP, Nov. 22.**—Deputies Basy and Planteau set out yesterday for Ronchamp, where they will take part in a large meeting which has been organised by the miners of this district.

### ITALY.

**ALESSANDRIA.**—The anti-clerical party of Alessandria held a large meeting on Sunday 14, about 4000 persons being present, and twenty-four associations sending contingents. The band played for the first time the "Chant of the Labour Party" amid much applause. The only resolution was one expressing the desire for emancipation from superstition and clerical rule. One of the local papers says, however, that the speaking treated more of Socialist and labour questions.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

*General Meeting.*—As the Council did not finish its deliberations until ten o'clock, the General Meeting of London Members was adjourned to Monday next, December 6, at eight o'clock.

### Executive.

At their usual weekly meeting on 29th the Council unanimously voted, "That this meeting of the Council of the Socialist League desires to express its heartfelt sympathy with comrade Domela Nieuwenhuis in his imprisonment for the cause of Socialism." It was also resolved that the new secretary be elected by Dec. 20 at the latest, and take office on January 1, 1887. Nominations to be received up to December 13.

### STRIKE COMMITTEE.

H. C., 1s.; V. D., 2s.; M. M., 5s.; North London Branch (collected at Regent's Park), per Cantwell, 5s. 1d.; Hoxton, per Barker, 1s. 2d.—T. BINNING, Treasurer.

### FREE SPEECH DEFENCE FUND.

Southport Liberty of Labour League, 2s. 6d.; collected by K. F., 3s.; collected by Mainwaring (Hyde Park), 4s. 1½d. Deficit, £2, 10s. 6d.

PH. W., Treasurer, Nov. 30.

### "COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Hammersmith Branch (two weeks), £1; Bloomsbury Branch (weekly) 5s.; T. B. (weekly), 6d.—£1, 5s. 6d. Glasgow Branch, first subscription to Fund omitted from list in October, 10s.

PH. W., Treasurer, Nov. 30.

## BRANCH REPORTS.

**BLOOMSBURY.**—On Friday, Nov. 26th, A. K. Donald catechised the Branch on the second chapter of Joyces's 'Catechism.'—L. W.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Wednesday, November 24, H. H. Sparling lectured on "The Delights of Laziness." On Sunday evening, A. K. Donald spoke on "Primitive Communism." Good audiences and discussions. Fair sale of *Commonweals*.—W. B.

**CROYDON.**—Last Sunday evening, W. H. Utley lectured on "Land Thieves and Labour Thieves" to a good audience. His lucid review of the rise of capitalism was listened to very attentively. Four new members enrolled, good collection, and sale of *Commonweal* fair.—A. T.

**FULHAM.**—Wm. Morris and Tarleton addressed our open-air meeting on Sunday morning at Fulham Green, and was followed by McCormack, Mordhurst, Knight, and Mahney; also had some help from a neighbouring Land Nationalist; received some very ill-mannered opposition from the Tories, who indulged in the usual personalities. Mainwaring lectured at our rooms in the evening, and a good discussion followed. Four new members made. Sale of *Commonweal* 60. We intend to carry on our open-air propaganda on Saturday nights, and shall be glad of speakers who can help us, as our usual speakers cannot get away from business.—F. M'C.

**HACKNEY.**—Held a meeting at London Fields, Broadway, on Sunday morning, A. Donald and Flockton speaking. Two members made.—W. D., ast. sec.

**HAMMERSMITH.**—On Sunday evening, Nov. 28th, Sidney Webb, of the Fabian Society, gave a lucid explanation of the theory of "Economic Rent." The lecturer said the theory in relation to land was first enunciated by Anderson, a Scotch corn-factor, in the last century, received various additions by West, Malthus, and Ricardo, and was finally elaborated by J. S. Mill, who became a Socialist in consequence. Later economists applied the same reasoning to capital and special ability, and the most recent were coming to the conclusion that all economic rent should be enjoyed by the community collectively.

**HOXTON.**—A good meeting was held on Sunday morning, and in the evening a number of members and friends took tea together, followed by a concert, which gave general satisfaction.

**MITCHAM.**—No meeting on the Green on Sunday morning. In the evening we held a meeting in our club-room; good discussion carried on by Gregory, Harrison, Wick, and others. *Commonweals* sold out, and four new members made.—C. H., sec.

**NORTH LONDON.**—We held a good meeting on Sunday morning in Regent's Park; Cantwell and Nicoll spoke. At Harrow Road on Saturday, Cantwell and Graham spoke to a fair audience. Sale of *Commonweals* good.—W. B., sec.

**BRADFORD.**—On Sunday, November 28, P. Bland read at the Exchange Debating Club, City Road, a paper on "Competition," which was well received by the audience. A good discussion followed, in which Minty and some sympathisers took part. We sold some pamphlets and a few *Commonweals*.—C. H., sec.

**GLASGOW.**—Good open-air meetings were held last Sunday on the Green, and on George's Square, Warrington and Rae being the speakers. On Sunday evening there was a good attendance of members at our rooms, when various points of Socialism were discussed. The report this week is incomplete, owing to Grey being off duty through illness.

**HULL.**—On Sunday, at our first public meeting in our new premises, the 'Manifesto' of the League, with Morris's and Bax's notes thereon, was read, and gave rise to an earnest discussion. John Delvin is now secretary of the Branch in place of Teesdale.—T.

**IPSWICH.**—On Wednesday last, the secretary of the Radical Association lectured on "Socialism a Myth." Our comrades attended, and a resolution was carried by nearly two to one in favour of Socialism. On Saturday, Fred Henderson debated the question of Socialism with Sydney Foulger, a leading local Radical, in the Co-operative Hall, F. J. Bugg in the chair. The hall was crowded, and when a resolution was put "That this meeting believes that in Socialism lies the only hope of the workers," only one hand was raised in opposition. On Sunday morning, Bailey and Henderson spoke on the Old Cattle Market, where the police interfered last week, and the hottest Tory crib in Ipswich. We made the old Tory walls ring again as they echoed three cheers for the Social Revolution. In the afternoon a good meeting was held at the Ship Launch. Sale of literature fair.—H. B.

**BEDFORD PARK CLUB.**—Wm. Morris lectured here Saturday 27th on "The Dawn of a New Epoch." The discussion was wandering and fatuous in the extreme, giving little for the lecturer to reply to.—S.

**PROGRESSIVE SOCIETY, PENTONVILLE.**—On Sunday, Nov. 28th, Wm. Morris lectured to a large and somewhat excitable audience. Animated discussion followed the lecture and was satisfactorily replied to.

**SOCIALISM AT CHELMSFORD.**—At a meeting of the Red Cow Mutual Improvement Society at Chelmsford on Friday, Mr. D. Kevan presiding, Mr. J. E. Barlas, B.A., Oxford, who has lately come to reside in Chelmsford, opened a discussion on "Socialism the Remedy for the Existing Evils of Society." There was a large attendance of members and others. At the close of a speech of over an hour's duration, Mr. Barlas moved: "That this meeting is of opinion that Socialism is the only remedy for existing economic evils." Several questions were asked at the close of the speech; and Mr. J. Gibbs moved the adjournment of the debate, which was agreed to.

## LECTURE DIARY.

## London Branches.

**Bloomsbury.**—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street. Friday Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. Continued Debate on "Middle-Class Socialism" by F. Lessner.

**Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday Dec. 5, at 8.30 p.m. P. Barry, "The Future of Labour." Wednesday 8, at 8.30, E. Belfort Bax, "Ethics and Socialism."

**Croydon.**—Royal County House, West Croydon Station Yard. Sunday Dec. 5, at 7.30 p.m. A. K. Donald, "Political Economy from a Socialist Standpoint."

**Fulham.**—338 Fulham Road. Sunday at 8.

**Hackney.**—We have taken premises at 79 Sheep Lane, London Fields, Broadway, and have drawn up rules for the Formation of a Club. Shall be glad of any assistance in the shape of books, furniture, etc. Communicate with W. Diggins, assist. sec., 8 Holcroft Road, Well Street, Hackney.

**Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. George Bernard Shaw (Fabian Society), "Some Illusions of Individualism."

**Hoxton (L. E. L.).**—Exchange Coffee House, Pitfield Street, opposite Hoxton Church, N. Sunday Dec. 5, at 11.30 a.m. Committee Meeting: important business. In the evening, at 8, a Lecture.

**Merton.**—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Club Room open every evening. Committee every Thursday.

**Mitcham.**—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11.

**North London.**—Business Meeting at 32 Camden Road Fridays at 8.

## Country Branches.

**Bingley.**—Coffee Tavern. Every Monday at 7.30 p.m.

**Birmingham.**—Carr's Lane Coffee House. Every Monday evening, at 8.

**Bradford.**—Scott's Temperance Hotel, East Parade, Leeds Rd. Wednesdays, at 8.

**Dublin.**—102 Capel Street. Sunday at 7.30 p.m.; Thursday at 8 p.m.

**Edinburgh (Scottish Section).**—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. Free Tron Hall, Monday Dec. 6, Leo Melliet, B.A., LL.B., "The Aims of the French Commune." Tickets 1s., 6d., and 3d., to be had at 4 Park Street, and B. Given, 20 Bristo St.

**Glasgow.**—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. On Saturday evening at 6 an open-air meeting will be held at the Green.—On Sunday open-air meetings will be held on the Green at 11.30 and 4.30; and at George's Sq. at 12.30. In the evening, in our Rooms at 7 o'clock, a Discussion will take place on "Should we advocate Palliatives?"

**Hamilton.**—Branch meets every Thursday evening at 7.30 in the British Workman Meeting Room.

**Hull.**—11 Princess Street, off Mason Street and Sykes Street. Club Room open 7 to 10 every evening; Sundays 10 am. to 10 p.m. Public Lectures every Sunday at 7 p.m. Dec. 5 Nicoll's "Law and Order."

**Ipswich.**—The Branch has left the George Inn, and have not yet procured fit premises for the club about to be formed.

**Leeds.**—New Fleece Inn, Pemberton St., Dewsbury Rd. Leicester.—Will meet at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays at Silver Street. Sunday Dec. 5, Members' Meeting in the morning; afternoon at 2.45 in the Spiritualists' Hall, J. L. Mahon will lecture on "A Plea for Socialism."

**Manchester.**—145 Grey Mare Lane, Bradford, Manchester. Club and Reading Room open every evening. Business meeting every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. prompt. Lecture with discussion at 8 o'clock.

**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.

**Oxford.**—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Thursdays, at 8.30 p.m.

## Open-air Propaganda for the Week.

Sa. Harrow Road ("P. of Wales") 8	...The Branch
Mile-end Waste	..... 8 ...The Branch
S. Hackney—"Salmon and Ball" 11.30	...Lane
Hammersmith—Beardon Rd. 11.30	...The Branch
London Fields—Broadway	...11.30...H. Graham
Marylebone—Salisbury St. 11.30	...The Branch
Mile-end Waste	..... 11.30...The Branch
Mitcham Fair Green	..... 11.30...Tarleton
Regent's Park	..... 11.30...H. G. Arnold
St. Pancras Arches	..... 11.30...The Branch
Walham Green, opposite Station	11.30...H. Sparling
Hyde Park (near Marble Arch) 3	...The Branch
Clerkenwell Green	..... 7 ...The Branch
Tu. Euston Road—Ossulton St. 7	...The Branch
Mile-end Waste	..... 8 ...H. Graham
Soho—Broad Street	..... 8 ...The Branch
W. London Fields—Broadway, 8.30	...The Branch

## PROVINCES.—SUNDAY.

**Ipswich.**—Old Cattle Market, 11; Ship Launch, 3 p.m.

**Leeds.**—Hunslet Moor, 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, 7 p.m.

**Manchester.**—Gorton Lane and Ashton Old Road, 11.30.

**Norwich.**—St. Mary's Plain, 11; Market Place, 3.

**LANCASTER.**—A meeting will be held at the Market Hall Coffee Tavern, off King Street, on Saturday December 4, at 7.30 p.m., for the purpose of constituting a local Branch of the League. It is hoped all Socialists in the neighbourhood will attend and enroll their names. Those who cannot be present yet wishful to join will please send their names to E. P. HALL.

**The Manifesto of the Socialist League.** Annotated by E. Belfort Bax and William Morris. An exposition of the principles on which the League is founded. 1d.

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