

# THE COMMONWEALTH

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

VOL. 4.—No. 105.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1888.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

On Saturday, 7th, another Trafalgar Square victim was buried with the "honours of war." William Curner, member of the Deptford Liberal Club and N.S.S., was at Trafalgar Square, got bludgeoned, arrested, and in the approved law'n'-order fashion sentenced to fourteen days for doing nothing. The inquest is not finished, and so we do not know all particulars, only enough to make it sure that his death lies at the door of the police. The society to which he belonged gave him a public funeral, in which the Law and Liberty League and Socialist League took part.

He died at home, poor fellow, or there would have been an attempt to smother the affair as at Pentonville, where a man, named Frost, who died from ulcer in the stomach, was kept on gaol diet which he could not eat, and did not eat for *eight days*. He was taken five times to the doctor, who disbelieved his statement, and suspected him of pretending to be unable to eat; the doctors knew he was suffering from chronic bronchitis, yet they reported, "There is nothing the matter that we can detect with the man." This falsehood they admitted they told, but—"out of consideration for his friends!" A letter written by the deceased, dated December 17, seen by the deputy-governor two days afterwards, was suppressed on a pretext of illegibility, and another sent to his wife in its place—the "unreadable" letter contained a clearly-written statement that the two prison doctors "had taken a dislike to him from the first, called him an old impostor, and would do nothing for him."

They had resolved to carry out at all costs their preconceived opinion, and as the poor devil did not fit their ideas, so much the worse for him! Proved up to the hilt as it was, the jury passed by the contradiction between the man's actual state and needs, and the doctor's view and treatment of him, rendering a verdict of "natural causes," while the coroner said "the jury had no concern with the suppression of Frost's letter. That was a question of prison discipline, and if the friends felt themselves aggrieved, they were at liberty to complain to the prison authorities."

As he was only a prisoner for burglary, and a poor man, nobody seems to care about it all, save the *Pall Mall* and ourselves, any more than they do about the conduct of Barendt of Bootle, a doctor who refused to see a dying man "as he was in evening dress and going to a ball!" At this the coroner "expressed dissatisfaction," but the jury, being partly composed of men who would have done the same thing, disagreed, and would add no rider to their verdict.

"The policeman" (P. C. Broad, 120 B) "had trumped up a false charge and not told the truth," said Mr. Partridge at Westminster on 15th. Commenting whereupon the *Pall Mall* says: "If he had said 'deliberately perjured himself,' he would have stated the fact. We have not yet heard that Police-constable Broad, 120 B, has been promoted, but that no doubt will come in due time. If such zealous officers are to be discouraged in this way by magistrates, how can the *esprit de corps* of the force be kept up!"

Broad struck a man who happened to push against him on the pavement, and being out of his awe-inspiring blue-with-buttons, and having no truncheon wherewith to knock his victim senseless, he ran away. Meeting a comrade on duty he returned with him and gave the man into custody whom he had hit, on a charge of assault. Happily he could bring witnesses and got off; but how differently he would have fared if his assailant had been armed with his truncheon, and "corroborative" (police) evidence, to first knock him senseless and then swear away his freedom!

Even Mr. Edlin's best efforts failed on Thursday to convict the drummer Hatwell, who was assaulted by the police in Holborn in flagrant violation of Warren's parole. The Treasury adjourned the case from last sessions because they saw the jury was in favour of justice, with the result that after all another jury has found Hatwell not guilty. Although this was one of the best known cases arising out of the suppression of the right of public meeting in London, not a single daily newspaper save the *Times* and the *Pall Mall* is frank enough even to notice the acquittal. A conviction they would probably have reported by the column.

Scene, Piccadilly; Time, Sunday (New Year's Day) morning. Respectable tradesman walking along; to him enter a man who takes him by the collar, saying "Here, I want you!" The tradesman, with visions of battle, murder, and sudden death before his eyes, calls loudly for the police. A constable standing near comes up at once, but instead of helping him, says to the other man, who it seems is a plain clothes officer, and therefore a privileged garrotter, "If you want any help I will give it you."

Thereupon the pair dragged the man through Regent Street to the Vine Street police-station. In vain he asked to be taken in a cab, and equally in vain why he was so treated. "You will know when you get to the station," said the officer. At the station he was charged, to his great surprise, with trying to pick pockets. It was only when he had tendered his card and convinced the inspector of his respectability that he was allowed to go, the inspector warmly wishing him a prosperous new year and assuring him that the little mistake would not become public.

However, the tradesman was not quite satisfied, as indeed might be expected, and went to Mr. Newton for redress. Mr. Newton did credit to his name by finding that the best way of settling the matter was for the tradesman to write to Warren—who from his usual ways and manners may be expected to promote the policeman and reprove his victim for making the affair public.

Speaking on Friday at Dundee Lord Aberdeen sought to reassure those who "were deterred by an impression or misgiving that the concession of self-government to Ireland would in some way or another be a concession to Socialism." He affirmed that "the national instincts and tendencies of the Irish people are not Socialistic," etc., etc. Lord Aberdeen may believe all this, and it is in one sense true. The Irish have been so long slaves to an alien power that their idea of liberty is a slavish one, native slave-owners—or *land-owners* if you will.

But let them once have bitten the Dead Sea fruit of political liberty without economic freedom and they will range themselves under the red flag beside their fellows of other lands. In this sense self-government for Ireland is a step toward Socialism, and a long one. And as to their "instincts and tendencies," the Irish are not so unlike other folk as some would have us think, they are "men like unto ourselves"; if anything, they are fitter for Socialism than most peoples, being less commercial.

Mr. Blunt's appeal has been rejected, and he is in the jail where he is to expiate his "crime." No one, I suppose, expected any other result from the appeal, although a good deal was said about the illegality of his arrest both before the trial (if we must needs dignify it with that name) and afterwards. What is the use of passing a Coercion Act if it has meshes wide enough to let such fish slip through as one's avowed political opponents? Meantime, let us say that now Mr. Blunt is in prison, we will not forget that he spoke out well and boldly for the poor people in Egypt who were condemned to similar torture there by our English stockjobbers.

Apropos of this trial, the *Pall Mall Gazette* asks in a straightforward leader, "Is there any right of public meeting?" Our contemporary, one would think, does not ask the question because it does not know the answer to it, which is a short one enough, "NO." But one may expand the answer by explaining to those who have not thought about the matter, that in a "constitutional" country there is liberty enough for every one belonging to the privileged class, but no liberty for any one else; and what sort of liberty of public meeting is that privileged class likely to allow to "any one else" who is attacking its privilege openly?

The Radical clubs of Hammersmith have sent a delegation to the Metropolitan Board of Works, asking them to adhere to their bye-law as to the newly-acquired Ravenscourt Park, setting aside a portion of it for public meetings, whereas the Hammersmith Vestry have passed a resolution asking the Board to alter this. I may inform those who do not know Ravenscourt that it is a very large tract of ground, and that it would be easy to set aside a part of it for public meetings without in the least spoiling it for recreation. In fact, the Vestry are simply following their kind in trying to put a stop to public meetings in Hammersmith. Considering how much recreation ground will be in and about Hammersmith, it will be preposterous if the inhabitants

have no regular meeting-place allotted them; but no doubt the local curmudgeons will take any excuse they can to put a stop to free speech in this neighbourhood. One would think that there was something hateful to the public pleasure in a political meeting judging from the way that our Bumbles are dealing with the matter; whereas, to put it on the lowest grounds, a political meeting is a pleasurable excitement to most people who are not very "superior" persons. The Hammersmith clubs must be congratulated on taking action in this affair, and it is to be hoped that they will not let it drop. W. M.

## LAW AND WAR.

(Continued from p 3.)

It is, however, urged that if a system were once started in conformity with justice, it could be amended as occasion arose and circumstances altered. It is impossible to frame a system which shall be just to the infinite variety of the wants of man; I do not mean only his bodily wants, but the necessities and aspirations of his whole nature. It is unlikely, so unlikely as to be outside the need of consideration, that such a system, even if started by infinite wisdom, could be amended from day to day. We are at this moment practically under the law, which was imposed on a large part of Europe by the Roman Empire, and which has lasted from Justinian's time for some 1500 years. His time was that of the decay of the Empire, a decay due to the action of the principle embodied in the established law. It is the principle of *contract*, of gambling with futurity; it treats every man as a liar, and bids us entangle each other with engagements, whose meaning in the present is doubtful, and whose bearing in the future is quite in the dark. Yet the system, when put in form, that is codified, has lasted on with its essential character unaltered, for some fifteen centuries more, and has in that time ruined many another society. It is a signal instance of the curse of an established law, a signal proof of the enormous difficulty of really amending it when once established.

We may go farther back than the Roman Law, eight hundred years farther back than Justinian, and see that even the law as established was only another name for the interest of the stronger. Socrates, one of those men put to death by the privileged class, because he spoke the truth plainly, is discussing the nature of justice with one of the ordinary politicians of the day. The latter expresses himself with cynical frankness thus: "There are different forms of government, tyrannies, democracies, and aristocracies, the Government being that which has power in each state. And the different forms of Government make laws democratical, aristocratic or tyrannical, with a view to their several interests; and these laws, which are made by them for their own interests, they deliver to their subjects as justice, and punish him who transgresses them as a breaker of the law and unjust. And that is what I mean when I assert that in all States there is the same principle of justice, which is neither more nor less than the interest of the Government; and as the Government must be supposed to have power, the only reasonable conclusion is, that everywhere there is one principle of justice, and this is the interest of the stronger."<sup>1</sup>

The interest of the stronger, the interest of the governing classes, that was what was enforced under the name of justice 2000 years ago. It seems to me that "the reverential attitude which befits Force in the presence of Justice"<sup>2</sup> is seen as little now as then, and that our Law and Government, though they call their place "Palace of Justice," rest on force and not on reason, and constitute therefore a state of war.

War is any set of circumstances in which a question is settled not by discussion and the use of reason, but by force. There need not be fighting to make war. An army is reduced by starvation, by wet weather, by toilsome marches, as much as by the actual storm of battle. Moreover, a body of soldiers, posted near to a battlefield, though not actually fighting, is counted as giving assistance by their presence. Thus, in so-called peaceful society, the vast body of police and soldiers, though they seldom actually fight, are always present as supporters of those whose business it is to enforce the law. We are, in fact, all engaged in enforcing the law, some actively, and more by supine acquiescence.

That it is the intention of the privileged governing classes to carry out the law by force, before any question of its justice is admitted, is very clearly expressed by conspicuous members of those classes both in deeds and words. Strikes are battles in which the weapons on one side are semi-starvation, and on the other the prospect of commercial ruin. There is a very serious strike against rent now going on in Ireland, and in regard to this various representatives of the governing classes have expressed themselves clearly enough. Lord Hartington, for example, finished a speech at Newcastle on February 2, 1877, by saying: "So long as you recognise the right of the landlord to any enjoyment of his property at all, you cannot dispense with evictions." He was here alluding to the brutalities of the Glenbeigh evictions. He then went on to urge people "to assist the Government to enforce the law," and ended up with: "In order that these measures (emigration, etc.), may be undertaken, in order that such a policy may be undertaken with any prospect of success, it is necessary, first of all, that the law and the supremacy of the law should be established."

Again, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chief Secretary for Ireland, said in the House of Commons on January 28, 1887, "We are pledged to

maintain the Union, but it is worse than useless to maintain the Union, and it would be better to have separation, unless with the Union we maintain the reign of law in Ireland." That was characterised as a "memorable declaration." It may at least be taken as the openly expressed determination of the governing classes, to enforce their claims, regardless of mercy and justice, as at that very time, and right down to the present time, the law has been enforced in Ireland, by a series of evictions, in which men and women, infants, and the bed-ridden sick, have been treated, with cold, formal brutality, we see what the enforcement of the law means. It means now what it meant in the case of the negroes before the extinction of chattel-slavery, a few years since in America. Many feel this, but somehow, whether in America, or England or Ireland, our hands are raised in horror, only when not engaged in the self-interested work of enforcing our own legal claims. If the choice, which the bright imagination of the Jewish mind once offered, between seven years of famine, or three months of war, or three days' pestilence, were before us now, we might well follow David, and choose either of those calamities, which did not bring us under the hand of legal war.

The fact that from the earliest periods of history law has not been in accordance with justice, but merely the expression of the interest of the stronger, is, I think, due to the corrupting influence of any legal system when once established.

We may please ourselves with imagining some system of law, originally framed with a straightforward, reasonable attempt to make it just. It could not long continue without creating privileged classes. For if the law as it stands at first is just to all, it must become unjust to the members of the next generation, not only because the whole-generation changes, but also because its members and their surroundings differ from each other in ways unthought of before. Thus in the second generation, one kind of man gets more than his due, or than was intended, and another man less. So we have at once a privileged class and an impediment to reform.

Let us suppose for a moment—a ludicrous hypothesis, but it will serve for an illustration—let us suppose that the rents fixed for Ireland under the Land Act of 1881 were fair and just, and such as to allow all small tenants to live decently. Since 1881 prices have fallen, and rents which were just in 1881 are now unjust. Besides this, the prices of agricultural produce have fallen very unequally, so that the farmer producing one kind is scarcely affected, while one, whose farm produces another kind, is ruined. Here, then, is a simple case, in which an arrangement made only four or five years ago acts unequally, and in a way not intended, and this too not from any change in the persons concerned, but because some petty surrounding circumstances have altered. Hence the attempt to be just by means of a fixed law has in these few years actually created a privileged class, namely, those whose rents still allow them to live decently, while others are ruined.

Even with the best intentions it would seem, then, that no fixed system of law can avoid the creation of privileges; and then it cannot be amended without touching class interests of some kind. Amid the infinite varieties of life, and with the impossibility of looking even a small way into the future, any such system, however wisely and ingeniously set going, will rapidly become related to people in all sorts of unexpected ways, will, in fact, include privileged classes of many kinds. Any man who attempts to introduce alterations, whether towards fancied or real improvements, can only do so by treading on this or the other privileged class.

Suppose, for example, that a railway bill is to be passed through Parliament. A great deal, no doubt, is said about the good of the country, but the terms of the Bill are really between the two great parties, who bribe each other by compensation for some imagined injury. The question where the compensation really comes from is never brought forward, nor is it pointed out that of every threepence paid for passenger fare, or for goods carriage, one penny goes off to some injured interest, and another to another.

If we take a wider range, we find the same war of privileges. Just lately there were *fishing riots* at Ostend, and something similar at Nova Scotia. If we look at any account of these disputes, as, for example, one given in the *Pall Mall Gazette* of August 30, 1887, we find over and over again the following phrases: "The privilege that the foreigner has enjoyed for so many years has not been reciprocated"—"a spirit of rivalry and resentment has grown up"—"this malice must be put down by the strong arm of the law"—"the Belgians object as much to the competition of the French as of the English"—"we must protect British interests"—"we must obtain . . . privileges . . . in foreign ports," and so on. There is not one word in all this to suggest that the dwellers on the two sides of a narrow sea, whether we call them foreigners to each or not, are in fact much more nearly allied to each other in race, religion, language, and history, than the different sections of the "British empire." To speak of "protecting British interests" and of "obtaining privileges in foreign ports," to threaten that in the defence of privileges "the strong arm of the law" shall intervene between the dwellers on the two sides of the narrow sea, is as unnatural as it is for these same privileged classes (for these are the persons alluded to in the words *British interests*) to forward in their own country their own private ends, by the process of competition, and by rousing the evil spirit of rivalry.

C. J. FAULKNER.

(To be continued.)

A ballad-singer was sentenced at Dromore last week to one month's imprisonment for singing a ballad having reference to a proclaimed meeting.

<sup>1</sup> Plato's 'Republic,' Bk. i.

<sup>2</sup> Victor Hugo, 'Notre Dame de Paris.'

## LETTER FROM AMERICA.

THOMAS B. BARRY, of the General Executive Board K. of L., has just returned from the South, and reports that labour there is in a deplorable condition. Everywhere he heard stories of intimidation at elections; the police regularly called in to help in the intimidation, and with their clubs prevent voters getting to the polls. The ballot of the workman if not counted out is not allowed to get in the box. In Lynchburg (Va.), the men last fall solidified in politics, and elected one of their number to Congress. He received a letter written in a disguised hand, saying that if he took his seat four determined men would shoot him. At Fishing Creek (N. C.), the superintendent of the mills called his help together, and gave them twenty-four hours in which to leave the K. of L. or be discharged. About 60 were Knights, and they decided to leave the order. Then the superintendent organised a body known as the "Jayhawkers," a kind of Ku Klux Klan, formed to fight the K. of L. The Jayhawkers were told that if they put away the Master Workman and Secretary of the K. of L. Assembly, everything would be all right. So the Jayhawkers went to the homes of Master Workman Harris and Secretary Wilson with the purpose of dragging them out and lynching them. The two men were away at the time, but the wife of one of them when she saw the masked men come after her husband with ropes in their hands was so frightened that she has been ill ever since. When Harris and Wilson were coming home they were told by their neighbours of their danger. They took to the woods, and were followed by the Jayhawkers for ten days. At Clifton, S. C., Barry found the same spirit prevailing among the masters, and says it is as much as life is worth to be known as a member of the K. of L.

John H. Keiser is a practical philanthropist of a kind. For the last two weeks he has been feeding upwards of 2,000 men daily in New York City, giving them one square meal at morning and one at night. In the early morning they congregate before his little frame house and are examined to see whether they are all sober and belong to the working-classes. After having satisfied his "Christian" scruples he hands a ticket to each, and they may now enter the kitchen forty at a time. In a small room, not more than 30 ft. in length and 12 ft. in width, stand eight tables with room for five men at each table. The men are mostly able-bodied, ranging from youth to old age. The following is a census taken by Mr. Keiser of the men he fed on the morning of December 15th: "Mechanics of various trades, 184; waiters, 12; longshoremen, 24; labourers, 40; miscellaneous, 28; semi-paupers, 16; full paupers, 40; women, 4." In the morning the men get coffee and bread, in the evening soup of beef and vegetables, and hot baker's bread. Keiser says he will have to break up his establishment in a week's time, as the crowd will by that time have increased to 5,000.

The *World*, a capitalist sheet *par excellence*, says: "The past year has been exceptionally good for business, the factories have been running full time, the building trades have been kept at work, the clothing and shoe trades have seldom been better, the iron trade has been booming, and thousands of men have been employed on the streets, but yet with all this work and prosperity there are thousands upon thousands of men and women in this city who are out of work and on the verge of starvation. . . . The exact number of those who are idle from choice or necessity can never be found; a census might discover it, but even that is doubtful for there are very many who would be unwilling to acknowledge that they have no means of existence—yet that is what idleness means to the wage-earners. . . . If so many persons are idle now, what will it be when the dull times come again, and what will be the ultimate outcome of what may be called chronic idleness?" The reporter declares that from personal investigation he can firmly maintain that there are at present nearly 100,000 men and women out of employment in New York. In the month of November, 1886, 11,908 persons found shelter for a night in the police-stations. The police-stations give nightly refuge to a miscellaneous company of homeless men and women. In November, 1887, 8,863 men and 5,241 women found a night's shelter in the police-stations; that is, 14,104 persons, an increase in one year of 2,196 persons. The secretary for improving the condition of the poor says that about 20 to 30 men visit his office every day looking for assistance. The great problem of the age in his opinion is, What are we going to do with the unemployed? At the employment bureau in Castle Garden, about 200 men apply every day for work. The report might be continued to fill the whole *Commonweal*, but this much will give an idea of the state of affairs.

A gigantic strike, involving at least 65,000 men, has been quickly ended. Over 1,000 employes of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company quitted work on the 23rd inst. This action was caused by the employment of a train crew of five non-union men. At Elizabeth Port, N. J., 121 men were discharged because they refused to load a barge with coal belonging to a firm involved in the Lehigh trouble. In consequence of this action all the employes of the Reading Railroad on all the lines of the road operated by the company, as well as the coal miners, were ordered out on strike by the Convention of Reading Railroad employes. The only exceptions made were the passenger, mail service, and the employes, whose strike would jeopardise life or property. The strike effected about 65,000 men, and resulted in a complete tie up of the freight system of the road. During the holidays matters were kept pending. The Knights of Labour received instructions from headquarters not to strike. It seems the cunning hand of Powderly has again been at work. On the morning of the 27th inst., the Executive Committee of the Reading Railroad employes' assembly met, and after a secret session, which lasted several hours, decided to lift the strike on the Reading system pending arbitration with the Company. The five crews over whom the trouble originated will be supported in the meantime by financial aid from the employes. The latest news from the scene of the threatened strike proves that something crooked has been done somewhere by somebody. The company now maintains that the committee of the men conceded to all points, and that it was untrue that it was arranged that the men should return to work pending arbitration. One paper says this morning: "This move on the part of the committee ends what has probably been one of the biggest games of 'bluff' that has ever been attempted by any body of organised workmen."

I hope to be able to report further details in my next letter. H. C.

It is a melancholy thing to think that there is not, perhaps, a single so-called labour-representative in Parliament who could pass an examination in elementary economics if a paper were set to him. Not one of them, we are certain, could indicate the true cause of commercial crises or the law which regulates the rise and fall of wages. Not one of them could intelligently compare Socialism with Anarchism, or co operation with either.—*Reynold's*

## HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF.

*Vanity Fair* of August 21, 1869, has an excellent description of the Home Secretary of the time, the Rt. Hon. H. A. Bruce ('Statesman No. 29'), which, changing names, will do right well for another statesman we wot of:

"With a ministry so successful as [Lord Salisbury's] has been, it is perhaps not much to say that Mr. [Matthews] has been the least successful minister who holds a position in it. It may, perhaps, be no reproach to [Mr. Matthews] that the best use he has made of his position is to show that he is not best qualified to fill it; but it is none the less a misfortune for the country to be endowed with a Home Secretary whose sole idea of his duties appears to be to imbibe and to carry out the views of chief clerks, policemen, and any other kind of person who happens to be surrounded with the divinity that dole out a permanent official. Appointed by the Crown Secretary of State for the Home Department, he has appointed himself Secretary of Tradition for the Home Office, and Chief Commissioner of the Chief Commissioner of Police, making himself simply the mouthpiece of those whose ruler he should be. Had this happened, as it does every day, in other departments, we might not have discovered it; but we happen to know too much about our home affairs to be deceived by the sophistry, or contented by the pompous affectation of superior wisdom which does such good service to ministers in other departments. This it is, no doubt, which makes the position of Home Secretary so difficult a one to fill, but this also is the reason why a peculiarly able man should alone be allowed to fill it, and why a feeble official-minded politician should never be permitted to undertake functions requiring the continual exercise of free and capable judgment. At this time, especially when there is beginning to be seen a dangerous reaction towards centralisation and regulation, when the police are taking military organisation and reaching a tyrannical power, it would have been wise to give us a Home Secretary who would have put matters back to their proper place. But [Mr. Matthews] has availed himself of an obsolete law to put a stop to free speech when menaced by lawless criticism of the physical kind; and, worse still, he has lately refused so much as to enquire whether the police could do wrong, and supported his refusal by reasons which, in the mouth of a minister, are as discreditable as they are feeble."

## TRAFALGAR SQUARE—ANOTHER VICTIM.

LAST Saturday afternoon William B. Curner, who died from injuries received from the conflict with the police on Sunday 13th November, was buried in Brockley Cemetery. The deceased was a Secularist and Radical, and as such occupied a somewhat prominent position in the borough of Deptford, where he resided. The occasion of his burial was marked by a public funeral, and the whole line of route from his residence in Henry Street, Deptford, to the cemetery was lined with sympathetic spectators. Blinds were drawn and mourning borders were displayed from houses, one of the chief tradesmen displaying over his shop black flags, two with mottoes, "Honour the Dead," and "Let all assist the Widow." The funeral hearse bore Radical, Irish, and Socialist flags, and also a shield with the inscription "Killed for Trafalgar Square." A band playing the "Dead March" preceded the hearse, the whole procession to the cemetery being most imposing.

At the grave R. Forder, surrounded by a dense throng of people, among them being representatives of Secular, Radical, and Socialist bodies, read the secular burial service. After which Mrs. Besant made a most impressive speech, in which she urged her hearers not to shrink back from the struggle for freedom in which their brother in the grave had fallen, for in their efforts to make life worth the living some must fall. Let them go from the grave the more determined than ever to carry on the fight for which he had given his life. Mr. Stead followed with a most fervid speech, and speaking as a Christian at the grave of an Atheist, dwelt on the necessity for the sinking of mere minor differences of opinion; the cause of the people was the cause of humanity, and all its lovers would unite for the overthrow of its enemies. Mr. Larkin then made a brief speech, and the choir of the Socialist League brought the proceedings to a close by singing William Morris's "Death Song," written to commemorate the death and burial of Linnell.

This is the second public funeral that has taken place within a month, the dead in each case being martyrs to the cause of freedom of speech. How many more are to be sacrificed ere "liberty the parent of truth" shall triumph? H. A. B.

Our coroners are becoming quite adepts in the art of libelling dead men—an economical process, no doubt. Dead men tell no tales, neither can they retaliate. Our coroners know that, and hence their action. At an inquest held last week on the body of an old employe of the S. E. R., aged 74 years, who was employed for the purpose of keeping a foot-bridge clear at Charing Cross, and who was knocked down and killed while crossing the line to go to a cabin to get himself warmed, the coroner in summing up said: "It seemed extraordinary, after forty years' experience, that the deceased should disregard rules which he must have been well acquainted with, and it only showed what dangers railway men exposed themselves to." There was nothing adduced at the inquest to show that deceased was breaking any rule in going to get himself warmed, nor could such a rule, if it did exist, be considered a very humane one. Would the coroner deprive a poor old man of 74 years the privilege of warming himself on a bleak cold December day? If so, we pity his humane tendencies, which at the best must be cruel.—*Railway Review*.

EXTRAORDINARY RAID OF HIGHLANDERS.—On Monday at daybreak one thousand Highlanders marched from Portnaguran and other places for Aignish sheep farm, for the purpose of driving off the sheep. The entire body concentrated at a spot three miles from Aignish, and then marched in formation of fours, preceded by musicians and flag-bearers, for the scene of action. A force of the Royal Scots Regiment, Marines and police came up with the Highlanders, who refused to disperse. Sheriff Fraser thereupon read the Riot Act, but the Highlanders proceeded with their work, and succeeded, it is said, in clearing the entire stock off the farm. The raiders several times came into conflict with the police and military, and a number of them were wounded, but none fatally. Mr. John Ross, Procurator Fiscal, was struck with a heavy stick and badly wounded, and the officer in command of the Royal Scots and several policemen were wounded severely. Eleven of the raiders were arrested and brought into Stornoway at four o'clock under heavy escort. But the bulk of the Highlanders are reported to be still on Aignish Farm, and threaten to leave not a single sheep in the whole district. The island is in a state of wild excitement, and a terrible conflict is feared.



HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW? FIRST, FEW MEN NEED 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.** only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. **Subscriptions.**—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d. **Business communications** to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday January 11.

<b>ENGLAND</b>	Paterson (N J) Labor Standard	<b>ITALY</b>	Guzetta Operaia
Jus	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	Marsala—La Nuova Eta	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
Justice	Providence (R. I.)—The People	Bani—Municitorul	
London—Freie Presse	Coast Sea men's Journal	<b>SPAIN</b>	El Productor
Labour Tribune	<b>FRANCE</b>	Madrid—El Socialista	
Norwich—Daylight	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	<b>GERMANY</b>	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Railway Review	Le Socialiste	<b>AUSTRIA</b>	
<b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b>	La Revolte	Arbeiterstimme	
Adelaide—Our Commonwealth	Lille—Le Travailleur	<b>HUNGARY</b>	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
<b>INDIA</b>	Guise—Le Devoir	<b>DENMARK</b>	Social-Demokraten
Madras—People's Friend	<b>HOLLAND</b>	<b>EGYPT</b>	Bosphore Egyptian
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Hague—Recht voor Allen		
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts		
New York—Der Sozialist	<b>BELGIUM</b>		
Freiheit	Seraing (Ougree)—Le Revell		
Volkszeitung	Ghent—Vooruit		
Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer	Liege—L'Avenir		
Fort Worth (Tex.)—South West	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>		
Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat		

**RADICALS LOOK ROUND YOU!**

THE Winchester election is, it must be admitted, a shabby text to preach from: given, a cathedral establishment, a military depot, a middle-class public school, a large class of the villa-dwellers, and a noble lord as owner of a greater part of the town, and the result of an election in such a place would seem to be certain—the return of the Tory candidate—even if he were not a local magnate, and his opponent a mere name: only an electioneering agent on the look-out for a job one would think could venture to encourage opposition to the winning colour under such circumstances. However, the Liberals have chosen to make a kind of test-case of this most trumpety faction-fight as to whether the tide is still continuing to flow back to them, as other bye-elections seemed to show it was doing, and, since it has gone against them so completely they are bound to admit, and really do admit the inference, that the tide has turned again, and the Tory ship has weathered the dangerous headland for the present. All this, which is but an affair of "ins and outs," would be a matter of complete indifference to us if it were not that there is still a Radical tail hanging on to the official Liberal party, and that the Radicals have been making towards Socialism under the educational influence of the Irish rebellion, and the general force of circumstances which is driving them out of their barren negative position, and forcing them to consider whether there is any forward road for them except Socialism. To the Radicals one may preach a little from even such a contemptible text as the Winchester election, and ask them once more whether they are going to be dragged about through the mud by their Liberal allies, or are going to give free play to their aspirations towards the popular cause, and assert themselves as men who are sincerely trying to learn what is to be done to carry the country out of this shabby period of the rule of the dregs of the bourgeoisie, helped by the distinguished cowards, knaves, and fools, for whom no worse name can be found at present than that of "superior persons" or "men of culture."

I would ask them to note, then, that it did seem true towards the middle of last year that the Tory or Irish coercionist party seems to be losing ground, and that there did seem a chance of the Gladstonites shortly coming into power again, and victoriously "settling" the Irish question; in which case the Radicals would have felt a glow of triumph, as feeling that after all it was a Radical victory rather than a Liberal one, and that they had led the whole of that constitutional party to the wished-for goal. This was the outlook then; but it is very different now; whatever the chapter of accidents may do in the future, the Tory Government is steady enough at present; that is really felt by everyone, and in the constitutional contest of "ins and outs" the Liberals are not showing any signs of solicitude for their Radical allies, but are quite prepared to shake them off if need be; and, in short, we would seem to be further than ever from a Radical triumph. How has it all come about?

Let us remember that whatever it may be elsewhere, in this country the Government is always a genuine Government of the middle classes; whatever is done is done for them, even though it may sometimes take

the guise of helping the working classes; all that only means helping such and such groups to manage the human machinery necessary to their welfare; most middle-class men, "thoughtful" or unthoughtful, never realise the fact that there is a working-class; the artisans or labourers that they may come across are to them but aspirants towards the middle-class, or failures from it, mere accidents of society in short. As long as this mood of the middle-class is undisturbed, as long as they are blankly ignorant of the composition of modern society, they can quite calmly divide themselves into two parties, Conservative and Liberal, or whatever else you may call them, it being, of course, understood that the greater part take no interest, or only a very languid one, in politics. But the events of the last five or six years, the change that has been coming over the commercial outlook, has made some inroads into this ignorance, and the Irish question, founded as it is on the further question "How are the Irish peasants to live?" has also at last sorely shaken them, though at first it was looked upon as a mere political matter on which there might be difference of opinion between "respectable" persons. As the English, Scotch, and Welsh working-men became educated into friendliness and sympathy with the Irish peasant, so the middle-class became educated into hatred of him. To them he is no longer now a romantic survival of past times of a rebellion made beautiful by distance, carrying about a preposterous sentiment of nationality never to be realised save as a flavour to a few old ballads sung to melancholy ancient tunes; he is a working-man asking for some of the property of the proprietary classes, and not too nice as to the means by which to establish his claim. And as on the one hand, new development of the Irish question made it clear to the middle-classes that it was time not to play with progress any longer, so on the other the putting forward of it by Mr. Gladstone gave them an opportunity for backing out with that ease and dignity which the British hypocrite manages to impart to the action of sneaking out through a back door. The upshot is the "Tory Reaction," as real a reaction as any political reaction ever is. What has happened is this: amongst political middle-class folk, the clearer-sighted once-Liberals, who could see whitherward things are tending, have, as aforesaid, taken the opportunity of Gladstone's new departure to rat formally, leaving behind a group of Gladstonites whom habit and clinging to a vague shadowy habitual idea of principle keep in the ranks at present. That means breaking up the Liberal party; but there is more at the back of that. There is the great body of middle-class non-politicals, who include a great many "superior persons;" these who usually have nothing to do with the political game are, nevertheless, an enormously powerful body; they form, in fact, what the newspapers mean when they speak of "the public;" and this "public," which is fully equipped with votes, goes solid for the Tory reaction, and is, in fact, the central and really noteworthy part of it. This public has a blind and instinctive, but quite genuine hatred of the "other public," the "lower classes," whose misery it has made and lives upon: it usually only acts as a dead weight to keep them down, but from time to time takes vigorous action enough. It is the public which applauded Napoleon the Little and the Butchers of the Commune, smiled safe approval on the slaying of the Chicago martyrs, egged on the evictions of Irish tenants for the behoof of the shabby tyrants who rob their poverty, shut up Trafalgar Square, beat helpless prisoners in their cells, and makes the disgraceful pedant Stephen feel safe and comfortable on his seat of iniquity; it is the public which will make civil war inevitable as the claims of the workers rise, and are more distinctly formulated; it is, in short, the real danger to what of genuine society yet exists amongst us; the mass of blind wrong-doing led by "superior persons" who know what is right and hate it, who have made wrong their right. Now it may be said, "surely the Tories could always rely on the support of this criminal class, how is it that it was thought last summer that the present Government was tending towards its defeat on the Irish matter?" The answer is, the Tories were then only threatening coercion, and soft as the Gladstonites were fighting they seemed strong enough to deal with their political foes, considering the conversion of the working-men, which at least on the Irish question, was going on. We did not believe that the threat of coercion would be seriously carried out; but it seems that the Tories had estimated the relative voting power of the working-class, and the above-mentioned criminal class, better than we had, and knew that they were safe, and accordingly started fair on their new career of Resolute Government, which will carry them who can say where, but in the meantime has gained them the enthusiastic support of the whole non-political middle-classes. Let our Radical friends note that for the present, and until the times get "quiet," these ordinarily non-political people are turned into ardent politicians with one aim in view, the keeping down of the popular element amongst us, by whatever name it may be called, and that this support will keep the Tories in power for many a day, while all the political opposition they (the Tories) will meet with will come from a party pledged, it is true, to grant Home Rule in Ireland (a pledge which may be as easily evaded as other pledges have been), but so far from being pledged to help the whole people out of their misery, that they also, when events press hardly on them, will have to take obvious measures to keep the people down, and avail themselves of the support of that party of blind wrong-doing.

The Radical party is effaced from the Parliamentary record, because its education towards progress had been advancing. Let all true Radicals take advantage of that effacement by educating themselves yet further; let them set to work seriously to learn what those popular claims are which the Liberal leaders steadily refuse to consider, but which form the only politics worth attending to. It is true that if they do this they will soon find themselves Socialists and outcasts;

but they will be recompensed for that when the time comes, as it soon will, when all distinctions of party will merge into the two camps, of the people and their haters, for they will then know clearly why they are on the right side, as they will have joined it consciously and not by mere compulsion. I believe that many Radicals are now taking this course, and I would encourage them to think that all these apparent Tory victories are only so many signs of the enlightenment of the workers of their own interests, and the consequent development of the middle-class hatred against them.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

### PRISON LIFE IN ENGLAND.

It is not my intention to put before you a record of the routine of prison life in England; that has been done already by my fellow-prisoner, Mowbray. I wish rather to deal with the principles involved in the method of dealing with criminals to-day. There is not a magistrate or judge in the land but prates at times, in stock phrases, about the law dealing with those who violate it in strict justice, and with a keen eye to the well-being and reformation of the prisoner himself.

Firstly, then, is prison discipline reformatory? Nowadays we look with horror at the old methods of burning at the stake, mangling with thumbscrew and boot, of torture, and stretching on the rack. Why? Because we see that these things mean nothing but torture, and have naught to do with justice. We see they have no reformatory elements about them. But, as far as the principle goes, where is the difference between these things and our present treadmill, plank-bed, starvation diet, and solitary dark confinement? The torture is not so intense, but still it is the principle of torture, and not of reformation, that is shown in these things. Is it reasonable, for example, to expect that a felon will be taught morals by treadmill exercise? You may torture him, but that torture does not teach him the wrongfulness of theft. Prison discipline confounds justice with revenge. The only element that even professes to be reformatory is the chaplain's ministrations. But if the chaplain of Norwich prison is a type of them all, there will be but little good done. Briefly, his ministrations consist of the following routine: Every morning at 8.30 the prisoners march in single file into the chapel; the litany is gabbled over by the parson as quickly as decency will allow; prisoners are marched back to their cells. This is slightly varied on Sundays by the introduction of a second service in the afternoon, where the weekly luxury of a sermon is indulged in; the said sermon generally being a glorification twenty minutes long of the justice of the prison system, with occasional insertions of flattery towards the Church of England. Once a fortnight I was visited by the chaplain in my cell for the first six weeks, after that he never came near until the day before my release. So much for the only professedly reformatory element in prison life. The fact of the matter is, a huge mistaken notion of what justice is has grown up in the minds of those who profess to dispense it. Stern, unbending and unmerciful, do they picture divine justice; as if an unmerciful thing was not unjust!

Another lesson that my prison life impressed on me more strongly than ever was the fact that the majority of the prisoners are men who have been made criminals by our infamous system of society. If it should ever be your lot to visit a prison (in any capacity) just observe, as you walk along the gloomy corridor the tickets on each cell door, on which is written the crime of the occupant of the cell. Nine out of every ten are poachers, vagrants, or thieves. Society makes criminals, and then punishes them for being what it made them.

It may, perhaps, be thought that prison life has at least this virtue, that once inside its walls all are treated alike; that there is no distinction of persons. But this is not so. The wealthy swell who gets into trouble is treated with every consideration possible by the officials. It is so easy for the doctor to certify that so-and-so is unfit for heavy work, provided so-and-so happens not to be a working man. Here are two cases in point. It is one of the prison regulations that all prisoners convicted with hard labour must work the treadmill for the first month, unless the doctor certifies them to be unfit for it. While I was in prison, a lieutenant in the army was sentenced to a month's hard labour for deserting his wife and family. He was a strong, able-bodied man, but, being somewhat of a swell, the doctor ordered him off the wheel, and put him at oakum-picking. Passing down the corridor a few days after, I saw his card marked, "half-task oakum." Here is another case. At the assizes held just before the sitting at which I was sentenced, two cases came on for trial. In one of them a boy of 16 was charged with stealing a few shillings from a shop. Sentence, six months' hard labour. In the other case the City Treasurer of Norwich, a "respectable" man, was charged with "embezzling" several thousands. Sentence, six months. The boy was put on hard labour, and kept at it till his time was up. The "gentleman" was put on the lightest work in the prison, in a comfortable office, with a good fire. He not only was on the best diet in the prison, but had extra hospital diet as well, and was, in consequence, the fattest man I saw while I was inside (except a burly inspector who came round on one occasion.) It was interesting to notice at exercise time how the hungry, lean men would watch the well-fed scoundrel round the yard, as if envious of his "prime" condition.

What would be a rational treatment for criminals it is not my object to write here. Were I writing a scheme, my first suggestion would be to remedy the unjust system that fills our prisons to-day. The only effect my imprisonment had upon me was to give me a deeper insight into the brutality of our civilization, and to spur me up to greater effort in the Socialist work.

FRED HENDERSON.

### A Fable: To the Men in Possession.

It is a painful sight, no doubt,  
To see you pottering about,  
Fumbling with those conditions new  
Of life which we commend to you,  
Conditions which your heated brain  
Tries to conceive, and tries in vain;  
But when you, floundering in the mire,  
Impute to us the low desire  
To fling away (and see no harm)  
Knowledge and beauty, change and  
charm,  
Just for a larger slice of cake.—  
My friend, you make a slight mistake;  
Lost in your purblind lust of pelf,  
You think us even as yourself.  
Come, rub your eyes, look round, and  
see,  
Who rules the world? 'tis you, not we;  
Yet everywhere see beauty slain,  
Trampled and fouled by greed of gain;  
Man against man in bitter strife  
Contending for the barest life,  
And in that ruinous employ  
Forgetting hope and light and joy.

O wisdom of the worldly-wise!  
Is this what you so dearly prize?  
But we are bound to better ends,  
We seek a world of happy friends,  
A world of mirth, wherein we know  
Beauty shall blossom forth and blow,  
Transcending far and making poor  
The best your guineas can procure;  
Where Wisdom, born of work and rest,  
To every soul shall give a zest  
Such as afore she never gave  
To vacant lord or broken slave;  
Where fellowship of man with man,  
Unchecked by caste's unholy ban,  
Nor by that fleecer's cunning foiled

Which sets the spoiled against the  
spoiled,  
Shall flood earth with so large a joy  
No power of hell can e'er destroy.

#### THE FABLE.

A swarm of flies, one summer day,  
Were feasting in a lordly way;  
Perfect the blue sky overhead,  
But they, intent upon the "spread"  
(Whose odour but too well betrayed  
The spot where the repast was laid,)  
Strove, each of sweets to get his fill,  
And got on famously, until  
A heedless traveller sets his heel  
A thought too near the festive meal.  
How briskly then each little beast  
Springs to defend the savoury feast.  
"Base plunderer, hence! Low tramp,  
away!  
We know quite well what you would  
say;  
Make us all equal; yes, indeed,  
We know your wild Utopian creed.  
How dare you, Sir, how dare you thus  
Lay hands on what belongs to us?"  
"Wax not so hot, O little flies,"  
The smiling traveller replies,  
"I grieve my presence should afford  
Naught save disquiet to your board,  
Still more that my unwary tread  
Brings such a buzz about my head.  
Wherefore, be reassured, I pray;  
Groundless, I swear, is your dismay;  
Our tastes, our ends, are not the same;  
I hunt for very different game.  
On this wide common free and fair  
I do but seek for orchids rare;  
Wag not so virulent a tongue;  
I covet not your hoard of dung."

C. W. BECKETT.

### INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

#### BELGIUM.

The miners of Sars-Longchamps and Bouvy, at La Louviere, have struck, owing to the enforcement of the following regulations: 1. If a worker fails to go to work without giving notice he shall pay a fine of two francs; if he fails to work on two following days he shall cease to belong to the pit and five days' salary shall be withheld. 2. All offence, insubordination, or refusal to obey shall be punished by a fine of ten francs. 3. He who commits any damage whatever during his worktime or causes an accident to occur shall pay a fine equivalent to the damage done.

I mentioned a fortnight ago that the almanack of our Ghent comrades, "Vooruit," had been speedily exhausted. After the first ten thousand had been sold out a second edition of the same number was printed, and now they have to announce a third issue.

"L'Avenir (the Future) of Liege, the weekly organ of the Walloon Socialists of Belgium, will in future appear twice a-week. Comrade Blanvallet will continue to be the editor of it.

#### GERMANY.

Four Bohemian tailors have been expelled from Dresden. Their lodgings were searched, with the result that a great number of copies of *Freiheit* were found. Comrade Morgenstern, a Socialist journalist, was also expelled from Bavaria.

Last week a new trial for secret conspiracy was begun at Posen. Some thirty Socialists are implicated in it, and the justice-farce is performed *within closed doors*. We know that this means in Germany—conviction against all evidence. It is said that the farce will last a fortnight.

In Freiburg (Brigau) comrades Haugh and Fuchs have been sentenced to eight and five months imprisonment respectively for distribution of prohibited literature and for being members of a secret society—this meaning the Social Democratic party! Comrades Böhle and Stuck were sentenced to two months each, Boll and Yörger to four and three months for the same "crimes."

At Dresden the Socialist Municipal Councillors Stelzer, Horn, and Müller got four and three months respectively, and the editor of the 'Sächsisches Wochenblatt' five weeks imprisonment for libeling policeman Rosshaum. We have always been of opinion that it is impossible to calumniate a German policeman.

It is suggested among the German Socialists that if the Anti-Socialist laws are enforced by the addition of a paragraph whereby our comrades may be *exiled* from their country, the ways and means of their propaganda will change altogether. So, for instance, it is said that they are likely to give up at once all parliamentarism—i.e., that they will no longer take part in the electioneering business. If that is so, we are certain that the new "law" will have exactly the contrary effect to that which its "makers" intend to give it, then assuredly a fresh revolutionary impetus will be given to the whole movement, and that is what we want everywhere.

#### SPAIN.

Our Spanish friends continue to issue a considerable number of pamphlets relating to the Chicago trial. I mentioned some weeks ago the 'Proceso de los Anarquistas' published as the second volume of the Anarchist-Communist Library of Barcelona: I am glad to announce that a new relation of the same trial has been issued at Madrid, entitled 'Proceso de los Anarquistas en Chicago.' It contains a very ably and concisely written resumé of the facts, extracts of the speeches of our dead comrades, some of their letters, and general considerations on the whole justice-farce, by our friend Ernesto Alvarez. I am also informed that comrade Alvarez soon will start a new revolutionary organ, to be entitled *La Bandera Roja* (the Red Flag). We wish in advance good luck to our new colleague.

V. D.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

The miners of South Wales are about to form a miners' union.

An explosion occurred at the Bulhurst workings of the Diglake Colliery, N. Staffordshire, last week, throwing 600 men out of employment.

**THE UNEMPLOYED AT SOUTHAMPTON.**—Last Saturday afternoon a deputation of unemployed men waited upon the Mayor of Southampton, and asked that steps might be taken to relieve the condition of men unemployed in the town. The mayor opened a public subscription, and promised to do what he could to alleviate their wants.

**A WORN-OUT SLAVE AT NELSON.**—At a firm here last week, a weaver received notice to leave because she was below the average, although she had worked for the firm over 20 years. It is stated that the employer himself would not give the poor woman her notice, but his son instructed a "screw-key carrier" to do the work for him.

**THE SHEETING TRADE AT RISHTON.**—The sheeting trade here is in a very depressed condition. At Victoria Mill, scarcely half the sheeting looms are running owing to want of orders, while at J. Whitaker and Co.'s Britannia Mill the sheeting looms have been very slack for some time through the same cause, though some improvement has taken place lately.

At a conference of delegates from the miners at all the principal collieries in Notts, held at Basford on Saturday, it was decided to call upon the colliers throughout the country to give in a notice to their employers, terminable at the end of the present month, for a 10 per cent. advance in wages, the adoption of the eight hours' working-day system, and a general Saturday holiday.

**DISTRESS IN CHESHIRE.**—A discussion took place on Thursday evening at a meeting of the Lymm (Cheshire) Local Board as to the best means of relieving the distress in the neighbourhood. It was stated that fustian cutting, the staple trade of the district, was worse than ever; the wages paid were very low. £200 given by Mr. Dewhurst, Oughtlington Hall, had already been expended in finding work for the unemployed in road-making. It was resolved to make a further appeal for funds to carry on similar works.

**EXPECTED LOCK-OUT OF SHIPBUILDERS.**—An old grievance in the shipbuilding trade has cropped up again, times being a trifle better, and it is feared that the reopening of the vexed question will cause many shipbuilders to carry out their threat of locking-out the workmen. It has hitherto been the practice in arranging the contracts of the workmen who are members of the Boiler-Makers and Iron Shipbuilders Association, for masters and men to make individual contracts, the men bargaining with their employers as to the rates of pay. These kind of matters are now to be adjusted for them by the association, who on the present occasion have decreed that the wages shall be advanced by 25 per cent.

**BOLTON.—THE HEATON STRIKE.**—The dispute between the Bolton and District Operative Cotton Spinners' Association and Messrs. Heaton, of the Lostock Spinning Mills, upon the employment of female minders, still remains unsettled, and the places are boycotted by all unionists, with the result that a considerable portion of the machinery is at a standstill. The firm, however, appear to be making another effort to get additional hands, advertisements appearing in several papers for frame tenters, etc. The dispute occurred in the latter part of 1886, and the greater portion of the hands who struck work have obtained work elsewhere.

**EDINBURGH JOINERS.**—At a meeting of joiners held in the Trades' Hall on the 4th inst., to consider the position of affairs in connection with the proposed reduction of wages, it was reported that five of the 16 shops previously stated to have given notice of a reduction had withdrawn the notice, that there remained notices by 11 shops, while several others had to be added to those which had given no notice. The resolutions come to at previous meetings to resist the reductions, were unanimously re-affirmed, and the men in the eleven shops specified as continuing the notice would not, it was understood, return to work unless the notice was withdrawn.

The London Executive of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers have expelled from their Society four leading officials of the Bolton branches for having settled the recent dispute in the iron trade of that town without the London Executive's sanction. The expelled officials are: Councillor Hough, Chairman of the Bolton Joint Committee; Mr. Richard Barlow, the Secretary; and Messrs. Bain and Thornton, Committeemen. These gentlemen agreed, without the sanction of the Central Executive, to accept the employers' offer to submit to arbitration the dispute, which had then lasted over six months. An appeal will be lodged against the decision.

**DENABY MAIN ACCIDENT.**—A local paper says: "The condition of the colliers generally at Denaby is by no means encouraging, owing to their having to pay so much back rent incurred during the last dispute, and having to replace furniture previously disposed of in order to obtain food." The vicar of Mexbro' writing for subscriptions, says: "It is sad to know the straits to which labouring men with their families are at times involuntarily put by their inability to obtain work, and in winter time there must always be in every parish a certain number so circumstanced. To have, however, a body of not less than 2000 over and above the number that may ordinarily be expected deprived of support is shocking." Some weeks must elapse before work can be resumed.

**WAGES OF GUN-LOCK FILERS.**—At Darlaston, at a meeting of gun-lock filers, a workman stated that he and an assistant had been working all that day, and had made eight gun-locks between them. After paying for files, pins, oil, shop-rent, etc., the two of them had only earned the miserable sum of 1s. 4d. He referred to the case of a fellow-workman, who had actually been desired to make gun-locks, known as fence, for 2½d. each. Another operative said he had been in the gun-lock trade since he was 9 years of age, and now he was 73 years of age. He had never known wages so bad as at present, for he could not earn more than 1s. a-day, work as hard as he could. After several of the workmen had spoken, it was decided to form a trade society, Mr. W. Juggins being asked to act as secretary pending the appointment of officers. The whole of the workmen present handed in their names as members.

**BURLEY WEAVERS.—THE STRIKE AT COLNE.**—The report of the Strike Committee says:—"Now that Christmas is past, we again appeal to you to commence your support for those on strike at Garden Vale Mill, Colne. From reports to hand, we find that some 670 looms are being paid for, and that about 200 persons are being supported in this struggle for the Burley

list. Mr. Catlow, it seems, is determined, with the consent of those who administer the law in Colne, to evict from or turn out of their homes those who have recently worked for him. Fellow operatives, can we stand by and see this done without straining every nerve to support those who are being crushed by it? We say No, and rely upon you to demonstrate that you will support your committee and the Colne weavers in their struggle against this high-handed policy. From our last report you will notice we had a balance of over £12. Since then this sum has been augmented, and your committee have made a grant of £10 to Colne out of it."

**MANCHESTER.—SHIP-CANAL WORKS.**—The contractor has commenced operations on the Salford side of the river "Stink," commonly called the Irwell, on a piece of land bounded by the river and Trafford Road, known as the Mile Field, on the opposite side of the road where those workers who have not the fear of our local Sir Charles Warren in their hearts meet every Sunday morning to spread the light amongst the workers who vacate the slums to walk into the suburbs to obtain a little of that purer atmosphere which the "landlords" claim as property bestowed upon them by a divine providence. Nearly 200 workers, including carpenters, navvies and other labourers, are engaged at work. The rates of wages are, for navvies, 4d. per hour; piecework, 4d. and 5d. per square yard. Hours of work from 7 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. Some of the men can earn 21s. per week. It is a question for the spectator visiting the scene of operations as to which body of the workers turn out the most work, the daywork-men or those on piecework. It is expected there will be about 2,000 workers engaged in about a month hence. As yet there does not appear to be much accommodation for a large staff. It is reported that a number of the workers engaged at the Mersey end of the canal are dissatisfied at the "free"-trade prices paid for labour.—"CITIZEN SPECIAL."

From the report of the fatal accident that occurred to a shunter on the London, Chatham, and Dover Railway at Loughborough Junction, it would appear that the old primitive method of having to pass over and under the buffers of wagons for the purpose of coupling and uncoupling is still in vogue on that line. A gleam of hope, however, must appear to the shunters and guards of that slow-paced railway in the statement made at the inquest, to the effect that the company are about to adopt a new system of uncoupling. Not before time, we should say, and it might with reason be asked why they have so long delayed doing so. It is reported that the unfortunate shunter above referred to had been on duty for upwards of thirty hours when the accident occurred. If this is inaccurate it will be as well for the London, Chatham, and Dover Company to correct the report. If it be accurate, it is scandalous.—*Railway Review.*

The old question of how shall workmen who are not members of trades' unions be treated during a strike keeps coming to the front. With some people it is an open question whether an operative ought to be allowed to work who is not a unionist, but we will not take that extreme view, but will concede that a man or woman has a perfect right to refuse to join an association. Having exercised this right, and in local phraseology refused to pay to the trade, they take upon their own individual shoulders the duty of looking after their own interests. They are quite as fond of good wages as a unionist, and they have quite as strong an objection to a reduction, and if an employer talks about one they have generally as much to say as anybody. When the time for action comes, they, however, begin to display some anxiety as to where their pay is to come from. They fully understand their rights when it is a case of sticking to their coppers at the week end, but from some unexplained cause their intelligence appears to fail them when it becomes a question of understanding that the exercise of that right entails upon them the duty of providing for themselves when the pinch comes. These pitiful sponges will cry like whipped hounds, and will threaten they will go knobsticking if they are not supported with other people's money. We have said that a man or a woman has the right to refuse to pay to an association, but if they exercise it let them at least show their honesty by refraining from asking for the money others have subscribed. By asking for and accepting union assistance, they simply show themselves in their true colours, as belonging to that dishonest class who wish to reap where they have not sown.—*Cotton Factory Times.*

Mr. Crawford, M.P., the secretary of the Durham Miners' Association, appears to have thrown a bombshell which has caused no inconsiderable commotion amongst the capitalist press. What he has said has practically been said scores of times before, but Mr. Crawford is now an M.P., and he can therefore be taken notice of. He has been denouncing the colliers who don't pay to the union, and has urged upon his members the duty of ostracising them in every possible way. Not only should members refuse to go down the pit shaft with non-payers, but he is even so naughty as to hint that they (the members) ought not to associate with them at their homes, or the public-house, or even at their chapels. He says that if not quite, non-payers are nearly always bad men, and as such they ought not to be considered good enough to associate with in any way. Some of the big thunderers of the daily press are up in arms, and want to know where these doctrines will land us. Where they will land us we will not attempt to prognosticate, but hitherto the occupations which have adopted them appear to be in clover. The principal of these is the profession of the law. If any class earns a good fat living for knowing little except how to make out a bill it is the lawyers. Yet for generations they have most comprehensively carried out the course which Mr. Crawford recommends the colliers to adopt. Let any one infringe the rules—unwritten they may be, but none the less understood—and not only is he ostracised, but is driven out of the profession. He may have no other means of earning a livelihood, but that matters not. They not only refuse to have dealings with him, but, neck and crop, drive him out to possible starvation. In the medical profession they cannot quite do as much as the lawyers, but they do exactly what Mr. Crawford suggests. If a doctor fails to comply with the understood etiquette (in their case etiquette means trades unionism) of the profession he is promptly boycotted. His brethren will not meet him in consultation. They will not have him in their houses or meetings, and in every way they do all they can to ruin his prospects. Why don't the thunderers pour out the vials of their wrath on these delinquents. The reason is on the surface. Colliers do not take in the daily thunderers, whilst doctors and lawyers do. We are not finding fault with the lawyers and doctors for their action. What we complain of is the hypocrisy of their organs, who can easily see a needle's point when used by a workman against his enemies, but cannot see a spear when wielded by the upper ten. Actions of the kind recommended by Mr. Crawford can only be justified by success, and when workmen can make it a success, they will find their present accusers amongst the first to bow the knee.—*Cotton Factory Times.*

AMERICA.

A news item in Pittsburgh paper says that a new coke syndicate is being formed.

The Havemeyer Sugar Refinery (Jersey City) will shut down on January 1st. Reason is, concentration of production by sugar trust.

A new mechanical type-setting machine has been perfected by Alexander Lagermann, the originator of Swedish matches.

The strike of cabinmen in New York ended December 20th. The men were successful.

The miners at Riley and Co.'s Logan Colliery, Ashland, Pa., struck, involving 500 men and boys. The men struck because they were compelled to top their wagons.

The railroad coal operators in the Pittsburgh district who granted their men an advance of 5 per cent. in wages have declared that the miners employed at the old rates in other mines must receive the same wages paid by them, otherwise the operators now paying the advanced wages will return to the former arrangements.

There is trouble ahead in the cigar trade in New York city, and a lockout or strike may follow. A large number of cigar-manufacturers are about to return to the tenement-house system of cigar-making which has been fought against for years by the Cigar-makers International Union. This union succeeded after a bitter struggle in having a bill passed by the legislature abolishing the system, but the courts later on declared that bill to be unconstitutional. The manufacturers say this is the only way to hold the trade in this city. Nearly 7,000 men and children will be affected by the change. The men say the system is exceedingly injurious to health, as the manufacturers are to a certain extent obliged to keep the factories clean, while cleanliness is impossible in dwelling-houses where cigar-making is carried on in rooms.

In the House of Representatives on the 20th December Mr. Brumm, of Pennsylvania, offered a preamble and resolution reciting that it is currently reported that the coal operators in the Lehigh region are now importing, or are about to import, 2,000 Belgian miners under contract to take the place of the miners now on strike in that section; that the striking miners have used every endeavour to have a settlement of the differences by arbitration, and requesting the President to notify the officials of the Treasury Department of these facts, and urge them to use special efforts to prevent the landing of the Belgian miners and to see that the law against the importation of labour under contract is strictly enforced. In consequence Secretary Fairchild has sent telegrams to the collectors of customs at New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Baltimore, calling attention to the report that 2,000 Belgian miners are to be imported to take the places of striking Lehigh miners. He instructs them to prevent any violation of the Alien Contract Labour Law.

LIST OF STRIKES FOR DECEMBER.

Number of strikers known to December 12	2,672
Newark, N. J.—Cracker-bakers, against reduction, December 20	14
Philadelphia, Pa.—Stone-masons, for advance, December 20	8
Columbus, Ohio—Railroad-employes, for advance, December 19	200
New York city—Cab-drivers and stablemen, for higher wages, Dec. 17	75
Grove City, Pa.—Coal-miners, for arbitration on Columbus scale Dec. 14	1,100
New York city—Cab-drivers and stablemen, for advance and signing of a contract for one year, December 19	100
Chicago, Ill.—Granite-cutters, for new scale of wages, Dec. 19	133
Findlay, Ohio—Teamsters, for payment of wages, December 17	75
Everson, Pa.—Coke-workers, to anticipate shut-down, December 20	—
Warren, R. I.—Weavers, against working overtime, December 14	75
Paterson, N. J.—Embroidery-hands, for reinstatement of discharged employes, December 21	—

Total number of strikers known to December 21 ... 4,652

The following have notified their employes that wages will be reduced: Bethlehem, Pa.—Bethlem Iron Company. Reduction 10 per cent., takes effect Jan. 1. Reason alleged, state of trade and low price of rails. Number of men affected ... 2,000  
Scranton, Pa.—Lackawanna Iron and Coal Company and Scranton Steel Mill. Alleged reason, low price of steel rails and decreased orders ... 2,000

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING JANUARY 21, 1888.

15 Sun.	1759. British Museum opened. 1622. Molière born at Paris.
16 Mon.	1838. 204 men and boys suffocated in Hartley Colliery.
17 Tues.	1706. Benjamin Franklin born.
18 Wed.	1871. German Empire proclaimed.
19 Thur.	1764. Wilkes expelled the House of Commons. 1736. James Watt born. 1846. Repeal of Corn Laws voted.
20 Fri.	1649. Trial of Charles I. for treason begun.
21 Sat.	1793. Execution of Louis XVI. 1870. Alex. Herzen, Russian Socialist publicist, died in exile.

Hartley Colliery.—One of the iron beams, about 20 tons weight, at the mouth of the ventilating shaft, broke and fell, destroying the brattice which divided the shaft, and carrying down enough timber to kill five men who were coming up, and bury alive all in the mine. The bodies were not recovered for several days. About £70,000 was raised by the public for the widows and orphans. The coroner's jury condemned the method of working, and asserted the necessity of two shafts to coal mines, and that the beams of colliery engines should be of malleable instead of cast iron.—S.

German Empire proclaimed.—The 18th of January, 1871, in the "Salon des Glaces" of the old Royal Palace at Versailles, King William of Prussia was proclaimed by his army (bourgeois historians say by his people) Emperor of Germany. The same day he addressed to the German people a proclamation, telling them among other lies: "We accept the imperial dignity, conscious of the duty we have to protect loyally the rights of the German Empire and of all its members, to maintain peace and freedom, to strengthen the independence of Germany and the faith of our people. We accept it with the hope that the German people may enjoy themselves with the result of their long and hard struggling, of their willingly supported sacrifices, in an everlasting peace, and in the limits which astute to the Fatherland that security which has been missing for centuries owing to the ever renewed aggressions of France." All this imperial rubbish, written of course by Bismark, means nothing more or less than this: "Brutal force supersedes right." Old William has shown himself the

most despotic sovereign of modern Europe, trampling under his foot all liberty, destroying all felicity of independent thought, enslaving millions of men, and spreading all over Europe the dreadful nightmare of a continental war, in order to submerge in streams of blood the rising Revolution. This old cynical despot deserves to be everlastingly execrated.—V. D.

John Wilkes.—Born Oct. 17th, 1729; died Dec. 27th, 1799. In 1757, entered Parliament as member for Aylesbury; started the *North Briton* with Churchill's help in 1762, in which he followed and led the agitation against Bute and the Court parasites. On April 23rd, 1763, appeared "No. 45," attacking the Royal Speech at the close of the late Session. Wilkes was arrested under a general warrant, and committed to the Tower after examination by the Secretaries of State; he was, however, soon released in virtue of his prerogative as an M.P., when he retired to Paris. On the meeting of Parliament a resolution was passed declaring No. 45 to be "a false, scandalous, and malicious libel," and resolving that privilege of Parliament did not extend to seditious libels. He was expelled in his absence. The peers went further; on the information of Lord Sandwich, a partaker with Wilkes in the fashionable debauchery of the time, and in the publishing of a very stupid "poem" parodying Pope's 'Essay on Man,' they started a prosecution against him on account of 'An Essay on Woman,' of which 13 copies had been printed for private circulation. Knowing the result Wilkes stayed away, and was condemned to outlawry. In February, 1768, however, he reappeared as the candidate for the City; defeated, he stood for Middlesex, and was carried by a tremendous majority. The outlawry was reversed, but he was ordered to pay a fine of £1,000 and sentenced to 22 calendar months' imprisonment. November, 1768, he vainly petitioned the House against further imprisonment on grounds of privilege. The February following he was again expelled the House and a new writ ordered for Middlesex, but was again elected. Election declared null and void, but the voters again returned him with a majority of 800 over Col. Luttrell, the Court candidate, whom, however, the House decided should have been elected, and Wilkes was still excluded. In 1774, Parliament was dissolved and Wilkes again returned for Middlesex, while he was also Lord Mayor of London; he was this time allowed to take his seat. For years he tried again and again to have the motions against him struck out of the journals of the House. At length, in May, 1782, all the declarations, orders, and resolutions on the Middlesex election were expunged from the journals, and Wilkes had won "the recognition of the right of every constituency to send any representative it chose." Meanwhile he, backed by the City, had been also fighting the House as to the liberty of reporting its debates; this struggle, in which for awhile the City and the House were pretty evenly matched opponents, resulted in the publicity of debate. Although still the choice of Middlesex as long as he chose to ask its votes, he sunk into comparative obscurity when the great fight he had fought was won—a career not without parallel.—S.

Charles I.—Born at Dunfermline, Nov. 19th, 1600; executed Jan. 30th, 1649. Second and favourite son of James I.; became heir apparent on death of his brother Henry, 1612; came to throne March, 1625. He came to the throne when the awakening bourgeoisie were beginning to seek the removal of restrictions and impositions they held unjust, and were looking to have more share in the Government of the country than hitherto. To have governed successfully at such a time needed a prompt but wary, strong, and courageous man; Charles was weak but self-willed, rash but irresolute; altogether the most unsuitable character that could be king at such a time. In political wisdom he was wholly wanting, and so far did he identify political skill with double-dealing that he could never be trusted; an agreement with him was never kept, and compromise was impossible. On his side he sought to maintain the "Divine Right" of kings; on the side of the Commons the demand was for constitutional government. When he was brought to trial for treason against the people, he refused to acknowledge the court, saying that obedience to the king is ordered by Scripture, that by the law the king could do no wrong, that the Commons had no power in themselves to form a court, that they had no authority from the people, who again were unable to confer it. After a careful trial, he was sentenced on the 27th, as a tyrant, a murderer, and a traitor to his country, to the death penalty, and on the 30th beheaded at Whitehall. Despite the reaction under his sons the kingly power was for ever broken, and the revolution went on which realised itself in the "Revolution" that placed William of Orange on the throne and completed bourgeois supremacy.—S.

Louis XVI.—Louis XVI. or Louis Capet, being put on his trial at the bar of the National Convention, sitting as Supreme Tribunal of the French nation, on the charge of conspiring against the liberty of the people and attempting against the general safety of the State, was found guilty and sentenced to death (Sittings of Jan. 14th, 16th, and 17th, 1793). After long and stormy debates, three questions were laid before the Convention, and on the proposal of Boyer-Foissac they were resolved by nominal vote. The result of the polling was as follows:—

1. Is Louis guilty?—Total number of members, 749; absentees for illness sake, 1; absent by commission of the Assembly, 20; members who did not vote, 18; members who answered Yes, 683; total, 749.
2. Will the decision of the Assembly be put before the whole people for ratification?—Total number of members, 749; absent for illness, 9; members who refused to vote, 5; absent by commission of the Assembly, 20; members who answered Yes, 281; members who answered No, 434; total, 749.
3. Which sentence is to be inflicted?—Total number of members, 749; absentees for illness, 8; absent by commission of the Assembly, 15; members who did not vote, 5; members who voted, 721; absolute majority, 361. Members voting for fetters, 2; members voting for detention, banishment, or reclusion, 286; members voting for death with delay in the execution, 46; members voting for death pure and simple, 387; total, 721. Summing-up.—For death, 433; for detention, banishment, etc., 223; absentees or non-voters, 28; total, 749. Accordingly, to the vote of the National Convention, Louis XVI. was beheaded at Paris on January 21st, 1793.—V. D.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—On Monday next at 9 o'clock a special meeting of London Members will be held, when an important matter in connection with the right of public meeting will be laid before them.

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Mitcham, Walsall to July 31. Bloomsbury, Leicester, Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Hull, Wednesbury, to September 30. Clerkenwell, Hammer-smith, Mile End, Oxford, to December 31.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

F. F. (8 weeks), 16s. C. J. F. (2 weeks), 5s. K. F. (2 weeks), 2s. P. W. (8 weeks), 4s. W. B. (weekly), 6d. Raymond Unwin, 2s. 6d. J. Cub, 1s.

Strike Committee.—Collected in Regent's Park—December 25th, 5s. 9d.; Jan. 8th, 5s. 1d.—J. LANE.

Children's Party.—The receipts for same amount to £3, 13s. 6d, and the expenditure to £3, 13s. 1d.; balance, 4½d. Not previously acknowledged, but included in the above, J. E. Cobden, 5s. The committee have much pleasure in presenting so satisfactory a report.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—Thursday the 5th, business meeting, and Cantwell elected member, and branch took over N.L. outwell stations, agreed to do so. Meeting adjourned till Tuesday, Jan. 10th, at 8.30. Meeting at St. Pancras Arches last Sunday addressed by Bartlett, Turner, and Dalziel.—D.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, Jan. 4th, C. J. Faulkner lectured on "The Farce of Representation;" lively discussion. Sunday, Jan. 8th, business meeting held at 7, after which at 8.30, Wm. Morris lectured to large audience on "The Political Outlook;" the debate which followed was all the more interesting when two Radicals gave some sort of opposition; the lecturer's reply was satisfactorily received.—B.

FULHAM.—Meeting held by Mahony, Smith, and Fry; closed by singing Morris's "No Master." Evening, at Fulham Cross, when Tochetti, Smith, and Day spoke.—S. B. G.

HACKNEY.—Special notice, a meeting of members will be held on Sunday, January 15th, at 8 p.m., at 28, Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick, to reorganise the branch and other important business. All comrades who are interested and intend to cooperate in this branch are requested to attend.

MITCHAM.—On Sunday evening, W. B. Parker lectured here on "What the Workers want—how to get it;" Gregory in the chair. A good discussion followed.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday, Jan. 8th, Glasier and Pollock addressed good meetings in Jail Square and Watson Street. In our hall at 7 p.m., E. R. Pease lectured on "How best to reach Socialism." Good discussion.—J. A.

LEEDS.—Since last report our annual social gathering took place, when friends from Scotland, Hull, and Bradford met together with us. On Sunday, Jan. 1, Mahon spoke in Vicar's Croft, and in the evening he lectured on "Socialism and Trades' Unionism" to the Tailors' and Pressers' Society. Last Sunday morning we held a meeting in Vicar's Croft; in the evening Braithwaite lectured on "The National Loaf; who earns and who eats it." At Parker's Temperance Hotel, Paylor spoke on "The Future of Radicalism."

NORWICH.—Sunday, meeting in Market Place addressed by Mowbray. In evening, Mowbray began a series of lectures on "Is Socialism Sound?" He will continue same subject next three Sundays. Good collections and fair sale of *Commonweal*.—S.

WALSALL.—Our first annual tea and entertainment held Monday evening last. Addresses were delivered by Richards, Russell, and Sanders; songs, recitations, and readings given by members and friends, one of the latter rendering the "Marseillaise" in French and English. Altogether the gathering was most successful and gave general satisfaction. On Saturday, large audience addressed by H. Sanders at open-air station, The Bridge.—J. T. D.

DUBLIN.—At Saturday Club, Jan. 7th, Mr. James Walker, a capitalist, resumed the debate on "Socialism," advocating it from what he called an evolutionary standpoint. His address was a clear, forcible statement of the Socialist position, the only point on which he differed from revolutionary Socialism being as to the method of realisation. Karpel, Hayes, Burke, and O'Connor also spoke. The opposition was again feeble. Fitzpatrick closed the debate, ably replying to the various points raised.

EPINGHAM.—On 8th, Howie read paper dealing with common objections to Socialism. Audience small. Members and friends ought to turn out to these meetings in force.—J. S.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Thursday January 12, at the Athenaeum Hall, 73 Tottenham Court Road, W., at 8 p.m., H. M. Hyndman will lecture on "Why the Social Revolution is inevitable." Thursday 19th, at Communist Club, 49 Tottenham St., Tottenham Court Road, at 8.30, W. W. Bartlett will lecture on "Before the Dawn."

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday Jan. 15, at 8.30, Ben. Ellis (Radical delegate to Ireland), "Ireland, and what I saw there." Wednesday 18, at 8.30, T. Bolas, "A Real People's Parliament."

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. W. Morris on Sunday evening at 8 o'clock.

Hackney.—28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.

Hammersmith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Jan. 15, at 8 p.m. C. J. Faulkner, "Property, the New Bigotry." Wed., Jan. 18, at 8 p.m., Annie Besant, "The Evolutionary Aspect of Socialism." Saturday 21st, at 8 p.m., Dramatic Interlude, "The Tables Turned." (Tickets, 6d.)

Hoxton (L.E.L.).—C. J. Young, 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road, Secretary. Concert and Draw on January 14. Tickets 6d. (See below.)

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

Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. Business Meeting every Thursday at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after Business Meeting.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—James Leatham, secy., 15 St. Nicholas Street.

Birmingham.—Meetings at Summer Row Coffee House every Saturday evening at 8.

Bradford.—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.

Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Wednesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. H. M'Cluskey, Millar Street, Secy.

Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sec).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec Dublin.—Saturday Club, Central Lecture Hall, 12 Westinorland Street.

Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Political Economy class, 2 p.m. Lecture at 6.30.

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. 'Das Kapital' class every Thursday at 7.30. Members requested to pay weekly subscriptions on that night. Sunday evening lectures, Trades Hall, High Street.

Galashiels (Scot Sect).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.

Gallatoun and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Propaganda Committee, Mondays at 8. Shorthand Class, Tuesdays at 8. Music Class, Tuesdays at 9. Discussion Class, Thursdays at 8. Sunday Jan. 15, 2 p.m., Meeting of members in Rooms—important business, large attendance urgently requested. Members are also requested to pay weekly subscription regularly.—As we are now making a vigorous effort to form a library in connection with the branch, contributions of books, magazines, etc., are requested, and will be gladly acknowledged by comrade Gilbert, librarian.

Leeds.—17 Chesham St., Sweet St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.

Lochjelly (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (pro tem.), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.

Norwich.—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free lectures every Sunday at 8. Business meeting every Tuesday at 8.30. Discussion class every Thursday at 8. Band practice every Friday at 8.—Entertainment will be given on Monday Jan. 16 by the Norwich Socialist Minstrel Troupe, on behalf of the *Commonweal* debt due by this branch. Admission 2d.

Nottingham.—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.

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

Walsall.—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.

West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 15.

- 11 ...Acton Green .....Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Garrett—"Plough Inn" .....The Branch
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and Ball .....The Branch
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St. ....Wade & Pope
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road .....The Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....The Branch
11.30...Regent's Park .....Wardle & Mrs. Schack
11.30...St. Pancras Arches .....W. W. Bartlett
11.30...Stamford Hill! .....Parker
11.30...Walham Green .....E. Verinder
3 ...Hyde Park .....Bartlett
8 ...Fulham Cross .....Hammersmith Branch

Tuesday.

- 8 ...Fulham Cross .....Hammersmith Branch

Wednesday.

- 8 ...Broadway, London Fields .....Graham

Thursday.

- 8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St. ....Parker

PROVINCES.

Glasgow.—Govan Cross—Friday, 7.30.

Cambuslang—Saturday, 5.30.

Paisley Road Toll—Sunday, 5 p.m.

Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, 11 a.m.

Norwich.—Market Place, at 3 every Sunday.

JUNIOR SOCIALISTIC EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.—Next meeting will take place at 12 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy Square, on Saturday Jan. 21, at 7.30.—W. H. Spencer-Howell, hon. sec.

SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS, Commonwealth Café, Scotland Street, Sheffield.—Discussions or Lectures every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Free.

SCOTTISH LAND AND LABOUR LEAGUE.

(Scottish Section of the Socialist League)

In Assembly Rooms, Leith, Annie Besant, on Saturday 14th, at 7.30. 1s., 6d., and 3d.

In Trades Hall, 142 High Street, Edinburgh, James Mavor on 15th, at 6.30 Bruce Gordon on 22nd. Collection; reserved seats, 6d.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.

Meeting at *Commonweal* Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday January 15, at 3.30 p.m.

TO-NIGHT (SATURDAY).

GRAND CONCERT AND DRAW

(To raise a fund for the forming of an East-end Socialist Club.)

AT 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

ON SATURDAY JANUARY 14, AT 8 P.M.

There will be about Thirty Prizes, and besides Music

THE LAMP: An Extravaganza

by H. A. Barker, will be performed.

Tickets must be secured beforehand.

THE TABLES TURNED.

ENGAGEMENTS.

January 21 . . . HAMMERSMITH BRANCH S.L.

Applications for engagements to be made to the

Manager. H. A. Barker

The Chicago Martyrs.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed by several of the Socialist and revolutionary bodies of London to arrange for the speedy publication of the speeches of the eight prisoners and a full record (from the official copy) of their trial. This work is in progress, but want of funds seriously delays its completion. In order to meet this difficulty the Committee are issuing coupons entitling bearer on payment of 6d. to a copy of the first issue made, and it is hoped that all members and friends of the cause will do their utmost to aid in the commemoration of our brave comrades and at same time in the pushing forward of the cause they served.

J. BARBER, Treas.

H. REUTER, Sec.

101 Albert St., Camden Town, N.W.

ANTI-STATIST COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

"There is a sad lack of Anarchist pamphlets in England, and we gladly welcome our comrade Joseph Lane's contribution of 'An Anti-Statist Communist Manifesto,' which is an energetic and earnest exposition of Anarchist Socialism from a worker's standpoint. The second portion, which deals with practical politics is specially interesting. We hope the tract will have a wide circulation."—FREDERICK.

"There is a great lack of literature from this standpoint. We do not agree with all the points, but at the same time recommend it to all our friends and also its translation into the French and German languages."—FREDERICK.

"The State in every form is denounced as the abomination of desolation. Mr. Lane is extravagant in many of his statements, but his pamphlet is quite worth reading."—OUR CORNER.

PRICE ONE PENNY, or 9d. per dozen.

Commonweal Office, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C or 38 Ainsley Street, Bethnal Green.

IRISH MINSTRELSY.

BEING A SELECTION OF IRISH SONGS, LYRICS, AND BALLADS.

Edited, with Notes and Introduction, BY H. HALLIDAY SPARLING.

Cloth, cut or uncut, 1s.

"A triumph of consistent editing. Mr. Halliday Sparling has brought to his work a rare sympathy, intelligence, and earnestness."—Truth. "No less triumphantly successful than difficult of accomplishment."—Dublin Morning Mail.

WALTER SCOTT, 24 Warwick Lane, Paternoster Row

SOCIALIST LEAGUE LITERATURE.

Chants for Socialists. By William Morris. . 1d

Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades' Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Binning (London Society of Compositors). . . . . 1d.

Socialism on its Defence. A REPLY TO PROFESSOR FLINT. . . . . 1d.

The Aims of Art. By Wm. Morris. Bijou edition, 3d.; Large paper, 6d.

The Tables Turned; or, Nupkins Awakened. A Socialist Interlude. By William Morris. In Wrapper . . . . . 4d.

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.

The Commune of Paris. By E. Belfort Bax, Victor Dave, and William Morris. . . . . 2d.

The Rights of Labour according to John Ruskin. By Thomas Barclay. . . . . 1d

Useful Work v. Useless Toil. By William Morris. . . . . 1d.

"All for the Cause!" Song. Words by William Morris; Music by E. Belfort Bax. 4to, 4 pp. 6d. per dozen, 4s. 6d

Mrs. Grundy (Cartoon). By Walter Crane. Fine hand-made large paper. . . . . 6d.

Printed and Published by WILLIAM MORRIS and JOSEPH LANE at 13 Farringdon Road, London