

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON PASSING EVENTS.

THE "Dissentient Liberals" have had their field-day; and at first sight the thing which would strike the observer most would be the extreme shabbiness of their purpose. These lords and gentlemen—these superior persons—were met together really for the purpose of enforcing their legal right to take the last penny out of the pockets of a few poor people on the verge of pauperism. Stripped of a very thin veil of pretence to patriotism, fair dealing, ten commandments, and the like, this is the only explanation of their conduct. And one must say that the sweating of the Jews by King John was a generous and almost ideal proceeding compared with this dull, blank shabbiness; for at all events the Jew had something worth taking, and his "portable property" might well captivate the imagination of a hard-up mediæval king.

Their desperate earnestness in their purpose was also striking. "The manly straightforwardness" of Lord Hartington—which an enemy might perhaps call grovelling stupidity—the old-womanish spite of Mr. Bright's much-becheered letter, Mr. Chamberlain's quaintly arrogant telegram, are not more remarkable than the obvious eagerness of the rank and file to declare themselves supporters of Lord Salisbury. Fear had consolidated these opponents of Home Rule, that is clear; but fear of Home Rule? Surely not.

For if they had no enemy save Home Rule the game for these patriots to play would be support of the tenant-farmers against the landlords; to be able to say, "What do you want with a Dublin parliament when we will give you all you ask for, and as an instalment, to show that we mean it, will stave off the landlords from you at this pinch, so that you may make *some* livelihood out of the land?" Surely this would have been the card to play for a party calling themselves Unionists. And to an outsider it seems as if it would have been so easy, too. The National League with its "Plan of Campaign" would appear almost to have been asking the *Liberal* Unionists to dish it. At least Mr. Bright might have been expected to be on the side of the tenant-farmers.

After all, our Irish friends seem to have understood the people they were fighting against, and that they could be trusted to plunge deeper and deeper into the mire. And as for Mr. Bright, he is one of those persons who roar out for sweeping reforms as long as there is no chance of their being realised, and draw back in terror as soon as they seem likely to come about.

In short, there are no two words to be said on the matter: The terror arises from the attack on property, as it seems to their eyes; though to ours the "Plan of Campaign" seems rather a recognition of the rights of property, and therefore to be deprecated. But it is clear from the speeches that Socialism was the bugbear, and Lord Salisbury once again echoed the feeling in his speech to the Conservative Club; in which, by the way, he was naturally jubilant over the definite adhesion of the "Liberal Unionists." He has a strong party to lead now.

Neither are there wanting signs that the greater part of the Gladstonian Liberals will soon be in the same camp. The avidity with which they will seize on an excuse to go over to the safe side was well illustrated by the article in the *Daily News* following Lord Kilcourse's letter on Mr. Dillon's speech. It meant once more: "Yes, we will do what Mr. Gladstone wishes as long as the natural results don't seem likely to come of our doing so; but then—." The Gladstonian Liberals also are beginning to understand what Irish affairs mean; and when they have come to understand fully that it is not a question of Parliamentary politics, but of property, then, except for the Irish themselves and a few Radicals, there will be but one party in Parliament as far as Ireland is concerned. But, meantime, how the Irish party must despise their Liberal allies!

Yes, the Tory party seems safe, and it would be unreasonable if it were not so, since except in this matter of Home Rule, in which they are not in earnest, the Liberal party has nothing to propose which the others are unwilling to accept. Take as an example Mr. Arnold's ridiculously misnamed "Free Land" scheme, and here is Lord Salisbury's remark on that point: "Anybody must be absolutely ignorant of the history of this country who believes that the desire to make the acquisition of land easy" (to those who have the privilege of

money understood) "is inconsistent with the principles of the Conservative party." Perhaps Lord Salisbury had better let history alone. But "the principles of the Conservative party" at present need no stretching to enable them to accept a scheme which would strengthen the power of capital, as the "Free Land" business certainly would.

To those who wish to retain any respect for human nature, the stupidity exhibited by the speakers at meetings like the Poor-law Conference is somewhat of a blow. Meantime, it is not worth while to hunt these people through the labyrinth of lies which they construct so elaborately. Yet, fools as they are, it is strange that even they cannot see that their arguments against the exceptional nature of the distress, which no one denies, form the heaviest indictment possible against the cruel fraud which they call Society, and which they sustain so persistently. If this is to be our ordinary condition in the future, and if you have no plan for getting rid of this "chronic" and necessary misery and degradation, what scheme of revolution can be too wild for us to try? In sober truth it seems to most thinking people that we are being pushed down a long incline, and that before long we shall look back to this dismal year as one of comparative prosperity. What is the remedy for the present condition of the poor? To get rid of the condition of the poor; and we know how to do it if we will, by getting rid of the condition of the rich, to whose existence as a rich class the poor are necessary.

WM. MORRIS

## A VISIT TO THE TYNESIDE.

THE North of England is just now peculiarly adapted for Socialistic agitation. It is in a great state of excitement. The workmen are forming a Labour Federation to obtain a working-day of eight hours, and the seamen are agitating also to raise their wages from £3 10s. to £4 per month. I found, therefore, upon visiting this part that the people listened eagerly to any ideas that promised to benefit them. I spoke twice upon Socialism, once in the open-air, and again in the Gladstone Hall, Bedford Street, North Shields. My task was not an easy one, for the local papers, as usual, have been very busy burlesquing and misrepresenting our teachings. The virulence of some of the papers concerning us would be amusing, but, unfortunately, they are doing a great deal of harm. I will give an example of their work: "We have been taught that the Socialists are a lot of drunken vicious agitators, who are making a living by duping foolish workmen," said a man to me at the conclusion of one of the meetings; and I must add, these are the views commonly held about us. The lying press have done their work well on the Tyneside. In spite of this, those to whom I had the opportunity of speaking received our doctrines with favour. The usual questions were asked: "Who will do the dirty work?" "What are you going to do with the idle people?" and "Cannot you give us a detailed scheme?" These I answered to the best of my ability. One great obstacle to the advance of Socialism in this place is the intense Radicalism or Republicanism of the people; should you speak slightly of either of these they are offended. Many of them too belong to the Atheistic-Individualist school of thought; this may be due to the influence of a very strong branch of the National Secular Society in South Shields. I was sorry too to see the homage they gave to Mr. Gladstone, amounting nearly to idolatry. Until they can shake off this worship little good can be done by them; it is both pernicious and dangerous. On the question of land nationalisation we were all agreed. One very noticeable and sad fact is the hatred in which the "foreigner" is held. It is lamentable that such should be the case, but it is easily to be understood. It is through the action of foreign sailors that the wages of seamen have been reduced to the miserable pittance of £3 10s. per month. It also seems that they will put up with coarser food than an Englishman. They have also hampered the action of the English by holding aloof from the sailors' organisation. Of course I attempted to break down this national prejudice, but I am afraid that it is a hopeless task while the foreign seamen persist in their present conduct. However, I have great hopes for Socialism in the North of England if put before the people in a reasonable manner.

At the conclusion of my last meeting, I obtained sufficient names to form a Branch, and Mr. Lydon, 63, Bedford Street, North Shields, consented to act as secretary. It may be as well to state that he is at present secretary to the local Branch of the Irish Nationalist League, and I trust that any one who is willing to help the North

Shields Branch of the Socialist League will communicate with him. Unfortunately, I was not able to hold a meeting in Newcastle, time not allowing. That town, however, has a Society for the discussion of Socialist questions.

My visit to the North has taught me that the men there are too important to be neglected. They do not need agitation, for they are keenly alive to their wrongs; they do not need organisation, for they are splendidly united. In this matter they set us a fine example. What they need is education in the truths of Socialism; tell the people of these in a stirring and proper manner and they will gladly accept them. They have led the way in many a struggle to emancipate labour, and I believe that when the great and final battle comes they will not be found in the background.

W. A. CHAMBERS.

## A DREAM OF JOHN BALL.

Continued from p. 291.

I got into my old place again on the steps of the cross, Will Green beside me and above me John Ball and Jack Straw again. The moon was half-way up the heavens now, and the short summer night had begun, calm and fragrant, with just so much noise outside our silent circle as made one feel the world alive and happy.

We waited silently until we had heard John Ball and the story of what was to do; and presently he began to speak.

"Good people it is begun, but not ended. Which of you is hardy enough to wend the road to London to-morrow?" "All! All!" they shouted. "Yea," said he, "even so I deemed of you. Yet forsooth hearken! London is a great and grievous city; and mayhap when ye come thither it shall seem to you over great to deal with when ye remember the little townships and the cots ye came from. Moreover, when ye dwell here in Kent ye think forsooth of your brethren in Essex or Suffolk, and there belike an end. But from London ye may have an inkling of all the world, and over burdensome maybe shall that seem to you, a few and a feeble people. Nevertheless I say to you remember the fellowship, in the hope of which ye have this day conquered; and when ye come to London be wise and wary; and that is as much as to say be bold and hardy; for in these days are ye building a house which shall not be overthrown, and the world shall not be too great or too little to hold it: for indeed it shall be the world itself, set free from evil-doers for friends to dwell in it."

He ceased awhile, but they hearkened still as if something more was coming. Then he said:

"To-morrow we shall take the road for Rochester; and most like it were well to see what Sir John Newton in the castle may say to us: for the man is no ill man, and hath a tongue well shapen for words; and it were well that we had him out of the castle and away with us; and that we put a word in his mouth to say to the King. And wot ye well, good fellows, that by then we come to Rochester we shall be a goodly company, and ere we come to Blackheath a very great company; and at London Bridge who shall stay our army? Therefore there is nought that can undo us except our own selves and our hearkening to soft words from those who would slay us. They shall bid us go home and abide peacefully with our wives and children while they, the lords and councillors and lawyers, imagine council and remedy for us; and even so shall our own folly bid us; and if we hearken thereto we are undone indeed; for they shall fall upon our peace with war, and our wives and children they shall take from us, and some of us they shall hang and some they shall scourge, and the others shall be their yoke-beasts—yea, and worse, for they shall lack meat more. To fools hearken not, whether they be yourselves or your foemen, for either shall lead you astray. With the lords parley not, for ye know already what they would say to you, and that is, 'Churl, let me bridle thee and saddle thee, and eat thy livelihood that thou winnest, and call thee hard names because I eat thee up; and for thee, speak not and do not, save as I bid thee.' All that is the end of their parleying. Therefore be ye bold, and again bold, and thrice bold! Grip the bow, handle the staff, draw the sword, and set on in the name of the fellowship!"

He ended amid loud shouts; but straightway answering shouts were heard, and a great noise of the winding of horns, and I misdoubted a new onslaught; and some of those in the throng began to string their bows and handle their bills; but Will Green pulled me by the sleeve and said, "Friends are these by the vinding of their horns; thou art quit for this night, old lad." And then Jack Straw cried out from the cross: "Fair and softly, my masters! These be men of our fellowship, and are for your guests this night; they are from the bents this side of Medway, and are with us here because of the pilgrimage road, and that is the best in these parts, and so the shortest to Rochester. And doubt ye nothing of our being taken unawares this night; for I have bidden and sent out watchers of the ways, and neither a man's son nor a mare's son may come in on us without espial. Now make we our friends welcome. Forsooth, I looked for them an hour later; and had they come an hour earlier yet, some heads would now lie on the cold grass which shall lie on the feather bed to-night. But let be, since all is well! Now get we home to our houses, and eat and drink and slumber this night if never once again amid the multitude of friends and fellows; and yet soberly and without riot, since so much work is to hand. Moreover the priest saith, bear ye the dead men, both friends and foes, into the chancel of the church, and there this night he will wake them: but after to-morrow let the dead abide to bury their dead!"

Therewith he leapt down from the cross, and Will and I bestirred ourselves and mingled with the new comers. They were some three

hundred strong, clad and armed in all ways like the people of our township, except some half dozen whose armour shone cold like ice under the moonbeams. Will Green soon had a dozen of them by the sleeve to come home with him to board and bed, and then I lost him for some minutes, and turning about saw John Ball standing behind me looking pensively on all the stir and merry humours of the joyous uplanders. "Brother from Essex," said he, "shall I see thee again to-night? I were fain of speech with thee; for thou seemest like one that has seen more than most." "Yea," said I, "if ye come to Will Green's house, for thither am I bidden." "Thither shall I come," said he, smiling kindly, "or no man I know in field. Lo you, Will Green looking for something, and that is me. But in his house will be song and the talk of many friends; and forsooth I have words in me that crave to come out in a quiet place where they have each one his own answer. If thou art not afraid of dead men who were alive and wicked this morning, come thou to the church when supper is done, and there we may talk all we will."

Will Green was standing beside us before he had done, with his hand laid on the priest's shoulder, waiting till he had spoken out; and as I nodded Yea to John Ball he said: "Now master priest, thou hast spoken enough this two or three hours, and this my new brother must tell and talk in my house; and there my maid will hear his wisdom which lay still under the hedge e'en now when the bolts were abroad. So come ye, and ye good fellows, come!"

So we turned away together into the little street. But while John Ball had been speaking to me I felt strangely, as though I had more things to say than the words I knew could make clear: as if I wanted to get from other people a new set of words. Moreover, as we passed up the street again I was once again smitten with the great beauty of the scene; the houses, the church with its new chancel and tower, snow-white in the moonbeams now; the dresses and arms of the people, men and women (for the latter were now mixed up with the men); their grave sonorous language, and the quaint and measured forms of speech were again become a wonder to me and affected me almost to tears.

I walked along with the others musing and as if I did not belong to them, till we came to Will Green's house. He was one of the wealthier of the yeomen, and his house was one of those I told you of, the lower story of which was built of stone. It had not been built long, and was very trim and neat. The fit of wonder had worn off me again by then I reached it, or perhaps I should give you a closer description of it, for it was a handsome yeoman's dwelling. The house on the other side of it, the last house in the village, was old or even ancient; all built of stone, and except for a newer piece built on to it—a hall, it seemed—had round arches, some of them handsomely carved. I knew that this was the parson's house; but he was another sort of priest than John Ball, and what for fear, what for hatred, had gone back to his monastery with the two other chantry priests who dwelt in that house: so that the men of the townships, and more especially the women, were thinking gladly how John Ball should say mass in their new chancel on the morrow.

Will Green's daughter was waiting for him at the door and gave him a close and eager hug, and had a kiss to spare for each of us withal; a strong girl she was, as I have said, and sweet and wholesome also. She made merry with her father; yet it was easy to see that her heart was in her mouth all along. There was a younger girl some twelve summers old, and a lad of ten, who were easily to be known for his children; an old woman also, who had her livelihood there, and helped the household; and moreover three long young men, who came into the house after we had sat down, to whom Will nodded kindly. They were brisk lads and smart, but had been afield after the beasts that evening, and had not seen the fray.

The room we came into was indeed the house, for there was nothing but it on the ground floor, but a stair in the corner went up to the rooms above. It was much like the room at the Rose, but bigger; the cupboard better wrought, and with more vessels on it, and handsomer. Also the walls, instead of being panelled, were hung with a coarse loosely-woven stuff of green worsted with birds and trees woven into it. There were flowers in plenty stuck about the room, mostly of the yellow blossoming flag, but in the window near the door was a pot full of those same white poppies I had seen when I first woke up; and the table was all set forth with meat and drink, a big salt-cellar of pewter in the middle, covered with a white cloth.

We sat down, the priest blessed the meat in the name of the Trinity, and we crossed ourselves and fell to. The victual was plentiful of broth and flesh-meat and bread and cherries, so we ate and drank, and talked lightly together when we were full. Yet was not the feast so gay as might have been. Will Green had me to sit next to him, and on the other side sat John Ball; but the priest had grown somewhat distraught, and sat as as one thinking of somewhat that was like to escape his thought. Will Green looked at his daughter from time to time, and whiles his eyes glanced round the fair chamber as one who loved it, and his kind face grew sad, yet never sullen. When the herdsmen came into the hall they fell straightway to asking questions concerning those of the fellowship who had been slain in the fray, and of their wives and children; so that for a while thereafter no man cared to jest, for they were a neighbourly and kind folk, and were sorry both for the dead, and the living that should suffer from that day's work. So then we sat silent awhile. The unseen moon was bright over the roof of the house, so that outside all was gleaming bright save the black shadows, though the moon came not into the room, and the white wall of the tower was the whitest and the brightest thing we could see. Wide open were the windows, and the scents of the

fragrant night floated in upon us, and the sounds of the men at their meat or making merry about the township; and whiles we heard the gibber of an owl from the trees westward of the church, and the sharp cry of a blackbird made fearful by the prowling stoat, or the far lowing of a cow from the upland pastures; or the hoofs of a horse trotting on the pilgrimage road (and one of our watchers would that be). Thus we sat a while, and once again came that feeling over me of wonder and pleasure at the strange and beautiful sights, mingled with the sights and sounds and scents beautiful indeed, yet not strange, but rather long familiar to me.

But now Will Green started in his seat where he sat with his daughter hanging over his chair, her hand amidst his thick black curls, and she weeping softly I thought; and his rough strong voice broke the silence. "Why lads and neighbours, what ails us? If the knights who fled from us this eve were to creep back hither and look in at the window they would deem that they had slain us after all, and that we were but the ghosts of the men who fought them. Yet, forsooth, fair it is at whiles to sit with friends and let the summer night speak for us and tell us its tales. But now, sweetling, fetch the mazer and the wine."

"Forsooth," said John Ball, "if ye laugh not over much now, ye shall laugh the more on the morrow of to-morrow, as ye draw nearer to the play of point and edge."

"That is sooth," said one of the upland guests. "So it was seen in France when we fought there; and the eve of fight was sober, and the morn was merry." "Yea," said another, "but there, forsooth, it was for nothing ye fought; and to-morrow it shall be for a fair reward." "It was for life we fought," said the first. "Yea," said the second, "for life; and leave to go home and find the lawyers at their fell game. Ho, Will Green, call a health over the cup!"

For now Will Green had a bowl of wine in his hand. He stood up and said: "Here, now, I call a health to the wrights of Kent who be turning our plough-shares into swords and our pruning-hooks into spears! Drink around, my masters!"

Then he drank, and his daughter filled the bowl brimming again and he passed it to me. As I took it I saw that it was of light polished wood curiously speckled, with a band of silver round it on which was cut the legend, "In the name of the Trinity fill the cup and drink to me." And before I drank, it came upon me to say, "To-morrow, and the fair days afterwards!" Then I drank a great draught of the strong red wine, and passed it on; and every man said something over it, as "The road to London Bridge!" "Hob Carter and his mate!" and so on, till last of all John Ball drank, saying "Ten years hence, and the freedom of the fellowship!" Then he said to Will Green: "Now Will, must I needs depart to go and wake the dead both friend and foe in the church yonder; and whoso of you will be shriven let him come to me thither in the morn, nor spare for as little after sunrise as it may be. And this our friend and brother from over the water of Thames, he hath will to talk with me and I with him; so now will I take him by the hand: and so God keep you fellows!"

I rose to meet him as he came round the head of the table, and took his hand. Will Green turned round to me and said: "Thou wilt come back again timely, old lad; for betimes on the morrow must we rise if we shall dine at Rochester." I stammered as I yea-said him; for John Ball was looking strangely at me with a half smile, and my heart beat anxiously and fearfully: but we went quietly to the door and so out into the bright moonlight. I lingered a little when we had passed the threshold, and looked back at the yellow-lighted window and the shapes of the men that I saw therein with a grief and longing that I could not give myself a reason for, since I was to come back so soon. John Ball did not press me to move forward, but held up his hand as if to bid me hearken. The folk and guests there had already shaken themselves down since our departure, and were gotten to be reasonably merry it seemed; for one of the guests, he who had spoken of France before, had fallen to singing a ballad of the war to a wild and melancholy tune. I remember the first rhymes of it, which I heard as I turned away my head and we moved on toward the church:

*"On a fair field of France we fought on a morning  
So lovely as it lieth along by the water.  
There was many a lord there moved men in the medley,  
Amidst the banners of the barons and bold men of the knighthood,  
And spearmen and sergeants and shooters of the shaft."*

WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be continued.)

The brass workers of New York, who have been on a strike for two months, propose to establish a co-operative factory.

At the partial municipal elections in Brussels a workman professing Socialist opinions has been returned for the first time.

A writer in the *Hull Express* protests against the Socialist attacks on the labour M.P.'s, but discreetly leaves those attacks unanswered. Of course it is well known that trades' unionists generally are ashamed of their representatives in Parliament. The *Express* thinks Socialists ought to be grateful to Broadhurst and Burt for their help in passing such Socialistic measures as the Employers' Liability and Mines Regulation Acts. But these Acts are not Socialistic, and, anyhow, were not the particular progeny of the two Whig gentlemen who represent "labour" in St. Stephen's. The whole of the factory legislation is merely a proof of the admitted rottenness and iniquity of the capitalist system, and an attempt to make it bearable rather than to destroy it. It is rather late in the day to defend the labour M.P.'s. Their want of spirit and their unvarying readiness to act as bootblacks to the Liberal leaders has damned them, and their meek acceptance of Government patronage has double-damned them.—J. L. M.

## BE CONTENT.

SAID the parson, "Be content,  
Pay your tithe-dues, pay your rent;  
They that earthly things despise  
Shall have mansions in the skies;  
Though your back with toil be bent,"  
Said the parson, "be content."

Then the parson feasting went,  
With my lord who lives by rent;  
And the parson laughed elate,  
For my lord has livings great.  
They that earthly things revere,  
May get bishops' mansions here.

Be content! be content!  
Till your dreary life is spent;  
Lowly live and lowly die,  
All for mansions in the sky.  
Castles here are much too rare;  
All may have them—in the air.

T. MAGUIRE.

## 'Echoes of Truth.'

PUBLISHED as a memento of a well-known and much-lamented comrade, this volume of twenty-four sermons selected from the posthumous papers of E. M. Geldart, has a special interest for Socialists. With whatsoever of speculative opinion finds place in these discourses the *Commonweal* has nothing to do, there is little in them for either orthodox or heretic to cavil over or condemn, but in a thousand places there speaks out the warm strong heart of a man who felt and fought for freedom and truth, who knew no country but the world and no shibboleth that could mark him off from all humanity.

"The name of freedom is a glorious name; the voice of freedom is a mighty voice. Thrones shake and tyrants tremble at the sound. With liberty there dwells a talismanic power which leads forlornest fortunes to sure victory. The raising of its standard makes its armies strong, and spreads in hostile camps confusion and dismay. The peaks and valleys of fair Switzerland once leapt to hear its cry, and the hosts of the despot oppressor shrank cowering and withered at the blast. As its champion, Napoleon conquered; as its foe, at last he fell. In many a war of independence, in many a great rebellion, it has approved itself of all inspiring causes the most invincible. Beaten down to the earth, it arises in a while more terrible; crushed for a season by superior force, it smoulders like a smothered fire, only to break forth, ere long, once more in an all-devouring flame. It is a buckler of impenetrable steel on the breast of its dauntless heroes; it makes a giant of a single man, and one a match for a thousand. The pride of kings and emperors, the pomp of prelacy, the craft of priests are powerless before it. Martin Luther at the Diet of Worms, John Huss at the Council of Constance, were more than conquerors; the enemies of freedom were cheated of their prey. The one they browbeat, but they could not bend; the other, though they burnt, they could not bury."

"Denounce sharp practice in trade, and decline to connive at the maxim of buying in the cheapest market and selling in the dearest, irrespective of all considerations; at the ways and means which bulls and bears invent for cheapening the commodities which they wish to buy, and enhancing the value of the articles which they desire to sell. Avow your conviction that the usurer who decoys his game into nets of extravagance and folly, with the certainty of ample reprisals at the hands of parents and guardians; that the broker who negotiates transactions for a wretched clerk, which he knows he can only pay for with the money of his firm; that the tradesman who walks to chapel in his smiling Sunday face, and blandly deposits in the missionary-box some fragment of the savings earned by shallow measures and short lengths, worn weights and adulterated goods; that the swindler who, having purchased what he never hoped to pay for, sells up for a shilling in the pound with the air of an injured man, and after concealment of his assets, or settlement timely and adroit, contrives to rise from the ashes of his bankruptcy like a Phoenix repairing his plumes,—is not one whit a more respectable person than the footpad, whose blow with a bludgeon, for the sake of a wayfarer's purse, is rewarded by strict incarceration, hard labour, and the lash."

"The strength of a cause is, that it can stand alone; the force of a movement is its native vigour; the power of truth is that it proves itself, and needs the fulcrum of no foreign aid."

Passages pregnant with virile wisdom abound, and the whole book may be read with an abiding pleasure. It is published at 6s. by Kegan Paul, Trench & Co., Paternoster Square, and may be obtained from them or from Mrs. Geldart, 82 Lansdowne Road, Croydon.

H. H. SPARLING.

With the present power of the machinery of the world to furnish things of use and beauty for the service of mankind, what superabundant supplies for every conceivable earthly want might be enjoyed by the whole human race under a logical system of production and distribution!—*John Swinton's Paper.*

The *Weekly Bulletin*, "a journal of finance and investment," published in London, has in its issue of 4th inst. some curiously naive admissions as to the unscrupulous thieving that goes on among those gentlemen who—"for a consideration"—are kind enough to help commerce along by dealing in stocks and shares. "It is within our knowledge that as much as £10,000 has been spent in London on a single project which did not float"; "£5000 would be a very common drop in unsuccessful exploitation." Every item in this paper illustrates well the solemn assurance with which the bourgeois swindles his fellow—or is swindled—out of wealth which he did not produce and cannot use when he has it, save to begin again the same process or to expend it upon surroundings that shall be in keeping with the loathsome hypocrisy of his life.



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

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

All articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.

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

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TO CORRESPONDENTS.

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

G. J. POLLARD; E.—Many thanks. Will communicate with the secretary. REPUBLICAN (Dalston)—'Financial Reform Almanac,' Simpkin, Marshall, and Co., 1s.; 'American Almanac,' Trübner, 2s.

J. J. MARTIN (Tulare, Cal.); ALFRED CRIDGE (San Jose, Cal.); G. VENABLE SMITH (Cleveland, O.).—Information to hand, for which thanks. Shall be utilised as soon as space will permit.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday December 15.

ENGLAND	Denver (Col.) Labor Inquirer	SWITZERLAND	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Norwich—Daylight Club and Institute Journal	Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	SPAIN	Madrid—El Socialista
Londner Arbeiter-Zeitung	New Haven (Conn.) Workmen's Advocate	Cadiz—El Socialismo	La Justicia Humana
Church Reformer	Paterson (N. J.) Labor Standard	PORTUGAL	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Christian Socialist	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	Voz do Operario	Villafranca de Xira—O Campino
Practical Socialist	Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	AUSTRIA	Brunn—Volksfreund
The Socialist	Knights of Labor	HUNGARY	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
To-Day	Portland (Oreg.) Avant-Courier	ROMANIA	Bucharest—Pruncul Roman
Freshthinker	Detroit (Mich.)—Labor Leaf	Jassy—Lupta	DENMARK
Anarchist	FRANCE	Social-Demokraten	Stockholm—Social-Demokraten
INDIA	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	SWEDEN	Kristiania—Social-Democraten
Madras—People's Friend	Le Socialiste	GREECE	Athens—Arhin
Allahabad—People's Budget	Le Revolte	NETHERLANDS	Hague—Recht voor Allen
Bombay—Times of India	Guise—Le Devoir	BEELGIUM	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair
VOICE OF INDIA	Lille—Le Travailleur	EN AVANT	Liege—L'Avenir
CANADA	Holland	ANTWERP—De Werker	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Toronto—Labor Reformer	Belgium	ITALY	Reggio—La Giustizia
Montreal—L'Union Ouvriere	UNION STATES	Brescia—Lo Sperimentale	
New York—Volkszeitung			
Freiheit			
Truthseeker			
Der Sozialist			
John Swinton's Paper			
Boston—Woman's Journal			

IS TRADE RECOVERING ?

WE are being told by the middle-class press at present, that there are signs of the passing away of that depression of trade which nobody denies is real enough. Now, non-Socialists will doubtless look on Socialists who dread this recovery of trade as likely to calm down the present agitation as very dreadful persons; but I would ask them first to remember that the realisation of Socialism means to us a new and happy world; and considering how frightful are the sufferings of a large part of civilised populations, and how still more frightful is their degradation even in prosperous times of trade, we are surely justified by our point of view in thinking the speedy advent of Socialism worth paying a heavy price for. Furthermore, those of us who study history and believe in the evolution of the race, cannot doubt that Socialism can only be realised by the rotting away of the system which it is getting ready to supplant. No amount of preaching, of enthusiasm, or of devotion even, will induce the workers, with whom the world's future lies, to accept and to act upon mere abstract propositions of what they have a right to aspire to; necessity must push them on before they can even conceive of the future of equality and mutual good-will which we know awaits them.

When the working-classes become conscious of the struggle which is always going on between them and the classes which live upon their labour, then they will be able and ready to face the dangers of the action which must come before the realisation of the new order of things; the dangers, the added miseries, the load of responsibility which must attend such action; then, and not till then. And necessity only can make them conscious of this struggle. The classes that live upon the labour of the workers, if they are not conscious of this, yet act instinctively as if they were. They act as if they knew that the consciousness of the class-struggle were being forced upon the workers. Except for a few poor-law and charity organisation pedants, no one in public ventures to speak of the working-classes with the brutality

which I am old enough to remember as the common manner of talk about them. All kinds of philanthropical schemes are set on foot for their supposed benefit by the richer classes, from the building of goody-goody people's palaces up to schemes which are a kind of demi-socialistic. The aim of all this philanthropy is undoubtedly to make it somewhat easier for the workers to live—as wage-slaves; and possibly many of the philanthropists believe that they are acting thus of their own free-will; but as a class they not so doing, necessity is compelling them on the one hand to keep the poorest slaves quiet by hope of charity in some form or another; and on the other to give all opportunity possible for the better paid workers to rise into the capitalist class. To make the basis of exploitation as wide as possible, to interest as many as possible in the plunder of labour, is the aim of all middle-class dealings with the workers which are not mere demented folly. It is clear that this attempt at diverting the aspirations of the workers into the channel of mere individual self-interest has not the same chance of success when times are bad and trade slack, as in periods of commercial prosperity; and if that prosperity should when it came turn out to be steady and continuous, Socialism would become a mere "pious opinion"; because the pleasure and excitement of the gambling for livelihood which would be open to all the better-off workmen, would blind them to the degradation of their condition and the sordidness of the desperate struggle. In short, the class-struggle would tend toward the creation of a new class formed out of the superior workmen, just as our present middle-class has been formed out of the guild-craftsmen and freedmen of the Middle Ages.

To counteract this tendency is the main business of Socialists at present. To assert the necessity of the wage-workers, not only of all countries but also of all conditions, to unite; to refuse to admit any distinction between skilled and unskilled, employed or unemployed, must be our answer to the bourgeois attempt at building up a new middle class. And Socialists must consider that if that tendency becomes a fact and the new class does grow up, it will show that we have been mistaken in supposing that the present system was rotting to its end. It would mean that Socialism was put off not for fifty years, but for centuries.

Therefore, at the risk of being accused of want of sympathy with suffering, and inhuman party spirit, we are bound to hail the signs of the rotting away of commercialism, the depression of trade and confusion of politics, just as an oppressed people hails the war which is to set them free. It is unheard of and impossible that birth should take place without struggle and suffering; but in spite of that we long for the birth.

As for the recovery of trade with which we are threatened, the signs of it are not very obvious as yet. Probably in many cases it is simply a matter of speculation, as the *Cotton Factory Times* of November 26 tells is the case with the apparent recovery in that industry; in others it simply means that the stocks have been somewhat worked off, and so give opportunity for beginning fresh over-production. An account to hand of the final report of the Commission on the Depression of Trade makes no boast of recovery, and is not very heroic in its proposed remedies. After having admitted that "there is a tendency in the supply of commodities to outrun the demand," they say, "that the great object to be aimed at is to diminish the cost of production, so far as it can be done consistently with the maintenance of sound quality and good workmanship." Has it occurred to these Gothamites that the only way of reducing the cost of production is by reducing the labour used in producing, and under our present system that can only be done by lowering wages. What these curious persons propose is to remedy over-production by producing more on the one hand, and by decreasing our power of consumption on the other.

The ridiculous position of these Commissioners is an indication amongst others numerous enough, that a recurrence to the roaring times of trade is unlikely to happen, or at least that if it did, the recovery would speedily be followed by a deeper depression. That means that the state of trade will go from bad to worse, until at last the workers will be forced to take the organisation of labour into their own hands, and make an end of our system of usury and robbery. That is the apparent logical conclusion to be drawn from passing events; nevertheless, disturbing influences may put off the day of change; and I hold that the above-mentioned possible tendency toward a new lower middle-class is even now visible as one of them, and must be guarded against sedulously. Therefore, we should set our faces sternly against any proposal which seemed likely to benefit one part of the workers, while it left the other out in the cold, however specious its form might be; and at the same time we should above all things, put forward complete equality of condition as our ultimate end.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

The political economy of our age can be summed up thus: When you get an undue advantage hold on to it and have special laws made to protect you in the enjoyment of it, and hold on to all you can steal until the prison bars stare you in the face, then disgorge enough to purchase immunity, start a bank with the remainder, join a missionary society and take a front pew in church.—*Industrial News*.

One of the delightful results of our vaunted system is well shown by the report submitted by the treasurer of New South Wales to its Parliament. In a fertile country, with enormous annual production of wealth, and no "spirited foreign policy" to sustain, there is yet a very large and increasing number of men unemployed, "stagnation of business," and the deficit of £1,350,000 with which the present financial year was begun will be much over two millions at its close!

## SCOTTISH NOTES.

FOR some time past a series of articles on Socialism has been appearing in the Dundee *People's Journal*, a weekly newspaper which has a large circulation. The articles have mainly dealt with the history of schemes of social reconstruction on lines similar to Kauffmann's 'Utopias.' The writer appears anxious to be perfectly fair, and displays much more sympathy with Socialism than one is accustomed to meet with in Liberal and Radical newspapers.

The writer's knowledge of modern Socialism appears, however, to be somewhat fresh. Dealing with "Present-Day Socialistic Literature" in a recent number, he makes some rather stupid mistakes. William Morris, he tells us, "is now associated with the *Socialist*, the organ of the Socialist League." *Commonweal*, he says in another place, "is a milk-and-water imitation of *Justice*." He also informs his readers that the Social Democratic Federation is opposed to parliamentary methods!

Our comrade George McLean—who keeps a sharp eye upon the enemy's press, and never loses an opportunity of thrusting a Socialist paragraph or letter into those advertisement mediums—wrote to the *People's Journal* protesting in vigorous terms against the error and absurdity of the writer's remarks. Last week the writer in a note attached to his article acknowledges receipt of the letter, and explains. *Socialist*, he says, was inadvertently written for *Commonweal*, and the phrase "milk-and-water imitation of *Justice*" consequently applied not to the *Commonweal* but to the *Socialist*. Regarding the Social Democratic Federation and parliamentary action, he complains that "if the Social Democrats are in favour of parliamentary action it is not wise on the part of their leaders to use language which can only be construed into a profound contempt for politics and politicians." Whatever may be thought of the merits of this explanation, one thing is certain—it should never have been needed. These mistakes, as well as other, seriously mar the accuracy of articles otherwise useful in drawing the attention of the people to the most important of all questions of the day.

Mr. Young, the architect for the Glasgow Municipal Buildings—now in course of erection—has submitted a proposal to the Corporation: that with the view of commemorating the Queen's jubilee, a group representing her majesty surrounded with niggers, Hindoos, elephants, buffaloes, kangaroos, and other interesting ethnological and zoological subjects, should be sculptured on the pediment of the façade of the building.

Whatever may be thought of Mr. Young's ability as an architect, no one, we think, will question his adeptness as a funkey. The Greek and Roman architects, to whom Mr. Young is indebted for almost every feature and detail of his design, did not stick dumpy old women on their pediments; but then the Greeks and Romans were vulgar, and had not the advantage of reading Chesterfield's 'Letters,' or the expectation of being smiled upon by a batch of parvenu princes and their "fairy godmother."

Beware, Mr. Young, beware! The Queen will not live for ever. The Social Revolution is at hand! The Socialists of Glasgow might tolerate for a time your amazing conglomeration of machine-made columns and machine-carved cornices, your sham arcades and meaningless balustrades; but your Victorian pediment—what if it should prove the Jonah of the structure! Remember the column of the Vendome!

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

## THE POOR'S HOUSE.

A SERIOUS indictment has lately been preferred by Louisa Twining against our treatment of indoor paupers. Reference is made to published details of five recent deaths owing to cruelty. These may be summarised as: Falling into an open fire of one of several uncared for epileptics, the finding of an old blind woman dead in bed with her hands tied (she having been bound before by the paid pauper nurses to save trouble), the spiteful infliction by the nurses of severe injuries upon a helpless paralytic, and a case of manslaughter of an aged imbecile who had been beaten with a strap. It is stated that drunkenness and theft, and other evil practices, are far more common among workhouse officials than the outside public believes, and attention is directed to the importance of the subject is shown by the fact that, taking London, one-fifteenth of all deaths take place in the workhouse, and one-ninth in either workhouse or hospital. Few disinterested persons will dispute the conclusion that all matrons should be specially trained and educated, and no pauper nurses allowed. If there were any doubt on the subject it might well be removed by the late Liverpool scandal, in which an old man's death was "accelerated," the jury said, "by a cold bath given under a misapprehension." Light was thrown on the value of official statements by the master saying that a large card was in all the bathrooms forbidding such bathing without a doctor's order, whereas the pauper wardsman and others had never seen this rule until the day before the trial. The tale is only a plain one. A feeble pauper sixty years old is under charge of a cripple, and a very old nearly deaf and almost blind pauper. This last was asked, "If he had said, 'Oh, I'm dying, take me out of the bath!' could you have heard him?" and, "If he was fainting could you have seen him?" to both of which questions he answered "No!" He did not even know what a thermometer was! A witness declared that as soon as the man was put in the bath he went pale, and began to shiver

and gasp. His feet turned up and he fell back, so the witness shouted "You'll kill the man!" (By-the-by, there was no distinctive mark between the hot and cold water-taps.) The doctor was asked, "You did not know what he was suffering from, you say; now, might not the medicine you gave him have had the very opposite effect to what you intended?" He replied, "I do not know." There was no record kept of deaths in this workhouse hospital. The jury declared the circumstances disclosed grave laxity as regards the bathing, and also the neglect of the doctor in failing to seek aid, after which the Guardians (West Derby) resolved that "the management of the workhouse is irreproachable." Were it not a vital matter, we might stop to admire the drollery of these "Guardians of the Poor!" As it is we are indignant at such open insolence and shameful betrayal of trust. There is another branch of the same subject which it would be well for the workers to consider, namely, the food supplied to paupers. Two of the Southwark guardians lately again called attention to the bad quality of the bread in use, and described some they had seen as "not fit for a pig to eat," and "it would have done well for modeller's clay." A clergyman said "it was a great hardship to poor people to have to eat this horrid stuff." A Vigilance Committee, wherever there is a strong Branch of the League, might be a useful check upon this and other abuses.

R. F. E. W.

## A LETTER FROM A CAPITALIST.

SIR,—It is now some weeks since I forwarded a letter to your detestable journal, which with suicidal folly you published. I am quite convinced that the unanswerable arguments in my previous letter have been the means of losing you many adherents and subscribers. Your hitherto supposed invulnerable position is being gradually but surely undermined by the friends of law and order and decency.

The sacred rights of property, authority and religion, are being defended in a thousand ways. During last summer we formed committees in the most crowded districts to encourage indoor gardening, and prizes in the shape of testaments and scriptural illuminated texts were given to successful growers of Nettle Geraniums and Creeping Jennys. The daily press gave kindly appreciative notices of our efforts to neutralise your pernicious teachings. Among many such I excerpt the following:

"Last evening, a gathering took place in the infant's schoolroom of St. Lazarus of working-men and their wives and families, and also of ladies and gentlemen belonging to the local Window Gardening Society, for the purpose of distributing the prizes to the successful competitors, who, although they looked pinched and wan, wore a cheerful expression as their prizes, consisting of Bibles and illuminated Scriptural texts, were handed to them. After a few cheering words from the Revs. Messrs. Nippall and Tither, advocating thrift, temperance, and humility, and the singing of the Doxology, the gathering dispersed. We are pleased to notice the efforts of disinterested members of the well-to-do classes in the above direction. It tends to distract the attention of their poorer brethren from the wild revolutionary nonsense now being preached so assiduously in their midst, and although unfortunately there is, owing to our high state of civilisation, a great deal of want on the part of those unsuccessful in the battle of life, yet the contemplation of their prizes won in a harmless contest, together with the care bestowed upon their window sills, will keep them from brooding over the hardships incidental to their lot, and many an otherwise wasted meal-time will be passed in the cultivation of their tiny gardens. It would be strange but consolatory if the cry of the lusty costermonger as he pushes his plant-laden barrow through the poorer districts of our Modern Babylon: 'Eres yer Creepin' Jennys, all a-blowin' and a-growin',' was found to express in rough but honest language the true solution of one at least of the pressing social problems around us to-day. The richer members of the community would do well to support this movement, and spare from their gardens their plants past blooming, which would be gratefully received by the Secretary of the Association, and serve as a means to bridge over the gulf that separates classes, who would then be joined in the language of flowers, and whilst stemming the tide of revolution would bring about a settlement of the question how to feed and recreate the masses."

Sir, the foregoing valuable testimony to the value of our work in opposing your maleficent agitation but faintly portrays the amount we are doing in the same direction. That servant of the Lord, A. White, has been labouring in the vineyard and has reaped a goodly harvest, a mass of discontented paupers have by his efforts been removed from our midst and planted in the bracing atmosphere of Manitoba.

It is a feature of our unwhipped and rebellious generation to censoriously attack every well-meant effort directed towards the reduction of our pauper class, and hence we find the Manitoban emigration field described as the British Siberia, and because some of the weaklings cannot stand a temperature of 30 deg. below zero the authors of the scheme are shamefully abused.

The fittest survive, and they are the means of keeping down the preposterous demands of the native workmen, and affording to the promoters of the Canadian Pacific Railroad an opportunity of securing fresh grants from the Dominion Parliament on the score of increased population along the line of route, and thus the labours of Christian men and women, for we must not forget Miss Rye, are blessed, and out of the curse of London pauperism is brought the blessings of increased profits upon production in Canadian cities by reduction of cost, and a flow of capital into the hands of captains of industry and enterprise in railway concessions.

I have said that the fittest survive, but owing to the profligacy of the lower orders there still remains the question of the "unfit," and to its consideration our brother White has brought his superior Christian qualities and statesmanlike ability, reviving the doctrine of Malthus, "that it is the duty of the State to formally deny the right of the poor to support, and that to the punishment of want they should be left." He has in his 'Problem of a Great City' courageously faced the problem, now made more difficult by the crapulous tenderness of Boards of Guardians in their treatment of the poor, and boldly declares that the poor should be allowed to die unpitied in the street. Further, that in order to prevent the reproduction of their species the poor should be sterilised. I hear that already a company has been formed and shares taken up in it for the patenting of a process of sterilisation, and thus you see, sir, that the friends of law and order are bestirring themselves, and your ill-judged attempts to their overthrow only lead to fresh capitalistic enterprises, for surgery will yet save Society. Many object that these theories are not in consonance with Christian teaching. We have revised once; we can revise again, and with revision, decision and excision, the basis of Society will be preserved.—Yours contemptuously

A CAREWORN ANXIOUS CAPITALIST

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

Strike Committee of the Socialist League.

ADVERTISEMENTS FOR "SCAB" LABOUR IN THE PROVINCIAL PRESS.

The attention of the Committee having been directed to advertisements for workmen to apply to addresses in London, enquiries have been made in certain cases and warning sent to our agents, who will in future keep a sharp look-out for all such attempts to procure cheap labour. It is a matter for congratulation to the London Society of Composers that Messrs. Hazell, Watson & Viney, the "unfair" firm to whom the London School Board have given their printing are amongst those who have found it necessary to seek for their "rats" outside the metropolis.

### GLASS BOTTLE MAKERS.

We have received from the General Secretary of the Glass-Bottle Makers' International Union a very interesting record of the efforts made by the employers to secure Continental workmen to take the place of the men on strike in Lancashire. They have so far been unsuccessful. By a curious coincidence the delegation sent by the union went to and returned from Sweden in the same vessels with a member of the firm. Our foreign secretaries have also taken care to publish the matter in Austria and Germany.

### TYNESIDE SEAMEN AND THE FOREIGNERS.

In reference to the seamen's agitation referred to by our comrade Chambers in another page under the heading "A Visit to the Tyneside," the Strike Committee are busily engaged trying to bring about a common understanding between the English sailors and their foreign comrades.

The pressure on our space prevents notice here of important letters from Biantyre, Liverpool, Manchester and Norwich; but in all cases the Committee will take care the valuable information furnished shall be duly acted upon.

H. A. BARKER, Gen. Sec.

### THE LATE MRS. PATERSON.

It is peculiarly fitting that in these pages notice should be taken of the death of one who from her earliest youth was unwearied in the labour struggle. The mere record of the life-work of this able, earnest, and unselfish woman is an incentive to those of us who may feel inclined to falter in the fight. Mrs. Paterson was the first to induce working-women to adopt trades' unionist principles in 1874, by the formation of the Women's Protective and Provident League. The London Bookbinder's Union was the earliest women's trade society, quickly followed by unions of the upholsterers, the shirtmakers, the tailoresses, the dressmakers, the Dundee jute-workers, and the Portsmouth staymakers. In 1875, Mrs. Paterson was the first woman admitted to the Trades' Union Congress, and she attended and spoke or read papers at all the subsequent Congresses. As honorary secretary of the Women's League, Mrs. Paterson worked indefatigably until almost her last hour; she organised and addressed public meetings in London and the provinces; she arranged social gatherings at the League's London offices, and she edited the *Women's Union Journal*, a monthly record of the League's work.

### LEICESTERSHIRE HOSIERY UNION.

The monthly reports of the Leicestershire Hosiery Union are among the most interesting of any of the trades' unions. Besides the usual business details, a good deal of space is given to the discussion of industrial topics. The secretary writes: "It is not to set class against class we aim at, but to abolish class distinctions. We do not wish to uphold or perpetuate a slave class on one side and a master class on the other. What we say is that manhood does not rest upon social position but upon mental and virtuous qualities, which can only be properly developed when justice has sway." It would be as well to reprint the secretary's comment on the Trades' Congress discussion of overtime: "An amendment was drawn up by Mr. Marks of London and our delegate, which without doubt would have been carried had the subject been fully discussed; but there seemed some concerted action by some of the more prominent members of the Congress to defeat us. The previous question [was carried] by a vote hurriedly snatched, which was anything but wise, kind, or just in the opinion of a very large number of delegates. Every delegate attending that Congress sending in a resolution ought not to be ignored because he is not known to the officials of the Congress." The September Report concludes with some letters and speeches on the overtime question. These reports should be forwarded to the *Commonweal* regularly as they appear, as they are a really valuable part of current labour literature. The Union has bought for distribution among its members a large number of the Ruskin pamphlet on the rights of labour, compiled by a member of the Leicester Branch of the Socialist League.—J. L. M.

### SCOTTISH RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS.

Under the auspices of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants for Scotland, "a mass meeting of all grades of the railway service in and around Glasgow" was held in the Albion Hall, Glasgow. Mr. J. M. Jack, general secretary of the Associated Iron Moulders of Scotland, presided, and in his opening remarks he said that that meeting was held as a protest against the excessive hours of railway men. Mr. Henry Tait, general secretary, Glasgow, stated that on the North British Railway, in the Glasgow district, drivers and firemen on passenger trains were working 12, 14, 16, and 17 hours daily, and guards of passenger trains ranged from 12 to 15 hours per day. "Goods" drivers, firemen, and guards worked from 12 to 18 hours daily, and on Thursday he met one "goods" driver who was on his way home after performing 19 hours' work. Several members of the Trades' Council spoke in support of the following resolution, which was adopted:—"That this meeting calls upon the whole railway servants in Scotland to at once join the Society, and through organisation consolidate and protect their interests and labour, as other trades have done."

There is a dispute amongst the glass-bottle workers at Stairfoot, and men are requested to keep away till it is settled.

The coalowners of Northumberland propose to reduce the wages of the miners by 15 per cent.

The extensive timplat and ironworks at Port Talbot and Aberavon have been closed owing to the workmen resisting a reduction in wages of 10 per cent. About 1500 hands are thrown out of employment. All the men and boys employed at the Burradon Collieries, Newcastle, Glamorganshire, numbering about 500, have struck work in consequence of proposed wages reduction of 15 per cent.

The Aberdeen Trades' Council have resolved to memorialise the Lord Provost to provide employment or take steps to relieve the wants of their fellow-workmen who are out of employment.

The Scottish Miners' National Federation have held a meeting in Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow, all the districts in Scotland being represented. Mr. R. C. Robertson, Slamannan, presided. It was remitted to the executive to arrange, if possible, for an international federation of the various miners' unions.

Owing to important rearrangements, all work at the Glass Works, Crindau, Newport, was suspended on Saturday. Extensive alterations are understood to be under consideration, and it is doubtful whether labour will be resumed for several weeks. During the interval, the workers may starve after what fashion they please.

The miners employed at the New Tredegar Collieries have struck work against a reduction of 2½ per cent. in the wages rate. The strikes at Wernddu Colliery, Caerphilly, and the Windsor Collieries, Ynysybwl, also continue, and upwards of 1000 workmen have been thrown out of employment. Notices are posted up by the Ebbw Vale Company at the Glyn Collieries, Pontyool, that all contracts between masters and men will cease at Christmas.

A society of shop assistants, under the title of the United Society of Shop Assistants for the United Kingdom, has been formed. The objects of the society are shortening the hours of labour; obtaining the maximum rate of wages for every member; assisting members to obtain situations; enforcing the existing laws in their favour; agitating for eight hours a-day labour; and assisting members in sickness and when out of employment. The address of the secretary is Mr. H. J. Priest, Phoenix Hall, Hatton Wall, E.C.

The Glasgow joiners have held a largely attended meeting in the Albion Halls, and discussed the advisability of reducing the working hours of the trade. The proceedings were conducted in private, but it is understood that no decision was arrived at on the question. Will some Socialist friend in Glasgow send further information to the Strike Committee?

At a crowded meeting of chainmakers held at Cradley Heath, it was reported that 4000 loaves had been distributed during the week. The Executive Council of the Amalgamated Union of Bakers and Confectioners of Manchester had forwarded £5 worth of loaves to be distributed amongst the chainmakers on strike. Mr. Homer reported that £5 had been received from Mr. B. Hingley, M.P., and £6 from the boot and shoe finishers of Manchester. It was unanimously resolved to continue the strike.

The male and female clerks in the employ of the Post-office are at war. The days of chivalry are past. The males are the aggressors, and are endeavouring to show that female clerk-labour should not be employed, on account of its inferiority. The respective wages are: Men, £80; women, £65 per annum. The "gentlemen" will have a tough job to prove £15 a-year superiority. The men-clerks should organise and insist on the women receiving the same wage as themselves, then the grievance would altogether disappear. It is a poor way indeed to work. If the recalcitrant scribblers will send a deputation to the offices of the Socialist League, a much more rational *modus operandi* will be taught them. Newsboys can organise; it appears clerks cannot.

### AMERICA.

The cigar makers of Wenersville, Pa., recently defeated in a strike, have started a co-operative factory and are doing well.

L. A. 300, of Des Moines, Iowa, has decided to establish a co-operative glass factory, and other workmen have begun to enquire into the system.

Southing, Conn., Knights of Labour are about to establish a co-operative cutlery company. They are thinking of locating in New Haven.

The Lynn Lasters Protective Union is the largest and richest labour union in New England. They own an elegantly furnished hall, a billiard room containing seven tables, a lot of land which cost them 12,000 dollars, and have just contracted for a 40,000-dollar block and have within 5000 dollars sufficient to pay for the same.—*Labour Enquirer*.

Delegates from all the organisations of shirtmakers and kindred organisations, numbering, it is estimated, 15,000 in New York, Brooklyn, Jersey City, and Belleville, have formed a general organisation and established a union label which they intend affixing to all shirts made by them. They meet monthly at 208 Eighth Avenue, New York City, to discuss matters of interest.

A unique boycott is in force at Mechanicsville, Saratoga County, N.Y. A short time ago a young lady was re-instated in one of the mills at that place on condition that she would sever her connection with the Knights of Labour, and that she would never join a labour organisation again. Recently she attended a ball given by the Knights of Labour. No one noticed or paid any attention to her, allowing her to go to supper alone, although she had heretofore been quite a favourite among the young men. She is shunned by every member of the Knights of Labour of Mechanicsville.

Mr. Thompson, an English Socialist, owner of the extensive Braddocks Steel Works in Pennsylvania, the most extensive works of the kind in the State, runs his business on a co-operative plan, and never had a strike, nor has he put out his fires for eighteen years. His contract with his men is that customary wages shall be paid; that men working five years shall have all doctor's bills paid, and receive regular wages during sickness; that men who have worked twenty years shall be retired on half-pay and given a deed to their homes, which are originally built by Mr. Thompson.—*Knights of Labour*.

CHICAGO.—"Our Girls Co-operative Clothing Manufacturing Company"—Miss Mary McCormick, President; Miss Augusta Westerlund, Secretary, 158 N. Market Street, Chicago, Ill.—The above company has been formed by a number of work-girls who wish to emancipate themselves from the wage-system. They constitute Labour Assembly 7707, D. A. 24, K. of L. It is to be hoped their appeal for aid in their undertaking will meet with success.

The Amalgamated Carpenters of Chicago are full of confidence in the success of their new co-operative enterprise. They have been successful in obtaining a contract for three houses, the figure for which is over 6000 dols., and have received every encouragement from a number of architects to make their business a success; so much so that work has been submitted which they could not venture to undertake owing to their limited resources. They anticipate that in a few months their position in the trade will be established to the satisfaction of all architects of the city.

SAN FRANCISCO.—At last meeting of the Representative Council of the Federated Trades, the Secretary made a report on the proposed International Federation of the labour unions of Australia and this coast. It was shown that both parties had ratified a treaty, and that the Federation would soon be consummated.

FRANCE.

**SAINT-POURÇAIN.**—A railway being in course of construction in this locality, the contractor neglects no opportunity of saving—to his own profit. The approach of winter multiplying the demands for work, the exploiter Milton takes advantage thereof to reduce the pay he gives to the unlucky wights who toil for him to 25 c. an hour. Not content even with this, he counts as 9 hours, a day consisting really of 10 and 11 hours, and woe to him who ventures to open his mouth in remonstrance!—*Cri du Peuple.*

**LYONS.**—The house of Dutet and Co., gilding manufacturers, having decreased the salary of their workmen and women to an exorbitant extent, the latter have declared themselves on strike. The men formerly gained 4 fr. and the women 3 fr. for a day of 12 hours. The firm will now only pay 3 fr. and 2 fr. respectively. In spite of police provocations, the strikers, supported by their syndicate, which has black-listed the firm, have resolved to stand out quietly and undemonstratively for their claims, which are legitimate even as legitimacy of claims goes nowadays in the eyes of the virtuous upholders of law and order. The president of the syndicate was ill-advisedly arrested, but on the protest of the workers had to be released immediately.

**PARIS.**—Under pretext of economy and "want of funds," the administration of the Prefecture has dismissed the street-sweepers and sewer-men of the town by hundreds, and in spite of the vote of the Municipal Council desiring the director of the works to re-engage these men whom he had with arbitrary brutality deprived of their meagre salary, not one of them has been taken back. One man writes to the *Cri* of the hardships and uncertainty of this kind of life, and the wretched pay the men get, finishing up with, "You know as well as I do that all functionaries of administrations have a right to a pension whether sound in health or no, while as for us, we are shown to the door when done with; if worn out, deprived of all means of subsistence."

ITALY.

**BOLOGNA.**—At Casalecchio, near Bologna, the women-workers of the Canonica spinning factory have declared themselves on strike, claiming the sum of 1 fr. for a day's wage.

**SAN REMO.**—The League of the Sons of Labour of this town, composed of young workmen desirous of doing something, so as not to stand with their hands idle, are going to set on foot some form of co-operative stores, and have issued a manifesto inviting their fellow-workers to lend their aid thereto.

**MONZA.**—In the hat-factories here things go from bad to worse. At one firm the workers get from 10 fr. to 12 fr. weekly; in another they make about 12 fr. for a fortnight's work!

*This department is under the direction of the Strike Committee. Labour News and Contributions to the Fund should be sent to T. BINNING, at the Offices.*

REVOLUTIONARY RUMBLINGS.

**IRELAND.**—The "Plan of Campaign" is gaining adherents everywhere and all the time. North, south, east and west it is being adopted enthusiastically by large meetings which pledge themselves fully to an unrelenting fight against rackrenting. In the Sligo jury-packing case the Government has been defeated and the panel quashed. Great excitement has been aroused by this clear proof of the truth of an often-denied charge. Some Sligo wags, in continuation of the policy of making "law and order" ridiculous that was alluded to last week, announced a demonstration on the top of the desolate Hill of Keash. In due course the "meeting" was proclaimed and a large force of police put round the mountain, where they stood shivering for hours in the fog and rain. A band and some boys tried in vain to entice the "peelers" into a chase over the bogs: they quietly waited and went! Meanwhile a double policy is being pursued by the Government, which issues "secret" circulars in favour of the tenants and at the same time assists the landlords.

FRANCE.

**LYONS.**—On Thursday an important meeting of the unemployed was held here. Delegates were nominated, chosen from each corporation, and escorted by about 2000 persons immediately repaired to the Municipality to demand the work of filling up the ditches of the neighbourhood. During the reception of the delegates the crowd remained without, clamouring for "Work!" The sooner the unemployed of Lyons and elsewhere understand the value of makeshift relief-works the better. Once understood, they will not let the farce be repeated many winters.

**PARIS.**—The *Revue Socialiste* celebrated its second anniversary on Sunday last by a banquet at the Palais-Royal, at which a hundred and forty citizens and "citoyennes" were present to show their sympathy with this interesting publication, which bears the well-known name of Benoit Malon for its founder. Healths were drunk and responded to by numerous comrades, and the company separated with many cordial promises to assemble again in the same way next year.

On the 3rd December about 200 persons marked the anniversary of that gloomy drama of 1851, the *coup d'etat*, by visiting at the Montmartre Cemetery the tomb of Baudin, who was killed on the barricade of the Faubourg St. Antoine on the second day of the *coup d'etat*. Several orations were pronounced over the tomb by delegates from the different groups of those formerly proscribed by the Empire.

"We have several times spoken of the intellectual proletariat, showing, with figures before us, the steady growth of this proletariat, whose position is even worse than that of the proletariat of labour. Here is a striking fact: the college of Schaffhausen, in Switzerland, advertised for a professor of Greek and Latin, in answer to which 36 applicants appeared for the place."—*Le Socialiste.*

ITALY.

**REGGIO-EMILIA.**—The editor of the *Giustizia* has, we hear, just been sentenced to three months' imprisonment, under the accusation of stirring up class-hatred.

Emilio Castellani of Venice, one of those condemned for conspiracy at the prosecutions at Padua, will finish in January 1888 the imprisonment of a year and a half to which he had been condemned. The fines of 1350 fr. remain to be paid. The prospect of thirteen months longer of prison life cannot be a pleasant one to himself or his family. Several comrades of Venice and Padua are initiating a public subscription to collect money for the fine.

AUSTRIA.

**VIENNA, Dec. 9.**—Before me is a specimen of the new Labour Paper, *Gleichheit* (Equality) of whose preparation I have informed you in a previous letter. We have had in Vienna already many Socialistic papers, the last, *Wahrheit*, has been suppressed owing to abundant confiscations and the "exceptional state." Since that the Austrian capital has remained without an organ of the workers' movement. The vacancy so caused will be filled by the new weekly periodical. It appears under the editorship of our comrade Dr. Victor Adler, who has spared neither time nor money to endow it worthily. An exact knowledge of the Austrian situation is necessary to consider this event from the due standpoint. According to our press-law every paper appearing more times than thrice a month must pay a large deposit and a further tax of one kreutzer for each copy. The police and public prosecutor are empowered to seize any number without summoning the editor and the Provincial Court of Justice has to decide on the seizure in his absence. In this manner the press is delivered over to the magistrates, who can readily suppress every unpleasant periodical. Owing to the great damage caused by such arbitrary but "legal" proceedings, for a weekly Labour paper much capital is necessary, especially as it cannot accept swindling advertisements such as appear in the bourgeois press. Therefore the Labour press has to contend with enormous difficulties, and every new representative of the disinherited in Austria is to be hailed with joy. While giving, therefore, the new organ a hearty "Good Speed," we may express a hope of being soon able to report fresh fighters in our just cause.

Now the Diets with which Austria swarms are to be convened. Obviously these provincial parliaments represent only the exploiting classes, as is to be seen from their divers statutes; for they consist of one-third or more landlords; the second third representatives of the towns and industrial places and the commercial chambers—i.e., the great and middle capitalists; and the remainder are the rural communes under the domination of churchmen, counts, and so on. To be elector as landlord you must pay 250 fl. in direct taxes; to be elector in the industrial places, electing directly, and in the rural communes electing indirectly, you must pay at least 5 fl. in direct taxes of State—a sum amounting often to 10 to 20 fl., owing to the divers overtaxes ("zuschläge") for war, commune, province, school, etc. From this it ensues that there's no place for the exploited in these corporations; few honourable ones excepted, only parasites, small and great exploiters and swindlers, sit in these "representations of the people." Therefore people have nothing to expect from them; they themselves must help themselves.

F. S.

LITERARY NOTICES.

'Landon Deecroft,' a Socialistic novel, by Laon Ramsey (Reeves: cloth, 3s. 6d., boards 2s. 6d.), has been written with the object of popularising the tenets and principles of Modern Socialism. The various chapters dealing with the practice of usury, individualism, co-operation, and religion, and the relation of these to Socialism, should be read by all who take an interest in the great social problem, and who have at heart the moral, intellectual, and material improvement of the people.

It is a pity that 'A Defence of the Church of England against Disestablishment,' by Roundell, Earl of Selborne, should be published at the prohibitory price of 7s. 6d., for were it within their reach the workers would find in it a great deal of amusement, and, it may be, some instruction. The learned lord has so damaged the cause he defends that one may be pardoned for expressing the hope that he will enter the lists in the service of landlordism and capitalism. Fortune send us such enemies!

Articles in the December reviews and magazines worth reading are: *Nineteenth Century*: "On the Suppression of Boycotting," Justice Stephen; "Rural Enclosures and Allotments," Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice and H. Herbert Smith. *Contemporary*: "Tenant Right and Agrarian Outrage in France," R. E. Prothero; "Ten Years of National Growth," Canon Isaac Taylor. *Fortnightly*: "Science and Morals," Prof. Huxley; "State Purchase of Irish Railways," Charles Waring; "Outcast London," Rev. G. S. Reaney; "Mobs and Revolutions," Lieut.-Col. W. W. Knollys. *Blackwood's*: "The Fall of an Island," R. D.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

*General Meeting.*—The next General Meeting of London Members will be held on Tuesday January 4, 1887, when the following will be the order of business: Reports of provincial and London Branches; Report of Strike Committee; Report of Ways and Means Committee; Statement of weekly *Commonweal* to date; Motions of which notice has been given.

*Library.*—The printed catalogues are now ready and can be obtained from the Librarians at 2d. each.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.

Mile-end, to June 30. Birmingham, Clerkenwell, Hackney, Hull, Leeds, North London, to August 31. Croydon, Dublin, Marylebone, to September 30. Manchester, Merton, Norwich, to October 31. Bradford, to November 30. Bloomsbury, Hammersmith, Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Oxford, to December 31.

Children's Christmas Party.

A Children's Party, Christmas Tree, and Entertainment will take place on Monday December 27, in the Hall, 13 Farringdon Road. Those willing to help in any way should communicate with Mrs. Wardle, 9 Charlotte Street, Bedford Square; or May Morris, Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, Hammersmith.

STRIKE COMMITTEE.

H. C., 1s.; V. D., 1s.; Norwich Branch (per Mowbray), 1s. 4d.  
T. BINNING, Treasurer.

FREE SPEECH DEFENCE FUND.

Deficit, £2, 8s. 6d. PH. W., Treasurer, Dec. 14.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Hammersmith Branch (two weeks), £1; A. Miller (donation), 5s.; T. B. (two weeks), 1s.; E. B. B. (weekly), 1s.; M. M. (weekly), 1s.; Bloomsbury Branch (weekly) 5s.; North London Branch (two weeks), 3s.; W. M. (donation), 1s.  
PH. W., Treasurer, Dec. 14.

BRANCH REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—On Friday, Dec. 10th, A. K. Donald catechised the Branch on the third chapter of Joyne's "Catechism."—W. A. C.

CLERKENWELL.—On Wednesday, December 8, E. Belfort Bax lectured on "Ethics and Socialism;" Good discussion followed a very interesting lecture. On Sunday evening, H. Barker spoke on "Material and Spiritual Consolation. Good audience and discussion. Fair sale of *Commonweals*.—W. B.

CROYDON.—Last Sunday, C. L. Fitzgerald delivered a highly interesting lecture on "The Road to Ruin." He pointed out how the cheap labour of India and China is being used against the European workmen, thus intensifying the struggle here, and hurrying us, in common with the Continent and America, along the road to commercial ruin. He urged upon Socialists the necessity of getting upon municipal boards, where they would have at once the handling of the poor laws, while they could be working also to transform the municipality into the future Commune. Good discussion and sale of literature.—A. T. sec.

HACKNEY.—On Sunday evening, a meeting was held in the club-room, where Graham opened a brisk discussion on "Co-operation."—H. G.

HAMMERSMITH.—On Sunday evening, December 12, William Morris lectured upon "Early England." He dealt with the period from the earliest historical time to the Norman Conquest. With the wonderful insight bred of sympathetic study of such contemporary records, material or literary, as have come down to us, the lecturer drew a picture of our half agricultural, half sea-going, and wholly predatory ancestor, who still was able in the intervals of his other occupations to turn his hand to the writing of a copy of verses. Our comrade read a specimen from the Exeter book, remarking that like the Sagas of the North and "Homer," it was the production of the whole people, and not of any individual.—W.

MERTON.—We have suspended our Sunday evening lectures until after the Christmas holidays, when we hope that the Merton and Mitcham Branches will have a good list to carry out until the spring. We shall, however, hold Sunday morning debates in our club-room, open to all. We ask all sympathisers in this neighbourhood to aid us in giving a treat to the children on or about Jan. 3rd. A subscription sheet hung up at club-room, and all local subscribers to *Commonweal* who are not members of the Branch could assist with subscriptions or take tickets.—F. K.

MITCHAM.—On Sunday evening in our club room, J. Lane addressed a good audience on "The National Loaf, those that earn it and those that eat it;" he was attentively listened to throughout the lecture, which evoked much sympathy. The meeting closed with Morris's chant, "No Master," the whole of the members joining in. Sale of *Commonweal* good, and three new members made.—S. G., sec.

NORTH LONDON.—On Sunday morning, we held a good meeting in Regent's Park, when Cantwell and Nicoll spoke to a good audience. See Branch notice.—W. H. B., sec.

EDINBURGH.—On Monday, December 6th, a lecture on the "Aims of the Paris Communists," was given by M. Melliet in Free Tron Hall. Some literature was sold.—J. G., sec.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday evening, Daniel McCulloch delivered a vigorous lecture on "The Social Revolution," in Southern Christian Institute, which was well received. The chairman's frank avowal of his belief in Communism being a gratifying sign. On Sunday morning Glasier addressed a good open-air meeting on the Green. In the afternoon, Glasier delivered a lecture to the W. O'Brien Branch of the National League on "Freedom, what it means." The lecture, which was a plea for Socialism, was received with much approval, one of the members stating that Irishmen will all be avowed Socialists before long. In the evening in our rooms, there was considerable discussion on the sixth chapter of Joyne's "Catechism," the discussion being adjourned. At the same time our comrade Mavor gave an exposition of "Political Economy" to the Henry George Institute. I omitted to state in last week's report that the Rev. John Glasse, Edinburgh, delivered under our auspices an exceedingly able lecture on "Christian Socialism." After the lecture many people declared their conversion to Socialist principles.—J. B. G.

HAMILTON.—At our usual meeting, J. B. Glasier, of Glasgow, lectured on "The Element of Socialism in Existing Society." It was an admirable lecture, leaving our members plenty of food for reflection, and was listened to with great attention; no opposition. The need of a new meeting-place was discussed, and one arranged for.—W. M., sec.

HULL.—On Sunday, December 12, Morris's lecture on "The Labour Question" was read, and a short discussion followed.

LANCASTER.—Despite bad weather on Saturday night, we had a good muster of members and friends. Propagandist methods were discussed, the result of which was a decision for a party of us to meet those people who toil and spin for others, as they travel to and fro at noon-time, taking the various "shops" in rotation. The speakers will expound briefly, and the "silent partners" distribute literature. Friends in the locality please note that the Branch will meet henceforth on Fridays, 8 p.m., at the Market Hall Coffee Tavern, for addresses, papers, and business.—LEONARD HALL, sec.

MANCHESTER.—We have discontinued our outdoor meetings for the winter months, but have a meeting in the club-room every Wednesday night for discussion.—F. H. C.

NORWICH.—Good meeting held at Sprowston at 11. Henderson was moved, although the publican had given him leave to stand on a piece of ground opposite his house, the police threatening him with consequences if he let the Socialists stand there. However, we found another spot, and sold 24 papers; we go again next Sunday. Good meeting at St. Mary's Plain. Our meeting in the Market-place at 3, was attended by upwards of 2000 persons, who gave three ringing cheers for the Social Revolution. Crowded meeting opposite the Agricultural Hall. Lecture indoors by Henderson, "The Political Party." Literature sold, £1 11s. 1d. Collection, 3s. 0½d.—C. W. MOWBRAY.

LECTURE DIARY.

London Branches.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street. Friday December 17, at 8 p.m. Mr. M. J. Lyons (L. P. D. L.) on "State Education." Members and friends are urgently requested to attend.

Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday Dec. 19, at 8.30 p.m. T. E. Wardle, "Socialism." Wednesday 22. Alexander Donald, "The Meaning of the Social Revolution." Business Meeting first Sunday in each month.

Croydon.—Royal County House, West Croydon Station Yard. Sunday Dec. 19, at 7.30 p.m. W. L. Phillips, "Labour and Socialism."

Fulham.—338 North End Road (corner of Shorolds Road, opposite Liberal Club). Sunday at 8 p.m.

Hackney.—23 Audley Street, Goldsmith Row. On Saturday Dec. 18 there will be a Concert in aid of the Funds of the Hackney Socialist Club. We appeal to all members that can possibly attend to do so. Programmes, 3d.—H. GRAHAM.

Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday December 19, at 8 p.m. R. A. Beckett, "Equality."

Hoxton (L. E. L.).—Exchange Coffee House, Pitfield Street, opposite Hoxton Church. N. Sunday Dec. 19, at 11.30 a.m. Committee Meeting. In the evening, at 8, T. Binning, "Socialism and Trades' Unionism."

Merton.—11 Merton Terrace, High Street. Club Room open every evening. Committee every Thursday. Discussions will be held every Sunday morning. Dec. 19. "Land Robbery."

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

North London.—On Friday evening next Mr. Gruning will give a discourse on "Productive Co-operation" at 32 Camden Road, at 8.30. Members of the Bloomsbury and other near Branches requested to attend.

Country Branches.

Bingley.—Coffee Tavern. Every Monday at 7.30 p.m. Birmingham.—Carr's Lane Coffee House. Every Monday evening, at 8.

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

Edinburgh (Scottish Section).—4 Park Street. Meets every Thursday at 8 p.m. Reading Room and Library open every Wednesday evening, 8 till 10. The Treasurer attends for members' subscriptions first Wednesday of every month.

Glasgow.—Reading-room of the Branch, 84 John St., open from 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. On Sunday open-air meetings will be held on the Green at 11.30 and 4.30; and at George's Square at 12.30. In the evening, in our Rooms at 7 o'clock, further consideration of Chapter VI. of Joyne's "Socialist's Catechism."

Hamilton.—Branch meets every Thursday at 7.30 in Blackwell School. Comrade McCulloch will lecture on Thursday first on "The Coming Social Revolution."

Hull.—11 Princess Street, off Mason Street and Sykes Street. Club Room open 7 to 10 every evening; Sundays 10 am. to 10 p.m.

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

Leeds.—New Fleece Inn, Pemberton St., Dewsbury Rd. Lancaster.—Market Hall Coffee Tavern Lecture Room. Saturday evenings at 7.30.

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

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

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

Open-air Propaganda for the Week.

- S. Hackney—"Salmon and Ball" 11.30...The Branch Hammersmith—Beadon Rd. 11.30...The Branch London Fields—Broadway ...11.30...H. Graham Regent's Park ...11.30...H. G. Arnold St. Pancras Arches ...11.30...Chambers Walham Green—Station ...11.30...The Branch Hyde Park (near Marble Arch) 3 ...Mainwaring

PROVINCES.—SUNDAY.

- Ipswich.—Old Cattle Market, 11; Ship Launch, 3 p.m. Norwich.—St. Mary's Plain, 11; Market Place, 3. Leeds.—Hunslet Moor, 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, 7 p.m.

The 'Commonweal.'

TO PUBLISHERS AND BOOKSELLERS.

Your attention is called to the under-given Terms of Advertising in the *Commonweal*, which, circulating as it does throughout Europe, America, and the Colonies, affords by far the best medium for bringing books—especially those which deal with Social questions—under the notice of probable purchasers.

Among the subscribers and readers of the *Commonweal* are numbered the most prominent Political and Social Reformers of this Country, as well as of the Continent and America; and the greater part of its *Clientele* are men continually upon the alert for the latest expressions of opinion or statements of fact upon the problems of the day.

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SOCIALIST LEAGUE LITERATURE.

- 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. For Whom Shall We Vote? Addressed to the Working-men and Electors of Great Britain. Spp. cr. 8vo. For distribution, 2s. per 100. 4d. Trades' Unions. By E. Belfort Bax. 1d. The Labour Question from the Socialist Standpoint. By William Morris. 1d. Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades' Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Binning (London Society of Compositors). 1d. Useful Work v. Useless Toil. By William Morris. 1d. The Rights of Labour according to John Ruskin. By Thomas Barclay. 1d. The Woman Question. By Edward Aveling and Eleanor Marx-Aveling. 2d. Chants for Socialists. By William Morris. 1d. Socialism. By William Morris. 1d. The Commune of Paris. By E. Belfort Bax, Victor Dave, and William Morris. 2d. The Religion of Socialism. By E. Belfort Bax. Crown 8vo, cloth gilt. 4s. 6d. Art and Socialism. By Wm. Morris. Bijou edition. 3d. LARGE PAPER EDITION. 1s. Mrs. Grundy (Cartoon). By Walter Crane. Fine hand-made large paper. 6d.

Socialist Headquarters, New York.—Library and Reading-room open daily (Sunday included) from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. *Commonweal* always on the table. Gifts in books and papers thankfully received. Address "Free Socialist Library," 143 Eighth Street, New York City, U.S.