

# THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

### NOTES ON NEWS.

THE School Board election for London has passed over, leaving behind it the usual electioneering dregs of defeated ambitions, empty boasts, compromises which no one believed in when they were made, and which will be sorely regretted hereafter by many who made them. As for the results, they are little except the dregs. For what does it all come to, this virulent storm in a saucer? In any case the children will be taught something; in no case can there be any satisfactory education under our present sham society; and the whole theory of School Board education is a bad one, even for our present system.

Setting all other considerations aside, is it worth the wear and tear for Socialists, who have so much work before them in merely putting before people the bare elements of their creed, to spend their energies, first in electioneering and next in the committee-room grind, in doing work which would be done quite as well, if external pressure were put upon them, by Radicals and Secularists, who otherwise hinder the work of propaganda?

The one thing of any real importance which could be done at once for the children is getting them the free meal, and it seems to me that with moderate pushing from the outside this could be got; not, of course, from pedants of the Lyulph Stanley kind, but from Radicals or even Tories not desperately committed to party shibboleths. The late cartoon in that very bourgeois print, *Punch*, in which the poor little advanced scholar claims something to still the cravings of hunger before going on with his "intellectual" work (save the mark!), is sufficient indication that the suggestion of this piece of elementary humanity and common-sense is not so terrifying to the general public as it used to be.

Lord Salisbury has been bidding high for Whig abuse, and will probably have his belly-full of it in these current days. And indeed he may be always trusted at a crisis to say the most snobbish thing that can be said, and his "Black-man" utterance quite comes up to the standard expected of him. The jeers at the Irish members, though rather stale now, and the heads on Temple Bar, are also reasonably good in the blackguarding line, and probably show that the most noble is not very hopeful of the coming election (when it does come).

But attack on this stupid reactionary "splitting of the ears of the groundlings" does not come with a good grace from journals which are revolutionary in Ireland and Whig in England. Until the *Daily News* breaks the conspiracy of silence on the judicial murder of Socialists or Anarchists who were slain for their opinions in a crisis that coward society thought dangerous, it ought to hold its tongue on Lord Salisbury's ferocious but harmless hints. Until its brother Whig the *Star* has learned that the whole duty of man is not limited to the returning of Gladstonian Whigs to Parliament at any cost, it ought also to hold its tongue; unless it is prepared to admit the fact that as to morals and principles it heartily agrees with Lord Salisbury's "short way with revolutionists" though the exigencies of party warfare compel it to pretend to be his opponent.

W. M.

Replying to a protest against his slanders upon the Chicago martyrs, the editor of the *Star*, Mr. Thomas Power O'Connor, says of them: "They did not deny that Lingg handed about his consignment of bombs at their meeting, just as they did not deny that they shot the policemen before the policemen shot them." Now, it is not too much to say that of all the fictions and forgeries of the *Times*, over which the *Star* has been shrieking so pitifully, not one is so gratuitously mean and false as this. Neither of these things were denied, because neither of them were asserted. Until the *Star* took it in hand, there was not found a creature foul enough to father such a lie. Even the Chicago blood-hunters and Pinkerton thugs recoiled from such a task; it has been left to the magnanimous, the enlightened Thomas Power O'Connor, parasite of the Liberal party and editor of the *Star*.

As he has made an assertion never made before, as he has gone even beyond the disproven indictment, will he now condescend to give some rag or scrap of reason for saying what he does?

Will he also condescend to reconcile the apparent contradiction between his notes on the Chicago affair with the following note, cut from his consistent columns?—

"It is difficult to feel angry with a man who, so to speak, 'gives himself away' like this. But let it not be forgotten what a light this throws upon the true inwardness of coercion, upon the animus which actuates the present rulers of this country towards their political opponents. A line further on Lord Salisbury is speaking of 'political murderers,' and the usual mode of dealing with them. Whether he has any particular political murderer in his eye at this moment is left in doubt, but we cannot forget the inquiry proceeding simultaneously with this speech, the efforts of Lord Salisbury's Attorney-General to fix on the Irish Parliamentary party the responsibility for the crimes of the Moonlighters. Political murderers! Yes; in the eyes of Lord Salisbury and those of his school of political thought, whenever the opposition of the privileged classes to a movement of the people has resulted in bloodshed, the leaders of the people (not the leaders on the other side) are 'political murderers.' Mazzini was a political murderer; John Hampden and George Washington were political murderers, and had they been unsuccessful would doubtless have been condemned by the Salisbury of the day to lose their heads or be blown from guns."

S.

It is asserted by a Glasgow paper that sailors *can be well fed* for 11½d. per head per day, and an instance is quoted of a long voyage where it was done for 10½d. The editor did not say what the men, for whom the sailor toils and risks his life, "can be well fed for," but it is obvious that his code of right would allow as much to the shipmaster's dog as to the sailor. Sailors take note.

Railways are the favourite investment of clergymen in Scotland for their surplus "earnings." To put their spare cash in such a safe investment is better, in their eyes, than lending it to the Lord (giving it to the poor), for they are certain it will return to them *before* many days. It gives them also the soothing satisfaction that they are providing work for working-men. The providing of wages is another matter.

Those clergymen who grow rich and important by speculations of divers sorts never think of providing work for themselves. Neither are they concerned whether the employments their pious investments provide are profitable to the workers, or whether their dividends are not the transformed life's-blood of the workers they allege to benefit; thus making such clergy accessories to slow murder, which is more cruel than sudden death.

When I hear, as I have done, those clergymen, with their safe investments, denouncing from their pulpits the victims of their dividends for their scanty church collections, and the pulpit unctuously assuring the pew that the latter by its want of practical enthusiasm is undermining the power of the former for "good," I cannot refrain from letting the sun go down upon my wrath.

A glance at the wages paid to the people in the pews and the dividends paid to the parsons in the pulpits, will explain the scantiness of the church collections and the decay of pulpit power for "good." By the bye, the church-door collections of the parish churches in Scotland belong by law and right to the poor of the parish, and, as these collections never reach the poor, it would be of interest to know who annexes them, and why they are diverted from their legitimate and lawful object.

But, to enquire into the nature of these clergymen's railway dividends, we find it stated by a booking-clerk that he has to work 12 and 13 hours a-day, and be responsible for the several hundreds of pounds that pass through his hands daily, for the handsome salary of 19s. 3d. per week. Signalmen are boxed in a cabin for 12 hours daily, constant duty, taking their meals as best they may, passing (including shuntings) 500 trains a-day, and for each train having from three to six levers to draw and put back; also block and bells to mind, book marking, and seeing that every train that passes is in proper running condition, all for a salary of 22s. per week. A railway porter on the line between Glasgow and Carlisle says he does 15 hours a-day, no

time allowed for meals, for 17s. per week. He has been seven years at the same hours and pay, and has a house, wife, and family to provide for.

We can form an estimate from the above instances, which are a fair and exact criterion of each of their kinds, how much time and money the railway dividends of the clergy permit the workers to spend for the good of their families or the sustenance of the church. Nay, does not the pulpit's conspiracy of silence account for far more than the decay in pulpit power, and is not its appropriation of such ill-gotten dividends the very essence of Antichrist? G. McL.

### MISSIONS, COMMISSIONS, AND OMISSIONS.

THESE three are members of one family. Missions and commissions are the parents of omissions. Our rural and city missions divert a certain energy and enthusiasm which might be directed to a more practical purpose, and our Government commissions but delay reforms which otherwise could not be successfully resisted. I grudge the missions and commissions the wealth, power, and time they consume, because what they divert and delay makes the omissions of society cruel, ugly, and unjust. I do not doubt the earnestness and honesty of purpose of those pious men and women engaged in mission work, and I think few who are cognisant of the motives of the creators of commissions will say as much for the creatures engaged in them.

It is becoming a favourite pastime of evangelical enthusiasts in Scotland to hold forth in the back courts and alleys of the slums of our cities, and also at the huts of navvies engaged on public works in the country. The Rev. Mr. McNeill, the preaching "star" of Edinburgh, who is wanted by the London Regent Square Presbyterian Church, if haply they may get him, told a large audience in Glasgow the other Sunday, on the condition that they would not tell anybody, that he used to go into the slums of Glasgow when younger and shout up to the windows, telling the women to put their ham on the fire and their heads out of the windows and he would give them the gospel. The women of the slums appeared to give more attention to the ham than the gospel, and now Mr. McNeill pipes to the well-fed women of mediocrity, and they flock to him in thousands to hear pulpit jokes like the above one, which was worn bare by Henry Ward Beecher. Whether Mr. McNeill's popular piping results in any practical good is another matter. The sum of the success towards real effective good of all the evangelical energy of the various sects is not encouraging, because they apparently fail to recognise the cause which creates the effect they wish to remove. It is as if they endeavoured to clear a muddy spring by laving the water into a surface stream which flowed back into the well. If the evangelists who are in earnest to help the poor and helpless could be made to see the root of the evil they combat, and to reflect on the waste of time and energy occasioned by their present methods, they might be enlisted on the side of those who seek first to stop the inflow of the muddy stream and so permit the natural law to restore the spring to purity and wholesomeness. There is something latent in the affections and passions of healthy men and women which makes for purity and nobility, provided they be not affected by surface influence. The conditions of present society create the influence which makes cowards of us all. In a society based on chance and cunning, where honest worth is too frequently submerged and humiliated, it is hard for the bravest to be free from the fear of the chance of being reduced to the lowest level of opportunity to gain the means of existence. This fear has a place and force in all our plans and efforts even when we do not suspect it. Evangelists report that in their mission to the navvies employed at the works at Ardrossan they came across men amongst them who had received a university education! These men surely could not be convicted of a want of a knowledge of "the truth" as it is in evangelicism. "The spouting rant of high-toned declamation" would sound strange in their ears and leave an aching void in their hearts. The evangel of the emancipator, who would free them from the social law and order which binds them to their ugly, unhealthy and degrading surroundings, would, I think, be more acceptable and profitable to them. The remembrance of what-might-have-been, or the looking forward to what-yet-may-be, can never fulfil the functions of what-ought-to-be. The water-lily can never grow towards perfection in a dry sandy soil, and neither can true nobility of character be perfected in a society which gives its rewards, and right of existence, to the selfish. The most beautiful and valuable of flowers will assume an ugly and worthless appearance if planted in a soil and atmosphere unsuited to its nature; and need we wonder, when we reflect on the traits of character conducive to success in present society, if men and women of the noblest natural temperament are found in its lowest and ugliest places and abandoned to its worst influences.

A glance at the soil and atmosphere where present society plants its most laborious workers in city, town, or village, will at once show the hopelessness of improving them morally until their physical conditions are improved and set on a better basis. When the kingdom of justice and of brotherhood is found, all the other things will naturally be added thereto, with as little trouble as the spring clears itself when the inflow of surface impurities is stopped.

So much has been said of late about the number and brutalising effects of the one-roomed houses in our cities, that I need not now notice them; but the hovels of the workers who reside in our villages and hamlets are no better conditioned, unless it be by a freer inroad for the wind, rain, and cold. The colliers' rows of our large colliery com-

panies, whose accumulated fleecings are proverbial, are as disgraceful and unhealthy as any city cesspool, and the huts provided for the navvies are even worse. In case it may be imagined I exaggerate the horribleness of the huts, I will give you what a writer in the *Christian Leader* says regarding them: "In connection with the bringing in of a larger supply of water to one of the largest towns of the kingdom, you could have seen forty men huddled together in one hut twenty feet square, and this the only place for cooking, washing, dressing, and sleeping in. The stench and dirt were past description. The hut-keeper, with wife and family of five, in a small place boarded off from the larger hut; and this woman, with her girl about fifteen years of age, to look after all these men—to cook and wash, etc., for them all, and pass through this floor where all the men are either dressed or undressed, as there is only one outside door for the lot of them." A residence in that hut, with the heavy exhaustive toil of a navy, would be enough to set Sir Wilfred Lawson to drink; and can it be wondered at that these men should seek to exchange the huddling in the hut for the stupefaction of the spirit shop. It is sickening to see those who profit by the brutalising of the workers going to them as evangelical philanthropists, and finding therein a soothing satisfaction which is as superficial as their exhortations are worthless in effecting any good. These missions usurp the power and place of a more beneficial and practical propaganda, and serve the same purpose to social reforms as the Government commissions serve to legislative—viz., the perpetuation of cruel omissions. GEORGE McLEAN.

### LETTER FROM AMERICA.

GREEK has met Greek. The Sugar Refineries Company (Sugar Trust) controls the sugar interest in the East, and Claus Spreckels, jun., the California sugar king and dictator of the Sandwich Islands, in the West. There is not room for two such rivals in the States in these days of concentration, and one will eventually have to be merged in the other. Claus, cunning and daring native of Pomerania, has entered the warpath first, and what's more, has in some way played his trumps so well as to compel the people of New York State to fight his battles for him. On the 11th of November, the Attorney-General Tabor in the name of the people of the State of New York, as the phrase goes, opened proceedings in the Supreme Court of New York against the North River Sugar Refining Company. This company is a corporation organised under the General Manufacturing Act of the Legislature of 1848, and now forms part of the trust. It has been selected to establish the precedent necessary to attack the other corporations. The Sugar Trust consists of eighteen refining companies, capital of 50 million dollars. Notwithstanding the excessive valuation at which the refineries were taken into the monopoly—the share was taken as equivalent to three—the trust pays dividends of 2½ per cent. for five months. The indictment summarised reads as follows: "The North River Sugar Refining Company ceased in violation of the law as to the exercise of its franchise to manufacture refined sugar, transferred all its stock and plant to the Sugar Refineries Company, and about the 1st of October, 1887, became a member of that combination." Another cause of action against the North River Company was that during the year 1888 it had wilfully neglected and failed to make or file a public report of its business during the preceding year, as all corporations are required to do annually under section 12 of the Laws of 1848. The third count was that the defendant in December, 1887, went out of business and ceased its operations, and thenceforward ceased to sell or manufacture sugar or to do any business, and that from that date to the present the company has not done any business whatever or exercised its corporate powers. The Attorney-General, who was in possession of the original agreement which the members of the trust have signed, submitted the following analysis:—

- "That the Sugar Refineries Company is controlled absolutely by a Board of Trustees.
- "That each corporation surrenders outright its entire capital stock.
- "That the entire capital stock of such corporation is transferred to the Board.
- "That the Board holds this stock as trustee.
- "That the voting power of the stock is lodged with the Board.
- "That no director in a corporation can be chosen without the consent of the Board, for they alone can transfer stock so as to qualify a person to be a director.
- "That having the entire voting power as shareholders in each corporation the Board have absolute control of the directory and management of each corporation.
- "That competition between the Board and the corporations is prevented by the prohibition against members of the Board being interested in the purchase and sale of sugar.
- "That within the sphere of the operations of the refineries in the combination the production and price of sugar are absolutely under the control of the Board—that is, *pro tanto*, the Board is a monopoly.
- "That since the capital stock of the several corporations is vested in the Board undistinguishably, since the stockholders in each corporation are, as such, stockholders in the others, and since the certificate holders receive a profit, whether the corporation whose stock has been exchanged for their certificates make a profit or not, virtually here is a consolidation of the several corporations.
- "That since the shares of corporation stock are held by the Board in trust for the benefit of its owners, and the Board cannot dispose of that stock, the Board has no capital stock.
- "That the Board are but bailees of the corporation stock, and the certificates issued were only evidences of the interest of the holders in the corporation stock held by the Board.
- "That the Board is charged with no duty but to hold the corporation stock for its owners and to collect and distribute the profits made by the corporation refineries.
- "That not the Board nor the certificate holders, but the several corporations, are engaged in the business of buying, refining, or selling sugar.
- "That the Board usurps these corporate functions:
  - "To have a corporate name and a seal; to create offices and appoint officers; to issue transferable certificates of stock; to have perpetual succession; to make by-laws, and to sue and be sued as a collective entity."

It may be observed that the Sugar Trust is very similarly constructed to the Standard Oil Trust. Several members and officials of the Board of Trustees were called as witnesses and gave important testimony, confirming in every particular the statements made by the Attorney-General. The case was then adjourned to the 27th inst.

The General Assembly of the Knights of Labour began business at Indianapolis, Ind., on the 13th of November, Powderly presiding. It is essentially a Powderly friendly delegate meeting, and either he or one of his tools will be elected to the first position in the order. T. B. Barry, the seceded member of the executive, was present at the opening, and when his right to be present as a delegate came up he attempted several times to speak, but Powderly always rapped him down. He finally called out, "Well, if I cannot be heard here, I will be heard at the bar of public opinion," and left the hall. His case was referred to the committee on appeals.

The report of treasurer Turner is not at all of an encouraging nature to the Knights. The income amounted in the last fiscal year, from 1st of July 1887 to 30th of June 1888, to 222,507 dols. 9 c., and the expenditure to 222,342 dols. 23 c.; balance in hand, 164 dols. 86 c. The expenditure is chiefly composed of expenses for administration. The general officers, about half a dozen in all, drew 37,700 dols. 69 c. Here is the account of A. A. Carlton, a member of the executive and by no means the best salaried: Hotel allowance, 1,116 dols.; salary, 1,488; railroad fares, 1,199 49 c.; postage, telegrams, and messenger, 47.40; telegrams, 128.27; messenger, 12.77; bank discount, 1.50; postage, 9.91; amount advanced on account, 165.73; total, 4,170 dols. 7 c. General Master Workman Powderly drew 5,955 dols. during the last fiscal year. The expenses of the General Executive Board department were 2,302 dols. 62 c.; expenses of the General Secretary's office, 22,717 46 c.; General Secretary's supply department, 34,758 72 c.; postage, 8,151. The payment of the *per capita* tax shows a great falling off. For July, August, and September of 1887 the receipts under this heading amounted to 32,839 dols. For the same months this year they were only 15,354 dols. This indicates a membership of less than 200,000.

The report of General Secretary Hayes is equally gloomy. The total membership on July 1st, 1887, was 259,518, or a falling off against the year previous of 300,000 members. In his annual address Powderly accounts in many ways for the decline of the order, but the most remarkable passage is the following:—

"These attacks upon the Knights of Labour come from the persistent opposition which has been shown to the idea of allowing other organisations to control the Knights of Labour. . . . I do not mean the trade unionists. Their cause and ours are one in the main. The organisation . . . is the International Workingmen's Association, which passed resolutions three years ago to secure the election of its trusted agents as general officers of the Order of the Knights of Labour. The proofs are in my possession. The plans of these men met with but little success, and from that time to the present the members of that organisation have secretly and untiringly worked for the ruin of this order. There are members of that society who are members of this, who do not favour the schemes of the warring factions of the International Workingmen's Association, but they are few and far between, for those who are known are intent only on destruction."

This remarkable utterance is the exact reverse of the truth. Many members of the International are also Knights. The International as an organisation has never attacked the Knights, and the most friendly feelings between Knights and Internationalists have always existed. But what has been attacked and will be attacked is not the labour organisation known as the Knights of Labour, but the policy of their general officers—the men who have no other purpose but to fleece poor hard-working men and to live as pleasant a life as any "bloated capitalist" at the expense of working men who desire by combination to better their condition. There are hundreds of thousands of working men in the States and elsewhere desiring to join the Knights if the order could be purified. By the way, brother Powderly, was not Parsons—A. R. Parsons—also a Knight, and a true one, as true as there is one in the order? Was he not also a member of the International? Or are we to take your remarkable utterance as an explanation why you joined the mob who clamoured for the blood of a brother Knight? Speak up, brother Powderly!

The committee on the state of the order presented an unfavourable report on a resolution from District 49 (New York) providing that no action should be taken by the General Assembly in regard to the question of immigration. George Schilling, of Chicago, introduced an amendment to the effect that the General Assembly was opposed to narrow prejudices which objected to any kind of immigration. Then Mr. Powderly took the floor against the admission of "that class of immigrants who by reason of their degraded condition were able to work for lower wages than American workmen can live on, and who have to be tagged with numbers to tell one from another." When a vote was reached Mr. Schilling's amendment was lost and the report of the committee, which favours action on the question of immigration, was adopted by a majority.

The meeting of the delegates will probably last all through next week.  
Newark, N.J., November 19, 1888. HENRY F. CHARLES

### A VOICE FROM THE GRAVE.

At the commemoration meeting held by our Chicago comrades at the grave of "our five" in Waldheim Cemetery, George Schilling, Master Workman of District Assembly 24 Knights of Labour, read the following letter from our comrade A. R. Parsons:—

"TO A. R. PARSONS, JR., AND HIS SISTER, LULU EDA PARSONS,  
FROM THEIR FATHER,

With a request not to open and read this letter till November 11th, 1888.

"Dungoon No. 7, Cook County Jail, Chicago, Ill., Nov. 9, 1887.

"To my darling, precious little children, Albert R. Parsons, jr., and his sister, Lulu Eda Parsons:

"As I write these words I blot your names with a tear. We never meet again! Oh, my children, how deeply, dearly your papa loves you! We show our love by living for our loved ones; we also prove our love by dying, when necessary, for them. Of my life, and the cause of my unnatural and cruel death, you will learn from others. Your father is a self-offered sacrifice upon the altar of liberty and happiness. To you I leave the legacy of an honest name and duty done. Preserve it, emulate it. Be true to yourselves, you cannot then be false to others. Be industrious, sober, and cheerful.

"Your mother, oh, she is the grandest, noblest of women! Love, honour, and obey her, my children, my precious ones. I request you to read this parting message on each recurring anniversary of my death, in remembrance of him who dies not alone for you, but for the children yet unborn. Bless you, my darlings. Farewell!

"Your father, ALBERT R. PARSONS."

### MINER'S WAGES.

THE "Special Commissioner" of the *Labour Tribune*, from whose useful and instructive articles we have several times made quotations, has been looking up the Black Country miners, and his article in the "wee green" of Oct. 17th gives the result. After seeing the work and what it required, he thought the wages of the miner should be exceptionally high, but when he came to inquire into the facts of the case, to his surprise he discovered that they were exceedingly low. The pikeman is the man who gets the coal. He is in strictness the miner. He bores by the aid of pick and shovel, and chisel and wedge, and hammer into the coal seam, and so "gets" the coal. It is very laborious work, though not more laborious than many other kinds of work, except that it is carried on with much greater risk, inasmuch as the miner is so far from the surface of the ground. And the best of ventilation will leave a pit, and especially the cavities in which the men regularly work, much less healthy to work in than any workshop above ground. Customs vary a good deal in different parts of the Black Country. Some men work by the "stint," that is, by piece-work, some by the ton, and some by the day, but the general wage of the pikeman now, that is since the advance of 10 per cent. recently obtained, is 4s. 7d. per day, reckoning the day as beginning at 7 a.m. and finishing at 4 p.m. Among the miners this 4s. 7d. is called a day-and-a-quarter's wage; that does not mean a larger day, but only the difference between the wages paid to the pikeman and that paid to the man next in rank, viz., the loader. The wage of the loader is 3s. 8d. in the thick coal. To get the wage of the pikeman you have to add a quarter, which gives the latter 4s. 7d. for the day of the same length. If the pikeman could work six days a week all the year round, he would get £1 7s. 6d. a-week. But, as a matter of fact, four days a week the year round is a high average, which gives 18s. 4d. per week. The loader takes the coal from the pikeman and puts it into the tubs or small trucks that run along the narrow gauge tramways from all parts of the workings to the foot of the shaft. Of course there is no skill worth speaking of required in shovelling coal into a waggon. Nevertheless it is hard work, and is carried on, of course, under the same risks. The wage of the loader varies. They work, as do the pikemen, by the stint, the ton or the day, but their average wage is 3s. 8d. per day—nine hours down the pit—in the thick coal, and 3s. 6d. per day in the thin coal. It is difficult to see what justification there is for this difference. There is supposed to be less risk in working the thin coal, but at all events it is just as hard work to load a wagon of thin seam coal as to load one of thick seam coal. As in the case of the pikemen four days a week the year round is a high average, thus a loader would get from 14s. to 14s. 8d. per week, taking one week with another—rather less than more. Then come the drivers. There is much variation here. In some pits the wagons are small, and strong boys can manage them, but in other pits the wagons are large, and then strong young men are required, for of course the ponies only draw the wagons, and much handling of the wagons is called for on the part of the drivers. Wages begin at 2s. and range from that up to 3s. per day, and taking again four days as the normal week, wages range from 8s. to 12s. per week the year round. It is very common for drivers to be married men. Next come the horse fettlers or hostlers. These, as a matter of course, are in the pit much longer hours than other men. For whether the miners work or not the horses have to be looked after, and they require fettling on Sundays as well as any other days. The occupation, moreover, is perhaps the least agreeable of all. The stables are constructed in a big hole in the workings, and are not the sweetest places in the world. These men accordingly get 18s. or a guinea a week. Then there are the small boys called door-minders. It is their business to open and close the doors, which are set in the roadways of the pit, at stated intervals, and must be kept closed. The object is to protect one part of the pit from any danger which may arise in another part. These lads begin work at an early age, and get 1s. a day. Other boys are employed as metal cleaners, and clean the dirt from the ironstone in ironstone mines. Others again run errands. Women and girls are not now employed in the pits or on the pit banks in the Black Country—at least not, at all generally. If there are any employed at all it is in cleaning the stone, that is removing the dirt from the ironstone. As to how the men live, the article says that a pikeman taking home 18s. 4d. per week would pay 3s. or 3s. 6d. per week rent for a house in a town, and this house would be very small, in most cases consisting of one room downstairs and two smaller ones above it; and frequently opening on a small court. In the country, rents range from 2s. 6d. to 3s. or 3s. 6d. In the latter case there would be a small bit of garden, but the accommodation in the house itself would not greatly differ from that of a house in a town. Now, suppose such a man has a family of five children and three of them have to go to school, 9d. per week would be required for school pence, or perhaps 6d., and this would leave say, at the very outside, 15s. a week out of which to find food and clothing for a man, his wife, and five children. A loader would live in much the same house and have much the same expenses. The drivers, of course, being younger men and frequently youths, live with their fathers and mothers. A youth of 17 or 18 living at home, would perhaps give his mother 6s. 6d. or 7s. a week and find his own clothes. But it is most usual for the youth to give his mother all he earns, save perhaps 1s. which he keeps for pocket money, and the mother somehow finds the clothes. It is the habit of the men to take a snack—that is a bit of bread and butter (generally margarine)—before going down the pit. Then at 11 o'clock they stop for a time and have a meal, which sometimes consists of bread and bacon, but most commonly of bread and cheap lard and butter (margarine) with coffee or tea. Sometimes the employers provide "small beer." This is the only meal taken in the pit. Dinner is taken at home after four o'clock, and generally consists of potatoes and bacon, sometimes there is cheap beef, mutton, or pork. But in very many cases dinner consists of bread and margarine, and tea. Later, say about eight or nine o'clock, some men will have a crust of bread and cheese.

It was land monopoly that declared war with France, and trade fought the battle. Napoleon was struck down by no eloquence of the House of Commons, by no sword of Wellington. He was crushed and ground to powder by the steam-engines of James Watt.—Wendell Phillips.

Go to, now, ye rich men, weep and howl for the miseries that shall come upon you. Behold the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth. Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts as in a day of slaughter. Ye have condemned and killed the just, and he doth not resist you.—A text unpreached on.



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

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

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

Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

CORRESPONDENTS are specially asked to address all literary communications to the Editors, all business letters to the Secretary, and to write only on one side of the paper.

P. R.—Mazzini's article on the International appeared in the *Contemporary Review* for 1872 (p. 155), and George Howell's in the *Nineteenth Century* for 1878 (p. 19).

The editor of the *Alarm* complains in issue of Nov. 24 that the exchanges of *Commonweal* have not reached him. They have been sent, however, and there must be some reason for non-delivery, which perhaps the U.S.A. postal authorities could explain.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday December 5.

<b>ENGLAND</b> Church Reformer Christian Socialist Die Autonomie Justice Labour Tribune Labour Elector London—Freie Presse Norwich—Daylight Postal Service Gazette Railway Review Social Demokrat To-Day Worker's Friend NEW SOUTH WALES Hamilton—Radical INDIA Bankpore—Behar Herald UNITED STATES New York—Der Sozialist Freiheit Trutheeker Volkszeitung Jewish Volkszeitung	<b>ALARM</b> Workmen's Advocate Boston—Woman's Journal Chicago—Knights of Labor Isaacker Zeitung Vorboite Detroit—Der Arme Toufel Milwaukee—National Reformer San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung Coast Seamen's Journal FRANCE Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Le Parti Ouvrier (daily) La Revolté Le Proletariat Le Comp de Feu Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur St-Etienne—La Loire Socialist HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen BELGIUM Ghent—Vooruit Liege—L'Avenir Antwerp—De Werker	<b>SWITZERLAND</b> Arbeiterstimme ITALY Turin—Nuova Gazzetta Operaia SPAIN Barcelona—Tierra y Libertad Barcelona—El Productor Madrid—El Socialista Seville—La Solidaridad PORTUGAL Lisbon—O Protesto Operario GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune AUSTRIA Brinn—Volksfreund Wien—Gleichheit HUNGARY Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik WEST INDIES Cuba—El Productor ARGENTINE REPUBLIC Buenos Ayres—Herald
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ENDOWMENTS.

THE extent to which the general body of the people lack the most elementary knowledge of true economics may be estimated from some remarks made the other day at the opening of Prinlows Church bazaar by a man of note and prominence—Principal Cunningham of St. Andrews. He said the object of the bazaar was "to provide a stipend for the minister for ever and ever," and maintaining that this was a laudable aim, he took occasion to castigate those who, on the ground that they should do nothing for posterity because posterity did nothing for them, objected to the endowment of the church.

It is apparent that both Dr. Cunningham and those he was taking to task believe honestly that the burden of supporting the men, who will in all years yet to come minister to the spiritual needs of certain of the citizens, may be wholly borne by the people of the present day. It is a striking sign of the prevalent superficiality of observation and of thought in economics that it is necessary to point out the physical impossibility of a vicarious sacrifice of this kind. A little consideration will make it evident that nearly all the wealth consumed by clergymen and by everybody else living at any given period, must be produced by the workers co-operating with them. The wealth of the community is continually being used up and having to be replaced. Some kinds of capital, but very few indeed, may, it is true, be regarded as having somewhat of a permanent character. But all kinds of capital must be constantly kept in repair, and most kinds are used up very rapidly, and have to be renewed at very short intervals. Not only is this so, but nearly all the wealth that satisfies directly the material wants of man must by its very nature be used but a short time after its production. Of this nature are, along with many other forms of wealth, all food and clothing which alone constitute such a large portion of the products of labour.

Each generation, then, is dependent for the supply of its wants almost wholly on its own efforts. Of course it is, as it were, started in life by the previous one, and is the heir to the sifted knowledge and experience of all the past; yet, for all that, without the labour of its own hands it could not exist. It is therefore incorrect to suppose that by the endowment of a church or of any other institution we can

lighten appreciably the labours of posterity, except perhaps to a slight extent those of our immediate successors.

To endow a church is to devote to the payment of all, the expenses connected with it the income derived from the users of a certain quantity of capital lent in the church's name. It is to secure for the church a share of the land or of the capital—of something which the workers cannot do without—and employ for church purposes the rent or the interest which the workers are forced to pay for the use of it. Believers in certain doctrines who make provision for an endless succession of teachers of these doctrines by a scheme of endowment, simply shift thereby the toil and trouble of supporting these teachers from themselves and their successors in the faith to the great body of workers, who perhaps care nothing for the teaching or even think it false and harmful to society. No matter how pernicious some may regard the beliefs, they as workers will have to contribute their share towards the expenses incurred in propagating them, for no other reason than that the endowment trust has in its possession a quantity of wealth, in some shape or form, which is absolutely necessary for the subsistence of man, and which it is legally entitled to refuse the community the use of, if the community does not make it a payment in the form of rent and interest. The trust is thus able to extract from the workers a very large portion of the product of their labour without giving an equivalent for it. That is what we Socialists call robbery. And this huge injustice will last as long as private ownership of land and capital is permitted. It will not cease until the people place under public control everything necessary for the production of wealth. Whenever private individuals or corporations are allowed, as at present, to appropriate mines, lands, railways, factories, workshops or machinery—in fact, anything which is required to provide man with the means of subsistence and of enjoyment—they invariably take advantage of their position to force those who own none of these things, and yet are in absolute need of them, to work hard and to deliver up all the products of their labour except what is necessary to maintain them as efficient machines and to rear others to replace them when worn out.

It is clear, then, that the endowment of any institution implies that the general body of workers are compelled to provide it with funds. There could be no objection to such an arrangement if the institution were regarded by the workers as beneficial to them and if it were really devoted to their use. Few endowed institutions, however, in the present day are such as would benefit the workers, and those that might do so are generally monopolised by the well-to-do. Under Socialism certain institutions would of course be maintained by the whole community, but only those that would be certain to benefit everybody. In no case would the community support institutions which, like churches, happen to exist for the satisfaction of the wants, real or imaginary, of mere sects or classes, however large. Of course if any workers have real wants originating solely in the nature of the work they do for the consumers, it would, I think, be but wise and just that provision should be made to satisfy these wants, not, however, by the State or community as a whole, but by those consumers for whose benefit the particular kind of work is done.

It will have been seen from the foregoing that we Socialists object not only to State churches, but to all endowed churches, of whatever denomination they may be, for the reason that all of them rest on the exploitation, on the robbery of the workers. Under Socialism there would be the utmost freedom of thought and of speech, and there would be no hindrance to the propagation of any kind of religious belief; but it would be rendered impossible for religious bodies to have their paid teachers supported by any but those who chose voluntarily to lend their aid.

J. HALDANE SMITH.

FAREWELL TO MRS. PARSONS.

SOUTH PLACE INSTITUTE was very well filled on Thursday evening, 29th ult., considering that within a few streets' distance there was the Holborn election in full swing, with all its attendant attractions and circuses. H. Davis took the chair, and said a few introductory words as to the occasion of our meeting there that evening—to bid farewell to a comrade who had come among us for a very brief while, but who had endeared herself to us in so doing. The Hammersmith Choir then sang "No Master"; after which Mrs. Wilson read the description of some of the anniversary meetings in the States and elsewhere, and spoke at some length on the meaning and progress of the labour movement in America, and the part our comrades had played in it. William Morris reviewed the position of the workers for the world's advancement, and eloquently set forth their aims and methods. Kropotkin dealt with the decentralisation of social life and the increased scope for development of the individual that Socialism would bring about, and insisted on the elevation of character that would result.

The choir then sang "Down among the Dead Men," and David Nicoll, speaking next, alluded in strong terms to the ill-treatment he considered Mrs. Parsons had received, and begged her not to allow the ill-doing of individuals to mingle in her memories of England and the Socialist party here. Sparling summed up the objects of the meeting, and asked Mrs. Parsons to convey the greetings of Old World Socialists to those of the New.

Mrs. Parsons then replied; she spoke of her position, and deprecated any personal merit or importance; circumstances had made her to some extent the mouthpiece and representative of others. Her position had been a difficult one, and not rendered easier by certain things that had happened; but on the whole she could look back upon her English visit with pleasure, and speak in high terms to her friends of the progress we were making.

After singing the *Marseillaise*, and cheering for the Revolution, Mrs. Parsons, Morris, and Kropotkin, the meeting dispersed.

Mrs. Parsons left St. Pancras Station Friday night for Liverpool, whence she sailed on Saturday for New York. The platform was crowded with Socialists of all opinions and nationalities. "Annie Laurie" was sung, and addresses were presented. Mrs. Parsons thanked those present for their enthusiasm, and said her visit to England had met with good results. She was pleased to see that the working classes were combining to put an end to their misery. She was determined never to rest until the wage slaves were free, labour emancipated, and Socialism triumphant. The train left the station amid cheers and the strains of the *Marseillaise*.

## TO WORKING WOMEN AND GIRLS.

COMRADES,—We Socialists want a word with you. Perhaps you, into whose hands this has fallen, are the wife of a working-man and mother of children, and unless yours is an exceptional case your daily life is as sad and troublous as thousands of your sisters in so-called Happy England to-day. The rack-rented room, the inconvenient, nay often pestilential house, the struggle to be decent and self-respecting amid miserable surroundings, the fight to make both ends meet, and to know that illness, death, or want of employment on the part of the breadwinner will plunge you and yours into utter destitution. A life filled with sordid cares and anxiety for the morrow, its prime spent in a futile struggle with poverty, its end possibly the punishment of poverty—the workhouse and the pauper's ditch.

Your husband, when out of employment has to endure the heart-sickening tramping search for work, and when in to sell his independence and manhood over the pay-desk of his employer; to have the fear of starvation as a whip to drive him into compliance with his master's will and price. He is robbed over that pay-desk in the first instance, and you, when pestered in the market-place how to lay out the scanty wage to the best advantage, are robbed again by the hucksters of the shop-counter, who buy cheap and sell dear. Does it ever come into your mind, when paying a cheating price for poor and adulterated food, and anxiously limiting your outlay to the barest necessities, that there is in this country not only enough for all but a superabundance of all that can make life happy? and, furthermore, that this wealth is created by the working-class to which you and your husband, brother, and sweetheart belong. Who enjoys it, the bees or the drones, the workers or the idlers? Look around you and see.

Whilst your life is a scene of anxious care, theirs is one of varied pleasures. Are you and yours less than they that you should bear a heavy burden through life? Because we denounce creeds you are told that we are without religion. How do they reconcile their profession of belief in a state hereafter, where all shall be equal and poverty a passport to it, when they squander untold wealth produced by the blood, sweat, and tears of the toiling masses? They prate of justice and humanity, and treat their animal pets better than their fellow-creatures.

Doubtless you have also been told that the Socialists are immoral, and would destroy family life and home-like associations. What destroys the family but the wretchedness of the mass? "Whom God has joined together," says their marriage service, "let no man put asunder"; but at the workhouse-gate, man, wife, and child are separated because of their poverty.

Emigration and war again do their work to destroy the family; but we are immoral; and yet the West-end thoroughfares are at night nearly impassable with harlots and their rich patrons. The wealth wrung from the labourer is used to debauch his daughters, and these, with the alternative of starvation wages or vice presented to them, too often choose the latter. Remember also, that if all the fallen sisterhood of the pave, and all the victims of society in jail, were to try and lead what is hypocritically termed lives of honest toil, it would mean the cheapening of labour and the increase of the sweater's gains.

And so we Socialists say with truth that the present system, which denies the right of the workers to the means of existence except upon the terms of spoliators, breeds its own crime, poverty, and prostitution, and then claims the right to punish its victims in jail, workhouse, and penitentiary. Can you look in the faces of your children and feel assured that they will not swell the ranks of pauperism, prostitution, and crime? You give them up now as wage-slaves, or as soldiers to be shot down in cruel and useless wars with peoples with whom they have no quarrel; to work or fight in the interest of labour robbers, land thieves, and usurers. Surely if you can give up all that is nearest and dearest for the present abominable system, you will not stand in opposition to a newer and better life?

"What would you have us women do," say you, "even if we agree with you that all is not as it should be?" We ask you to come and help us in the work we are engaged in, to make the now despondent people look up and see the possibility of a brighter and better life, now and for the future. Educate your children to believe that the daily shifts and early labour to which they are put is in order that the children of the idlers may have their college training and foreign travel, their pictures, books, and ease. Urge husband, father, brother, and sweetheart forward on the path of Socialism.

We are a party composed of men and women of no regard to nationality, and looking upon men and women as equals. Wherever so-called civilisation with human misery and woe exist, there is up-raised the red banner of our movement. We declare that the fruitful soil of the earth should be cumbered with no land robber, but should sustain all its children; that the means of production shall be for the benefit of all, and not to enrich a class; that our children as the future race shall be free from grinding care, and their education and physical welfare shall be the care of a free and happy community. To achieve this noble ideal we want your help. Our aim is the extinction of poverty and its necessary consequences, crime and misery. You can assist. Will you, we ask again in conclusion, give us your help?

[It is intended to issue the above article as a leaflet by the Propaganda Committee. Readers are asked for criticism, and might suggest improvements.]

D. J. NICOLL, Secretary of Propaganda Committee.

All that the labourer asks is justice, not charity; all that woman asks is justice, not pity; and all that the negro asks is justice, not humanity.—Wendell Phillips.

## THE RED FLAG O'ER US FLYING.

Air: "The Trumpet Sounding Loudly" (Y GADLYS).

We have no tyrant ruler  
To drive us on our way,  
No leader or befooler  
To blind us or betray.  
But each with each is vying,  
In battle fierce against the wrong;  
And to the fray we march along,  
The Red Flag o'er us flying.

We let no sea divide us,  
No frontier make a foe;  
All people stand beside us,  
One flag alone we know.  
For all men's freedom trying,  
For liberty in every land,  
In arms arrayed for fight we stand,  
The Red Flag o'er us flying.

Who comes, with heart high beating,  
To struggle for his own,  
To fight without retreating  
Till Wrong be overthrown?  
Who comes, the foe defying,  
With us to work in word and deed,  
Until shall float o'er all men freed,  
The Red Flag o'er us flying?

AN GEALBHAN GARAIHDH.

## REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 15, 1888.

9	Sun.	1789. John Stockdale tried for a libel on the House of Commons. 1793. Trial of John Lambert, James Perry, and James Gray for seditious libel. Trial of William Hudson for seditious words. 1824. Battle of Ayacucho.
10	Mon.	1805. W. L. Garrison born. 1839. Trial of Monmouth Chartists begun. 1855. Aug. Spies born.
11	Tues.	1858. Leigh colliery explosion.
12	Wed.	1653. Cromwell made Protector.
13	Thur.	1204. Maimonides died. 1799. Heine born. 1867. Clerkenwell explosion. 1884. London Bridge explosion.
14	Fri.	1799. George Washington died. 1831. Affray at Carrickshock. 1873. Agassiz died. 1883. Herr Hlubeck killed.
15	Sat.	1794. J. B. Carrier guillotined.

*Battle of Ayacucho.*—Lord Salisbury and the *Pall Mall Gazette* are forever dinning in our ears the present tendency of the world to centralisation and the consolidation of great empires. My lord especially has been preaching the undesirableness of looking back into the past for information. He does well. We might get a glimpse of the foul dunghill from whence the sneaking Cecils derive their blood, their titles, and the estates. Such people as my lord poison the air, like some venomous toad, by their presence amongst us: they have no lessons from the past and no hope for the future. The great battle by which the gallant rebels of South America hurled down forever the overgrown and outgrown "imperial federation" of Spain in the early years of this century might be a lesson to these chipper and self-sufficient Cockneys of to-day, who talk so loudly about the "British Empire" which they and people like them could never have helped one jot to form, and which they only possess in the sense that oft-quoted hive of bees (or rather drones) monopolise the noble helmet of a dead warrior giant of the past. Such pretentious frauds as the British empire, the German empire, and the United States of America (kept up for the sole benefit of thieving stock-jobbers) are beginning to stink in the nostrils of honest humanity. We are only awaiting a favourable opportunity to wipe away all such frippery and foppery from the face of the globe. The Romans were great and self-sacrificing and brave, and yet they failed. The British and German shopkeepers are small and ignorant, selfish and cowardly, and not likely to make a better job than their Roman predecessors.—L. W.

The following notes relate to last week's Calendar:—

*Death of Algernon Sidney.*—The judicial murder of this chiefest pride of English history is particularly interesting at the present moment, when the London social reformers are being disgusted with the shameless apostacy of such timeservers as Mrs. Besant, Henry George, and T. P. O'Connor in regard to the equally infamous judicial crime of our own day. All the trucklers in 1683 in London joined in the parrot cry and said Sidney should be hanged because he had tried to assassinate the king at the Rye House. When confronted with the fact that there was no evidence of such a design, they replied, "Oh, well! he is a republican, and has advised violent methods. He is just as responsible!" The rats are of the same sleek coat in every age.—L. W.

*Death of Pym.*—Lucy Percy, Sidney's aunt, only saved Pym's life by her timely warning long enough to give the death blow to unlimited tyranny in England. We can only fondly dream what England might have been if Pym and Hampden had lived to fight the swarm of Scotch Presbyterian plunderers who wrecked the people's republic and sold out to George Monk when the game was up.—L. W.

Stop talking politics; begin talking less hours and higher wages. Have sense. Labour is a long way yet from its economic emancipation. But it must keep on all the time trying to reach it.

You cannot make a nation with one half steamboats, sewing-machines, and bibles, and the other half slaves.—Wendell Phillips.

A trade union cannot, should not, and must not be a political party club. The trade union is of greater importance to the wage worker than all the political parties in the world.—Paterson Labour Standard.

## THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

**PORT GLASGOW LABOURERS' STRIKE.**—This strike was settled Dec. 1st, the men resuming work on the old terms until March, when the advance in wages is promised to be conceded.

**DUNDEE JUTE-WORKERS.**—The jute-workers of Dundee have been promised 5 per cent. advance by the middle of this month. This is the second advance within two months, but was not given till bitterly needed.

**MARYPORT IRONWORKERS.**—It is reported that early on Nov. 30th, the men employed at the Maryport Hematite Iron and Steel Works left work without notice. The furnaces were in full blast at the time.

**NORTHUMBERLAND COAL DISPUTE.**—At the Northumberland coal-owners' and miners' conference, held at Newcastle on Saturday 1st, the miners agreed to accept the offered advance of 5 per cent. on hard and 2½ per cent. on soft coal. The dispute is thus settled.

**IRON TRADE WAGES.**—On Friday 30th the award in the claim of the operatives in the North of England manufactured iron trade was issued at Middlesbore. It grants 6d. per ton on puddling and 5 per cent. on other wages, or half of the advance claimed.

**THE NEWPORT (MON.) PILOT.**—The *Railway Review* gives the following list of hours worked on the notorious Newport pilot on the dates as under: Sept. 25th, 22 hours 40 minutes; 26th, 26 h. 5 m.; 27th, 23 h. 10 m.; 28th, 22 h. 40 m.; 29th, 21 h. 5 m.; Oct. 2nd, 22 h. 25 m.; 3rd, 20 h. 30 m.; 4th, 19 h. 40 m.; 5th, 24 h.; 6th, 25 h. 10 m.

**LOCK-OUT AT BARROW.**—The men employed at the blast furnaces, Barrow, left off work in a body on Dec. 2nd, their notice for an advance of wages having expired. Eleven furnaces are standing idle. The Steel Company have in consequence closed both the iron and steel works, over three thousand men being locked out. It is expected the dispute will be of short duration.

**NORTH OF ENGLAND IRONWORKERS.**—The award of Dr. Spence Watson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, in the matter of the wages in the North of England iron trade, was received in Middlesbrough on Nov. 30th. He decides that from and after Nov. 24th there shall be an increase of 6d. per ton on puddling, and 5 per cent. on all other tonnage rates and wages governed by the decision of the board.

**SOUTH WALES MINERS.**—According to the sliding-scale in operation, as things stand, the miners get 1-16th of the price of a ton of coal, but when the price increases, their wages do not go up in proportion. £6 represents 15 tons at 8s. per ton. The workman gets £1 out of the £6; but when the price increases he only gets 1½d. on every 1s., so that when 15 tons realises £12 his proportion is 50 per cent. The average wage is 3s. 4d. per day of 9½ hours.

**WORKINGTON IRONWORKERS.**—The Hematite Ironworks are idle in consequence of a strike. The barrowmen received notice for alterations to be made in certain of their duties. These they would not agree to carry out, and were accordingly discharged, other men being engaged in their places. The employment of the new hands displeased the furnacemen, and they refused to work any longer. There is no likelihood of a settlement being come to at present. About 500 men are affected.

**RIVET-MAKERS' WAGES.**—An appeal has been issued to masters in rivet trade in Blackheath and Old Hill districts to convene a meeting with a view of placing the trade on a better basis. There appears to be a disposition on the part of some of the employers to concede a portion of the 4s. list until the end of the present year, and then if the trade warrants it, to consider whether the operatives should receive a further advance. Should the whole of the employers agree to this proposal, it is anticipated that the rivet-makers will accept the offer.

**CALENDERERS' STRIKE.**—The strike at Dundee has been settled by the acceptance of both parties of the compromise submitted by Provost Hunter that the 5 per cent. advance be conceded on 14th December. The masters wanted to delay the advance till after the new-year holidays, and the workers demanded it for 1st December. The girls working in Dundee calenderers have formed a union to protect their interests. The Dundee and District Mill and Factory Operatives' Union have also accepted the compromise suggested by Provost Hunter to accept 5 per cent. on 14th December.

**EDINBURGH TRADES COUNCIL.**—At the fortnightly meeting, Nov. 27th, Mr. Bell called attention to the strike settlement at Leith Gasworks. He also referred to the pensioning of officials in contrast to the treatment of the workmen, who were dismissed after spending the best of their days in the laborious work of the trust, and Mr. McLean expressed the opinion that working men should bear in mind what had been done by the officials they return to their councils. Mr. Noble thought the matter showed immorality on the part of the officials representing them, who ought never to set their faces in a church as Christians. It is but natural officials should victimise workers and favour other officials with undue rewards, for "a fellow feeling makes us wondrous kind."

**STEAM-COAL HEWERS' WAGES.**—The standard wage per day of Northumberland coal hewers previous to last strike was 5s. 2d.—that is to say, that was the average made on the whole, for all men do not make alike. They are paid by the quantity they hew. The wages at the end of the strike were reduced 12½ per cent. at the steam-coal pits, so that they now are 4s. 6½d., or about that sum. "stowers" and "shooters" and other off men receive from about 3s. to 4s. per shift. Men living rent free in colliery houses (and the greater number do), and having coal supplied to them, receive what is estimated to be equal to 11d. per shift added to their wages. The men who do not live in colliery houses are allowed from 1s. 6d. to 2s. per week by the coalowners towards the rent they have to pay. There are generally fairly large gardens connected with colliery houses from which industrious men raise a good deal of produce. An average of about 8 days per fortnight out of a possible 11 days is what may be estimated throughout the year. This would give 208 working days per annum. Some pits have worked from 9 to 10 days per fortnight during the past two years, most have been working about full time recently, but 8 days per fortnight seems a fair average all the year round. Deductions: School fees, 6d.; doctor, 6d.; house and coals, 1s.; for weighing, 3d.; pick sharper, 3d.; permanent fund, 7d.; powder and candles, etc., 2s. 6d. Total during fortnight, 5s. 7d. There might be added to this a small amount paid to union, but not more than half the miners, indeed less than half, belong to the association. The men living in rented houses are supplied with coal free.—*Colliery Guardian*.

**DUNDEE BLACKSMITHS.**—The blacksmiths in the shipbuilding yards, who have been on strike for three weeks, resumed work 27th November. They asked an advance of 2s. per week, and struck because the employers only offered 1s. They went in on 1s. 6d. per week advance.

**ABERDEEN COTTON MILLS.**—In accordance with the decision given by Sheriff Wilson in the question submitted to his arbitration in September by the managers and employés of Bannermill Cotton Works, the directors decided on December 3rd to give a general advance of wages from the beginning of this month.

**MIDLAND WAGES BOARD.**—This seems to be in a bad condition, but efforts are being made to pull it together again. A recent meeting resolved: "That the operative members of the Wages Board shall request the President to convene, at the earliest possible convenience, a meeting of the whole board, to consider its present position, and supply information to the operatives as to the actual number of works where employers and workmen are jointly or otherwise subscribers to the funds and amenable to the awards of the Board, and to take such steps as may be necessary by broadening the basis of representation, or alteration of present constitution, to induce the majority of both employers and workmen in the district to become members of and subscribers to the board."

**SCOTCH MINERS.**—The Airdrie miners have unanimously passed a resolution for another advance of 5 per cent., in addition to the 10 per cent. already conceded, and to abide by the five days per week policy. The Fife miners have been offered 5 per cent. advance by the masters, not, as the latter say, on their being warranted to do so by the state of trade, but in the hope that their attempt to raise prices would be successful. This 5 per cent. offered is only half of the advance conceded by the masters in other districts. At a delegate meeting of Lanarkshire miners, Nov. 29th, a statement of selling prices was submitted, which, it was argued, gave proof that the men are entitled to a 20 per cent. advance (1s. per day) from September prices. 131 works in the country have received the 10 per cent. advance, and 61 the 7½ per cent. Deputations waited on the masters, and the latter, of course, replied that no advance could be given in the meantime.

**NOTTINGHAM TAILORS.**—A dispute has occurred here with the firm of Dixon and Parker. They do a large "slop" trade, and have a factory and about half a dozen sale shops. They have one shop (the most recently opened) which is advertised as a first class trade, and where good workmen are employed and very little machine work done. Of course they ought to have paid the best price of labour; but no. The coatmakers managed to get paid 4½d. per hour to the log of the town (5d. is paid by other first class firms), but the trouser-makers could not even get that. When a deputation waited on the manager of this particular shop, he refused to recognise the trade union, and said he would pay what he liked. Of course the men all came out then, and when they had been out a week he yielded thus far—to pay to the 4½d. log, but would not take back the same trouser-makers. And since, he has discharged three coatmakers, who will all be supported by the society till they get work. So as matters stand the dispute is not yet ended, and will be reopened at a more convenient time.—W. D.

## INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The manifestation which was held on December 2nd in commemoration of the death of the Socialist deputy Baudin, who was killed December 3, 1851, on the barricades of the rue St. Antoine, has passed off very quietly indeed, the Government having prohibited the entrance to the cemetery of Montmartre and also the making of any speeches. Floquet and Co. thought that their treasonable conduct would have been explained to the assembled masses of the people, and therefore they ordered that no speech was to be allowed. And strange to say, all the revolutionists gathered before the gates of the cemetery kept silent, and the manifestation was a completely *inerte* one, which sounds rather hard for a Paris demonstration. Anyhow, the enormous numbers of people assembled showed, even by their silence, that they were quite aware that Floquet is as much a danger to the maintenance of the Republic as Boulanger himself, and that both are equally enemies to the people and to France. So this manifestation has only been a kind of warning to them, and we hope that in a very near future France will, once for all, get rid of Boulangerism and Floquetism alike, and all their supporters, who, for a long time past, have made it their sole business to trade upon the people. France has become more corrupt now than it has ever been, even in the last years of the miserable Napoleonic era, and it is wellnigh time that all those contemptible "money-changers of the temple" should be swept away by the revolutionary masses, assembled in their thousands in order to do justice—at last!

BELGIUM.

The open-air propaganda is going on day after day at Brussels, in spite of the ridiculous decrees of some of the mayors of the suburbs, in spite also of the approval these mayors have met with from the chief burgomaster, M. Buis. The last-named gentleman thinks himself absolute master of Brussels, and gives orders broadcast to prosecute the Socialists, who very rightly laugh at him. Charles Warren has prevented meetings being held in Tafalgart Square; so he also, Buis Lilliput, proclaims them. At Liege and at Huy the workers have followed the example of their Brussels comrades and held successful open-air gatherings. They intend going on and defying at law any one of the silly magistrates who will try to make a dead letter of the stipulations of the Belgian constitution.

In the mining district of Le Centre, province Hainault, some two thousand miners are at strike, and meetings are held in several places in order to induce the workers to follow suit. It is certain that in the course of a few days the strike will become a general one. The Government, stupid as usual, have already sent their soldiery to the spot, and that is the very way to create disturbances. Revolver shots have been exchanged between toilers and gendarmes, and one of the "law and order" men has been wounded. The wives of the strikers are particularly excited; they encourage their husbands to make it this time a hard nut to crack for the capitalists. *Vous frapperons un grand coup*, is the phrase they generally use to show what they intend to do.

We have received the following telegram: "The Socialist and Republican Congress of working men assembled at Chatelet, to-day (Dec. 4th) resolved, by 35 against 17 votes, that a general strike should be commenced immediately."

V. D.

## ITALY.

The strike of the silk weavers of Varese has brought some slight advantages to the workers. The principal firms have granted the small increase of 1½d. to 2d. per working day, which will be in the future 10½ hours. Fines are to be restricted to cases of wilful damage to the materials and the machinery. When the strike came to an end in Varese, it spread all over the province and town of Como. More than 4,000 silk-weavers, men and women, resolved at two enthusiastic meetings held in Como on the 18th and 19th of November, to strike for an increase of wages. The resolution arrived at shows how far these wages have gone down during the last few years; it demands the revival of the tariff of 1883, for the workers in both town and country. As an answer, the employers offered a general reduction of 10 per cent. of the tariff in question, and on the refusal on the part of the workers a board of arbitration was formed, which consisted of ten employers and ten workers, presided over by the mayor. Finally, a new tariff was drawn up and approved of by both parties, which forms a compromise between the tariff of 1883 and the present starvation wages. Our comrades of Milano, who rightly feared that the workers would be cheated out of their original position, tried to induce them to take a firmer stand against the doubtful kindness of the mayor and the obstinate spirit of the employers, but failed.

A strike of the tram-conductors of Bologna has ended in the defeat of the men, who had to submit to the conditions of the directors. The supposed ringleaders of the strike were refused re-admission to service.

A short strike of the cab-drivers of Genoa was more fortunate, the men having succeeded in some points.

The journeymen bakers of Venezia, who struck work on the 24th of November, have very little chance of carrying their points. They are not well organised, have no money, and are interfered with by the government, who have sent military bakers to take the place of the strikers, all of course to illustrate the principle of non-interference in economical matters!

In Parliament, many measures have been passed which have a direct bearing on the labour movement, as for instance, the law of public security, containing the organisation of the police, on whom it confers the power of restricting the freedom of speech, and of placing under police supervision suspicious characters. Working-men are in future saddled with a little book, a sort of passport, that is to show their movements, and will—in spite of all the protests to the contrary on the part of the government—be used to mark out the black sheep amongst them. Comrade Costa made a hopeless stand against all these reactionary proposals, much to the dismay of Signor Crispi, who on one occasion furiously retorted to Costa's protest: "We know you, we know you well. You have words, words, empty words, but no deeds." This is indeed a true and humiliating reminder to the whole Labour party, but becomes in Parliament and from the mouth of a prime minister a most vile and despicable provocation. It seems, however, as if Signor Crispi would not have it all his own perfidious way in matters of foreign policy. His vain-glorious alliance with Germany and Austria is ruining the country with taxation, and is bound to draw it into a disgraceful war with the French Republic. Hence it meets with a very strong resistance from the whole nation. Everywhere peace societies are formed. The working-men are going ahead. Independently from and unlike the middle-class combinations, they mean business. At a mass meeting in Milano, 46 labour societies have sent forth a manifesto against national wars. "The enemies we have to fight," they say in it, "are ignorance, injustice, and misery. Those who speak of national honour and dignity remind one of the *Pelagra*. This fell disease is brought on by chronic starvation through the exclusive use of *polenta* (Indian corn-cake) among the Italian peasantry." They further point to the constantly increasing emigration, the wholesale exodus of poverty-stricken people flying from their native soil. "If," they exclaim in conclusion, "Italy has a mission amongst the nations, it must be that of peace and humanity!"

H. SCH.

## CIGAR MACHINES IN ENGLAND.

I HAD occasion to comment on this subject some time ago in *Commonweal*, in order to show that in all probability machinery in this trade will, before long, nearly supplant manual labour. Many still entertain the belief that machine work will never be successful in this trade. A circular, however, has just been issued which bids fair to disappoint these sanguine workmen. I will just give sufficient extract from it to show how these machines are being developed, without advertising the firm who supplies them:—

"... It is of interest though to know that this will not be achieved at the expense of the workers, since the machines are so happily devised as to bring relief not only to manufacturers, the trader and consumer, but provide in many ways a vastly enlarged field for the employment of manual labour as well, especially for females (!) . . . To show the advantages of these machines over hand labour, we will suppose 10,000 cigars are to be covered and finished daily, the bunches being prepared already in forms, giving every advantage to skilled labour, a clever hand-maker may turn out 400 cigars per day, accordingly 25 skilled workmen would be required to do the work. To accomplish this, two sets of the improved cigar machines worked by six hands would suffice. The immense saving in wages of 25 skilled cigar makers, as compared with those paid to the more or less ordinary workers employed in the machine, we leave to the consideration of manufacturers having to depend necessarily more or less upon the condition of labour ruling in the various countries they live in. In order to put the advantages derived from the improvements in the proper light, it should be borne in mind that the machines have been worked up to the present moment advantageously without the said improvements, in both France and the United States of America. Consequently, the product of the machines being at the present juncture at least doubled, and the last shred of skilled labour done away with, they ensure the manufacturer an enviable independence."

The audacity of the firm who supply these machines becomes apparent on reading the circular, which pretends to benefit the workers by the introduction of them. But they would become a boon to the workers providing that they were the acknowledged property of the workers of the country; but while they remain in the hands of a few monopolists, who will ever use the machines to grind profit for themselves, they will grind out the lives of the workers in the process.

H. DAVIS.

**Notice.**—All letters on League business, except those intended for Editors of *Commonweal*, to be addressed to me. No other person is authorised to sign any official communication.

FRANK KITZ, Secretary.

## THE ONE THOUGHT.

ALEXANDER PETÖFI (Magyar poet of 1848).

ONE thought lies heavy on my heart,  
One only thought—that I  
On the soft bed of indolence  
May pass away and die,  
May fade, as slowly fades the flower,  
When wanes its little day;  
A beautiful, but a useless life,  
To lead and then decay.  
May pale as pales the flickering light  
Of Morning's latest star,  
When comes the Day God from the East  
In his triumphant car.  
Great Father, grant this may not be;  
Let not thy Magyar name  
Be linked with such a fate as this,  
With such a death of shame;  
A rock torn from a mountain brow,  
A storm-uprooted tree,  
A lightning struck and blasted tree,—  
No, rather let it be  
A death where meets the fettered race  
Tired with its galling chain,  
In mustered rank and serried line  
Upon the battle plain;  
With Red Flag flashing to the breeze  
Its characters of gold,  
The sacred signal there inscribed  
For despots to behold;  
The signal that sends far and wide  
The summons to be free,  
To East, to West, to North, to South,  
For the Worlds Liberty.  
There would I fight the glorious fight,  
There in my heart's blood lie,  
And battling in a glorious Cause,  
Be well content to die.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## "ANARCHISM."

On Sunday evening, the following resolution was passed:—"That the Bermondsey Branch of the S.D.F. regrets that most of the prominent members of the Federation seem to have practically boycotted the noble wife of the heroic Anarchist Parsons, who has lately visited this country; and they utterly deprecate the latter portion of the last "Tell Tale Straw" on page 4 of *Justice*, Dec. 1st, which confounds the anarchism of the present system with the noble Cause for which Parsons and his brave comrades have died, and for which some of them are now suffering imprisonment; and they wish to state that this is not the view held by Social Democrats generally."

—Yours fraternally,  
592, Old Kent Road, Bermondsey, S.E.

THOMAS SMALLWOOD.

## THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

**Executive.**—At the meeting of Council on Monday, it was resolved that none but members be admitted to sittings of Council, and that the members be asked by steward to produce their cards.

## CHICAGO MARTYRS COMMEMORATION FUND.

Already acknowledged—£31 17s. 2½d. Received—Proceeds of Concert at Communist Club, 49, Tottenham Street. £2 6s. 4d.; collection at South Place, £1 11s. 8½d.; profit on literature at South Place, 7s. 2½d. Total, £36 2s. 5½d.

J. LANE, Treasurer.

## REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—On Sunday, Dec. 2, successful "social" evening held by members and friends. 2s. 6d. collected.—B.

FULHAM.—Tuesday evening, back of Wallham Green Church, Bullock, Beasley, and Tochatti spoke to good meeting. Sunday morning, opposite Railway Station, Leonard Hall and Bullock, and A. K. Donald (Labour Union) spoke. In rooms at 8.30, F. Verinder (G.S.M.) lectured on "A Churchman's Plea for Free Schools." Questions and discussion followed.—S. B. G.

HAMMERSMITH.—Latimer Road on Sunday morning at 11.30, usual meeting; good number mustered. Choir sang several songs; Astbury, Davies, Lyles, and Maughan were speakers; well received. Good sale of *Wear*. Weltje Road at 11.30, meeting opened by J. Tochatti; Catterson Smith followed. Starch Green good meeting at 8 o'clock, Mordhurst and Davies speaking, making a great impression on the Radicals, who requested them to come again. Weltje Road at 7 o'clock, meeting held by Lyne, L. Hall, C. Smith, and Tochatti. Choir sang "No Master"; good sale of *Wear*; altogether a most successful meeting.

ABERDEEN.—No open-air meeting on Saturday night owing to wind and rain. At indoor meeting on 26th ult., Barrow delivered lecture on "Society as it is, and as it might be," to good audience.

GLASGOW.—Sunday no meeting at 2.30 on Jail Square owing to rain. At 5.30, Downie, Joe Burgoyne, and Glasier spoke at Paisley Road. We have started taking collections at the latter place for propaganda. The new departure has not proved an extraordinary success. Last Sunday we got 9d.; the Sunday before, 1s. Convictionists will sacrifice their lives much readier than their purses for their convictions.

IPSWICH.—Thursday Nov. 29, Read lectured in Pioneer Hall on "Co-operation." Good discussion followed; Creed in chair. Sunday, A. Spink lectured upon "What is Home Rule?" H. Brown in chair; good discussion.—J. T.

NORWICH.—Thursday, Mowbray continued his series of lectures on "Universal History." On Sunday, in Market Place, our usual open-air meeting addressed by Mowbray. At Gordon Hall, Mowbray delivered a very interesting address upon "The Philosophy of Anarchism."

**LECTURE DIARY.**

LONDON.

**Bloomsbury.**—This Branch is now actively working. Socialists resident in this locality should send their names in at once to 13 Farringdon Road.  
**Camberwell Green.**—3, Datchelor Place, Church St. Meeting next Monday at 7.30 p.m.  
**Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday December 9, at 7 p.m., Special Business Meeting. At 8.30, a Lecture.  
**Fulham.**—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Committee meetings are held on Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock sharp. All members are earnestly requested to attend. Sunday December 9, at 8 p.m., J. Macdonald, "Practical Socialism."  
**Hackney.**—Secretary, E. Lefevre, 14 Goldsmiths Sq., Goldsmiths Row, Hackney Road. The next meeting of members will be held at 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick, on Sunday Dec. 9, at 5.30 p.m. All members are requested to attend.  
**Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday December 9, at 8 p.m., A. W. Thompson, "The Peasants' War." Wednesday Dec. 12, at 8 p.m., William Morris, "The Future of the Middle Classes."  
**Hoxton.**—12, Basing Place, Kingsland Rd. Business meetings of this branch are held every Friday evening at 9 o'clock.  
**London Fields.**—All communications, etc., to Mrs. G. G. Schack, 26 Cawley Road, South Hackney.  
**Merton.**—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singlegate. Lecture on Sunday evenings at 8.30.  
**Mile-end and Bethnal Green.**—95 Boston St., Hackney Road.  
**North London.**—Secretary, Nelly Parker. Business meetings held on Friday evenings at 6 Windmill St., Tottenham Court Road, after open-air meeting at Ossulton Street.  
**Walworth and Camberwell.**—C. Henze, 41 Bolton St., Thomas Street, Kennington Park, S.E.  
**Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.**—Meets at the International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road, on Saturdays at 7.30 p.m.

**PROVINCES.**

**Aberdeen** (Scottish Section).—Secretary, P. Barron, 14 Ann Street. Branch meets in Oddfellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8.  
**Bristol.**—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivelgate. Meets Tuesdays at 8.  
**Carnoustie** (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. Samuel Wilson, Secy.  
**Dumfries** (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.  
**Edinburgh** (Scottish Land and Labour League).—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8 p.m.  
**Glasgow** (Scot Sect).—J. Walker, 184 Glendinning Terrace, secy.  
**Gallatin and Dysart** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatin Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.  
**Glasgow.**—84 John Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Weekly meeting of members on Thursday evenings at 8. French Class meets every Sunday at 11.  
**Ipswich.**—Pioneer Hall, Tacket Street. Meets on Sunday evenings. Members are requested to turn up on Monday at 7 p.m. sharp.  
**Kilmarnock.**—Secretary, H. McGill. 22 Gilmour St. Branch meets on every alternate Tuesday.  
**Leeds.**—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Rd. and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m. communications to T. Paylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds. Sunday Dec. 9, 7.30, T. Paylor, "What we Want, and How to Get It." 16th, T. Maguire, "Leeds and its Inhabitants" (with lime-light illustrations).  
**Leicester.**—Hosiery Union Offices, 11a Millstone Lane. Fridays at 8 p.m.  
**Norwich.**—Sunday, at 8, Gordon Hall. Monday, at 8, Meeting in Gordon Hall. Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting. Wednesday, at 8, Educational Class—subject, "International Revolutionary Socialism." Thursday, at 8, Lecture in the Gordon Hall by comrade Mowbray, subject "Life and Times of Edward III."; tickets 1d. each.  
**Oxford.**—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m.  
**Walsall.**—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.  
**West Calder** (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

All persons who sympathise with the views of the Socialist League are earnestly invited to communicate with the above addresses, and if possible help us in preparing for the birth of a true society, based on equality, brotherhood, and freedom for all.

**OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.**

SUNDAY 9.

11.30...Latimer Road Station...Hammersmith Branch  
 11.30...Mitcham Fair Green...Turner  
 11.30...Regent's Park...Parker  
 11.30...Walham Green, opp. Station...The Branch  
 11.30...Weltje Rd., Ravenscourt Pk...Hammersmith  
 3.30...Hyde Park...Nicoll  
 7.30...Broad Street, Soho...Brookes  
 7.30...Clerkenwell Green...Nicoll

**Tuesday.**  
 8.30...Fulham—back of Walham Green Ch. ...Branch  
**Friday.**  
 7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton Street .....Cores

**EAST END.**

SUNDAY 9.

Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Nicoll.  
**FRIDAY.**  
 Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Kitz & Parker.

**PROVINCES.**

**Aberdeen.**—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7 p.m.  
**Glasgow.**—Sunday: Glasgow Green at 2 p.m.; Paisley Road at 5.30.  
**Ipswich.**—  
 Sproughton, Wednesday evening.  
 Westerfield, Thursday evening.  
 Needham Market, Sunday morning and evening.  
**Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.  
**Norwich.**—Sunday: Market Place, at 11 and 3. St Catharine's Plain, Friday at 8.30 p.m.

PLUMSTEAD RADICAL CLUB, 58 Walmer Road.—Rev. S. D. Headlam. Sunday Dec. 9.  
 STOCKWELL.—Rev. S. D. Headlam, "Christian Socialism." Thursday, Dec. 13, at 8 p.m.  
 HAILSHAM, NATIONAL SCHOOL.—Mr. F. W. Crowther, "Lights and Shades; a Picture of Society." Monday Dec. 10.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, HAMMERSMITH.—Rev. F. L. Donaldson, M.A. (Special Sermon), "The State of Society." Sunday Dec. 9, at 5 p.m.

BERMONDSEY WORRING MEN'S INSTITUTE, Fort Rd.—Mr. H. W. Hill, "The Land Question for Townsfolk." Saturday Dec. 15, at 8 p.m.

CHARLTON LIBERAL CLUB, The Planes, Lower Rd., Charlton.—Mr. F. Verinder, "The Taxation of Ground Rents and Values." Friday Dec. 14.

CHELSEA BRANCH S.D.F., Pelham Rooms, Kimbolton Row, Fulham Road, S.W.—Sunday Dec. 9, at 8 p.m., Hubert Bland, "Nihilism."

STREATHAM LIBERAL CLUB, Broadway.—Rev. T. Hill, "The Elements of Liberalism and Conservatism in the Christian Religion." Tuesday Dec. 11, at 8.

The Mitcham Branch is about to be reconstituted. All desirous of helping in the work of the S. L. in and around Mitcham, Merton, and Streatham should communicate with comrade J. Campbell, 98 Wellfield Road, Streatham.

EAST-END PROPAGANDA COMMITTEE.—The discussion on Saturday evening, 8.30, at Berner Street Club, will be opened by W. E. Parker—subject, "Mrs. Parsons' Visit to England: What it has effected." All members should turn up.

LEICESTER.—A course of lectures on "Socialism, its Aims and Principles" is being delivered in Leicester Secular Hall. The third lecture will be delivered on Sunday Dec. 9 by William Clarke—subject, "The Industrial Aspect." Dec. 30: Sydney Oliver, "The Moral Aspect."

THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—The Committee will meet at the house of S. Oliver, 239 Trafalgar Street, Walworth Road, on Saturday Dec. 8 and Dec. 15, at 7.30 p.m., to receive subscriptions and enrol members. Friends in South London particularly requested to be present.

SOUTH LONDON.—Friends who are willing to form a Branch of the Socialist League in South London will please place themselves in communication with C. Henze, 41 Bolton Street, Thomas Street, Kennington Park, S.E., or by letter to H. Hopkins, 17 Gaisloch Road, Shenley Road, Peckham, S.E.

**SOCIALIST LEAGUE LITERATURE.**

- Chants for Socialists. By William Morris. . 1d
- Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades' Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Binning (London Society of Compositors). . 1d
- The Commune of Paris. By E. Belfort Bax, Victor Dave, and William Morris. . 2d
- The Aims of Art. By Wm. Morris. Biju edition, 3d.; Large paper, 6d.
- The Rights of Labour according to John Ruskin. By Thomas Barclay. . 1d
- The Tables Turned; or, Nupkins Awakened. A Socialist Interlude. By William Morris. In Wrapper . 4d.
- The Manifesto of the Socialist League. Annotated by E. Belfort Bax and William Morris. An exposition of the principles on which the League is founded. . 1d
- Useful Work v. Useless Toil. By William Morris. . 1d
- "All for the Cause!" Song. Words by William Morris; Music by E. Belfort Bax. 4to, 4 pp. 6d. per dozen, 4s. 6d
- "Vive la Commune!" Cartoon by Walter Crane. Best paper. . 2d.
- Mrs. Grundy (Cartoon). By Walter Crane. Fine hand-made large paper. . 6d.

**BOOKS FOR SALE.**

History of American Socialisms. (Noyes). Quite new. 8s. 6d. (published at 15s.).  
 Life of William Lovett. New. 3s. 6d. (pub. 5s.).  
 Men of the Time. A useful Dictionary of Biography. 5s. (pub. 12s. 6d.).  
 Manual for Co-operators.  
 Co-operative Agriculture.  
 Hone's Ancient Mysteries.  
 Burke on the Evils of all State Governments. 1s., post free.  
 Secret Societies of the European Revolution. (Frost.) 2 vols., newly bound, 7s.  
 Volney's Ruins. 2s.  
 Corbett's Life and Grammar. New, 3s. 6s.  
 Work and Pay. (Levi.)  
 Four Civilisations of the World. (Wikoff.)  
 Fors Clavigera. (John Ruskin.) Unbound numbers early.  
 Wanderings in North and South Wales. (Roscoe.) 2 vols., neatly bound. Full of Engravings. 50s.  
 Harriet Martineau—History of England, 1800-1815. 1 vol. History of the Thirty Years' Peace, 1816-1846. 4 vols. 12s. 6d. (pub. 17s. 6d.)  
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Country friends will be well advised to write for particulars. THOMAS SHORE, jun., 33 Newington Green Road, Balls Pond, London, N.

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