NEWS FROM NOWHERE:

AN EPOCH OF REST.

BEING SOME CHAPTERS FROM A UTOPIAN ROMANCE.

CHAP. XVIII. Peculiarly How the Change Came.

"What stood in the way of this?" said I.

"Why, of course," said he, "just that instinct for freedom aforesaid. It is true that the slave-class could not conceive the happiness of a free life. Yet they grew to understand (and very speedily too) that they were oppressed by their masters, and they assumed, you see how justly, that they could do without them, though perhaps they scarce knew how; so that it came to this, that though they could not look forward to the happiness of the peace of the free man, they did look forward to the war which should bring that peace about."

"Could you tell me rather more closely what actually took place?" said I; for I thought him rather vague here.

"Yes," he said, "I can. That machinery of life for the use of people who didn't know what they wanted of it, and which was known at the time as State Socialism, was partly put in motion, though in a very piecemeal way. But it did not work smoothly; it was, of course, resisted at every turn by the capitalists; and no wonder, for it tended more and more to upset the commercial system I have told you of, without providing anything really effective in its place. The result was growing confusion, great suffering amongst the working classes, and, as a consequence, great discontent. For a long time matters went on like this. The power of the upper classes had lessened as their command over wealth lessened, and they could not carry things wholly by the hand as they had been used to in earlier days. On the other hand, the working classes were ill-organised, and growing poorer in reality, in spite of the gains (also real in the long run) which they had forced from the masters. Thus matters hung in the balance; the masters could not reduce their slaves to complete subjection, though they put down some feeble and partial riots easily enough. The workers forced their masters to grant them ameliorations, real or imaginary, of their condition, but could not force freedom from them. At last came a great crash. On some trilling occasion a great meeting was summoned by the workmen leaders to meet in Trafalgar Square (about the right to meet in which place there had for long been bickerings). The civic bourgeoisie guard (called the police) attacked the said meeting with cudgels, according to their custom; many people were hurt in the mêlée, of whom five in all died, either trampled to death on the spot, or from the effects of their ougilling; the meeting was scattered, and some hundred of prisoners cast into goal. A similar meeting had been treated in the same way a few days before at a place called Manchester, which has now disappeared. The whole country was thrown into a ferment by this; meetings were held which attempted some rough organisation for the holding of another meeting to resort on the authorities. A huge crowd assembled in Trafalgar Square and the neighbourhood (then a place of crowded streets), and was too big for the cudgel-armed police to cope with; there was a good deal of day-blow fighting; three or four of the people were killed, and half a score of policemen were crushed to death in the throng, and the rest got away as they could. The next day all London (remember what it was in those days) was in a state of turmoil. Many of the rich fled into the country; the executive got together and, but did not dare to use them; and the police could not cope with the rioters or threats of riots were everywhere. But in Manchester, where the people were not so courageous or not so desperate as in London, several of the popular leaders were arrested. In London a convention of leaders was got together, and sat under the old revolutionary name of the Committee of Public Safety; but as they had no organised body of men to direct, they attempted to suppress any measures, but only placarded the walls with somewhat vague appeals to the workmen not to allow themselves to be tramelled upon. However, they called a meeting in Trafalgar Square for the day fortnight after the last-mentioned skirmish. Meanwhile the town grew no quieter, and business came pretty much to an end. The newspapers — then, as always hitherto, almost entirely in the hands of the masters — clamoured to the Government for repressive measures; the rich citizens were enrolled as an extra body of police, to be armed with cudgels like them; many of these were strong, well-fed, full-blooded young men, and had plenty of stomach for fighting; but the government did not dare to use them, and contented itself with getting full powers voted to it by the Parliament for suppressing any revolt, and bringing up more and more soldiers to London. Thus passed the week after the great meeting; almost as large a one was held on the Sunday, which went off peaceably on the whole, at no opposition to it was offered. But on the Monday the people woke up to find that they were hungry. During the last few days there had been groups of men parading the streets asking (or, if you please, demanding) money to buy food; and what for goodwill, what for fear, the richer people gave them a good deal. The authorities of the parishes also (I haven't time to explain that phrase at present) gave willy-nilly what provisions they could to wandering people; and the Government, which had by that time established some feel good for the greater workshops, also fed a good number of half-starved folk. But in addition to this, several bakers' shops and other provision stores had been emptied without a great deal of disturbance. So far, so good. But on the Monday in question the Committee of Public Safety, on the one hand afraid of general unorganised pillage, and on the other emboldened by the waving conduct of the authorities, sent a deputation provided with carts and all necessary gear to clear out three big provision stores in the centre of the town, leaving blank
papers promising to pay the prize of them with the shop managers; and also in the part of the town where they were strongest they took possession of several bakers' shops and set men at work in them for the benefit of the people,—all of which was done with little or no disturbance in keeping order at the sack of the stores as they would have done at a big fire.

But at this last stroke the reactionaries were so alarmed that they were determined to force the executive into action. The newspapers next day all blazed into the fury of frightened people, and threatened the government, and everybody they could think of, unless 'order' were at once restored. A deputation of leading commercial people waited on the government, and told them that if they did not at once arrest the Committee of Public Safety, they themselves would gather a body of men, arm them, and fall on the 'incendiarists,' as they called them.

William Morris, together with a number of the newspaper editors, had a long interview with the heads of the government and two or three military men, the deftest in their art that the country could furnish. The impression that my interview made upon them was that if they adopted a policy of force they would at once be in the service of the public safety, they themselves would gather a body of men, arm them, and fall on the 'incendiarists,' as they called them.

In London—another thing common enough amongst the absolutist governments on the Continent, but unheard of in England in those days. They appointed the youngest and cleverest of their generals to command the proclamation of a state of siege in a spirit of fairness and justice in disgraceful wars in which the country had long engaged in from time to time. The newspapers were in existence, and all the most fervent of the reactionaries on the front of public and ordinary life were forced to keep their opinions to themselves or their immediate circle, but who now began to look forward to crushing once for all the Socialists, and even democratic tendencies, which, said they, had been treated with such indulgence for the last twenty years.

But the clever general took no visible action; and yet only a few of the minor newspapers abused him; thoughtful men gathered from that a plan was hatching. A few days after, the government proclaimed a state of siege in London,—a thing common enough amongst the absolutist governments on the Continent, but unheard of in England in those days. They appointed the youngest and cleverest of their generals to command the proclamation of a state of siege in a spirit of fairness and justice in disgraceful wars in which the country had long engaged in from time to time. The newspapers were in existence, and all the most fervent of the reactionaries on the front of public and ordinary life were forced to keep their opinions to themselves or their immediate circle, but who now began to look forward to crushing once for all the Socialists, and even democratic tendencies, which, said they, had been treated with such indulgence for the last twenty years.

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The most serious of these were at Glasgow and Bristol.

THE CAUSE GOES MARCHING ON.

I have often met with those active Socialists who bewildered the "other intelligent classes to the teaching of Socialism," by their very speeches. I have often listened with feelings of contempt as they talked of being born 200 years or so too soon. They talked of the lull in the propaganda, and blanket on the work of all the workers and the spreading of the ideas; and the mischief of the Conservatives, and the March of economic events had come to a sudden standstill.

That there is a lull in one phase of the propaganda few will deny—the work in the streets is almost a thing of the past; but this is because it has done its work. The most unskilled and thoughtless artisan has now some notion of the meaning of the word Socialism. The outdoor propaganda may still be of great importance in many towns yet distant from the Centre; but in a man who had won a certain amount of reutation in London, and preached the gospel, no matter what the obstacles may be. A few years ago I wrote a great change in the character of the movement. The right wing continued to be a very small band, but in shape or form the ideas are part and parcel of almost every literary and political club in the kingdom, and form the raison d'être of the new trade unionism.

The work of the political parties towards social problems is a sufficient indication of the way in which the wind is blowing, and serves to show the strength of the movement towards Socialism. It is not so, perhaps, as in the 'Eight Hours' Bill before the eyes of the discontented workers, while other prominent politicians are fussing about the "housing of the poor," and other measures of an equally harmless import. While this legislation is still in the minority, and there is no Montesquieu excited —over the Parliamentary Game, nightly debating with seeming jest the most trifling incidents and measures, beneath it all lies a consciousness of danger, and a feeling that the first note in the war has been sounded.

Who sees and understands more clearly than the political parties the significance of House Rule! The Gladstonians fear it just as much as the Tories, and will seek to give the Irish people the more semblance of the thing. Well do they know that the Irish are alive to the economic problem, and each day of the delay is hastening the doom of landlordism and the emancipation of Labour.

In England and Scotland the attitude of the workers towards each other has undergone an entire change. Their complete regard for the ordinary evidence and solidarity is now springing up, and they know—or shall I say only half know yet—that the cause of one is the cause of all. That this feeling has not yet found expression in the programms of any great body of workers, is not to be wondered at when we consider the causes that have crystallised their apathy and indifference towards each other.

The time of degradation and social brutality like the present, when everything around us tends only to develop the meanest part of our nature and blot out the feeling of love, is it not inspiring to know that the cry of the "Brotherhood of Man" is becoming a living faith and potent factor in society? The young lives that are being wasted in parties are tearing each other's eyes out for place and power, and "coming to terms" with the new labour party, or concocting charges against each other in the interest of "labour" and the darling of the politicians from their material starvation, all the elements of a social conflagration are slowly but surely gathering. A few years back the most hopeful of Socialists would hardly have dreamt that the doctrine of equality and fraternity for all, had quietly taken such firm root, and found such ready advocates in so many unexpected quarters. To-day we cannot open a magazine, or even an "obscure country paper," without seeing an article on Socialism or a lively debate being going on in the press. Even the chauffeurs of the rich are forced to solicit articles on the subject, and find it more profitable than the dispensing of spiritual chloroform. Instead of a few energetic men attacking "the workers" in London, we have now quite an army of propagandists in every part of the country—in press and on platform—with attentive audience and readers.

"Docker's Strike has rung the death-knell of the old trades' unionism, and its leaders will soon take their departure and be heard of no more, for their occupation like Othello's will be gone. The government, the "Committee of Safety," the Socialists, and ordinary Londoners, will now be forced to keep their opinions to themselves or their immediate circle, but who now began to look forward to crushing once for all the Socialists, and even democratic tendencies, which, said they, had been treated with such indulgence for the last twenty years.

"A short time ago who would have dreamt of the Docker's Strike? Had any one predicted it he would simply have laughed at it, and called that most horrible nonsense—a dreamer's notion. But now the revolutions of the last few years are being felt by all, and the present order of things, in spite of all the coercive laws of Bismark and his one master, that the German Emperor will "dish" the Socialists by such adroit movements as one need fear; for, prop up the worker and the intellectual edifice as he may, he will still lack none of his class, and they will be poor without the help of the revolutionary politicians who have shown by their devotion and unswerving that the organisation of workers in the near future will be a much easier task than most of us thought.

The next depression in trade will soon be upon us, and what with the growing intelligence of the workers and the higher ideal of com-
NOTES FROM NOTTINGHAM.

Perhaps, of all our workers, none have more to suffer from the pressure of capitalism than the girls and women who work in the warehouses and factories. Nominally protected by the Factory Acts, whenever the work is too heavy, as it is nearly all the time, they do not have nearly all night for the miserable pittance which will result. To them, in the exercise of the "freedom of contract" which they possess, reflects upon them the whole of the work for which they work and to which they are destined to arrive. Then there are all sorts of regulations imposed to work, the spirit of the workers and render them docile serfs. The foremen are selected specially for their abilities to "zag" and "drive" the hands. The girls are particularly not too choicely in the language they address to an employer who has broken some of the regulations of the factory. In one great Nottingham establishment, where a number of women are employed, the manager occasionally struts down the room, and if one of the women should turn her head and be gauche to glance at the master-passer-by, she is instantly dismissed. This gentleman is a prominent Liberal, and a churchwarden, and his manner and deportment were most fit for a portrait of a pious father, is to be the Almighty's principal instrument in Mr. Gladstone to office at the general election. And yet a so-called leader paper, the "Nottingham Times," a few weeks ago devoted a long paragraph to putting this manager for his kindness to the workers, from among whom he has risen. In several large warehouses the girls are obliged to come half-an-hour earlier in the morning to hear some hired person preach and pray at them. One of these sky-pilots had the impudence to denounce his hearers because the ribbons they had managed to obtain for self-adornment, but for once he was not too much of a success. The girls in a body refused to attend service, and the pious employer had been driven out.

The most unsatisfactory aspect of the case is the way in which managers, sub-managers, chief clerks, and others in authority, use their power to their own advantage. They are not afraid of the law, and the army of despair which round the "Clarendon," the "Castle Combe," the glittering gin-palace known as the "Talking," is recruited from the weaker sisters of the warehouse. The result is a social ulcer which permeates the bourgeoisie in spite of its efforts to conceal it. One hears of aldermen slipping up back streets to brothels, of officers and their bosoms at the theatre, of the disappearance of an inconvenient witness in a police prosecution, because her evidence might compromise members of the Town Council; of lodging societies who are said to have kept a woman in almost every street, and who, at the ordinary meeting of the association went for a picnic at his expense. Naturally they thought no man could be more fitted to be their master—and perhaps they were right.

In the North of England, the Conservative bosses are bawled by a few money-bags. Mr. John Robinson, bookmaker and brewer, has been generous spring to which the Tories in the Eastern Division have gone, while Mr. R. G. Cole, a lace manufacturer, has been the moneyed man in the Western Division. Evidently they are fooled with the appearance of representation, the members of the different political bodies are as a rule a set of puppets to be pulled by strings. Thus the Town Council is bossed by the Town Clerk, the magisterial bench by the Chief Constable, the Board of Guardians and the School Board by their respective chairmen. The poor puppet has only a moment of time when it pulled in opposite directions, and I can fancy the typical workingman with a wet towel on his head and a cup of coffee in front of him, the great problem, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the trades unionist vote and lose W. H. Farming?

Our M.P.'s are a curious medley, worthy of their supporters. Broadbent, who has sold and betrayed the workers like the Judas that he is, the superior person; and Smith-Wright, a Jingoo banker. Not one has a thought for the interests of the workers, except to make his grocer's shop, and not one cares two pins for the welfare of the workers.

LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST SOCIETY.—On Sunday we held our meeting in the present meeting-room of the Long Slag. Barton (Manchester) and Balfour addressed those present. In the course of the meeting, the policy of the Society was too lenient. On our arrival in the morning at our usual stand, we found it occupied by a party of trade unionists, determined to move them, so while Barton addressed the meeting, and the member of the press was put into a formidable form, that we eventually got possession of the meeting room. They are strongly against us, declaring that the others had an equal right to the stand. So far as law goes this was true, but we determined to make our own law, and were successful. Thanks to the Christian interceders, we had the meeting held yet. It of literature sold; collection £8. R. C. C.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

The following telegram comes this morning from Chicago:

"Chicago, Ill., April 28.—Conference of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor was held this morning in New York and discussed the prospects of the eight hour movement. Samuel Gompers presented his first draft of the eight hour law. President P. J. McGuire, Treasurer Henry Krumm, and Secretary Evans. The conference was secret, and lasted several hours. The appeal from

"The Toilers of America, greeting. The meeting of determination on your part to hold the banner of the eight hour movement aloft and to carry it until victory shall have come, is hailed with rejoicing to the lovers of progress in our country, and finds a hearty and resounding echo in the hearts of labor troubles of Europe. Already are seen emperors, kings, autocrats, and all other tyrants of the world, as the cause of labour and progress, paralyzed and paralyzed with fear of the growing power of noble purposes and ideals. With the combined power of wealth and wealth not only to be concentrated to antagonize the introduction of the simple, beneficent, and essential improvement consequent upon the reduction in the hours of labour, but seeks to provoke you into a furious contest. The encouragement our movement has implanted among our fellow working people, and the corresponding antagonism manifestated on the part of our enemies, should convince us more than anything else that the policy we have thus far pursued is the one which will very soon be decided and whatever it may be,"

"The advice and suggestions thus far given and made for the conduct of our work have been of great use, but of course we have not reached the climax which to my mind will lead us to a greater degree of success than could otherwise have been the case. The Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor has selected the United Brotherhood of Carpenters to make the first and great en- forcement of the eight hour work day. I ask you to refrain from any sympathetic demonstration and support. Rather remain at your stations in your capacities in the contest. To the carpenters and joiners my advice is to demand and insist on the eight hour day. The enforcement of the eight hour day is a public act. It is a fact, that the question of wages and conditions will regulate themselves as soon as the eight hour work day has been in operation. For that reason, if you cannot secure the eight hour day for yourselves, you will combine power to demand it and the question of wages and conditions will regulate themselves as soon as the eight hour work day has been in operation. For that reason, if you cannot secure the eight hour day for yourselves, you will combine power to demand it and the eight hour work day will be secured."

Sergius S. Shevtchik has taken the lead in the agitation in the eight hour question in New York. It was said that but for the presence of the masi on the eighth hour work day—F. "Samuel Gompers."

The programme of the Boston carpenters for their action was announced to-day.

Gompers has said to a reporter: "The movement of 1886 was chaotic, disorganized, unscientific, and was defeated. It is necessary that we should stand up to it again. We will secure the eight hour day for the workmen of the world—not, if it takes summer, but if it takes all of our lives."

In Chicago, the newspapers, the most sensational articles about the action which might be expected by the workers of that city on the eight hour question. The "sable brute" of this city, Chicago have already appeared to Jim Blaine, Secretary of State in Washington, to the protection of the United States Government, as the authorities of Chicago State of Illinois are unable to protect them—so they say. "Moo about nothing.

In Boston, 1,000 packing-house men of Chicago, by a unanimous vote, decided yesterday afternoon to strike unless their request for an eight hour day is complied with.

A meeting of carpenters' delegates, representing 1,000 union carpenters out of a total of 3,000 in Philadelphia, adopted resolutions Saturday night, pledging themselves to maintain the demand for 35 cents an hour and to insist upon the payment of that sum on and after May 1.

A big labour demonstration took place Saturday night in favour of the eight hour movement. Between 3,000 and 4,000 representa- tives of the labour organization of the State gathered at Chalifant Square and were addressed by their leaders. They were advised to combine in order that the thing which was daily driving the working-men to starvation. Resolutions in support of eight-hour work were presented by F. H. Haas and Hugh O. Pentecost is doing splendid service. He is just now publishing in the Forethought of the century a series of articles written by the leaders of the different reform and labor movements. The last number contains an article by "Bob" King, and articles of Free Trade and on "Protec- tion."

As this paper has a circulation of 4,000 copies, the effects of the States, only good results can be expected from such an impartial publication of the different views.


HENRY F. CHAMBERLAIN.

BRATTLEBORO (Vt.).—On Sunday, three large meetings were addressed by Gen. Corning (London) and W. Fuller (Norwich) in the Market Place. The audiences at all the meetings were unusually large and enthusiastic. The speakers at the three meetings were addressed by the B. C. W. A. M. The last number contained an article by "Bob" Ingersoll, and articles of Free Trade and on Protection.

As this paper has a circulation of 4,000 copies, the effects of the States, only good results can be expected from such an impartial publication of the different views.

Boston, Mass., April 29, 1890.
OFFICES: 24 GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON, W.C.

THE COMMONWEAL
ONE PENNY, WEEKLY.

THE COMMONWEAL is the official organ of the Socialist League; but, unless definitely announced by the Editor, no article is to be taken as expressing in more than a general way the views of the League as a body. In accordance with the Manifesto and Statutes of Principles of the League, the COMMONWEAL is an exponent of International Revolutionary Socialism. On minor differences of opinion the widest freedom of discussion is maintained. As all articles are signed, no special signatures attach to their position in the paper. Articles and letters dealing with any phase of the social problem are invited and will meet with current consideration. They must be written on one side of the paper only, and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication. MS. can only be returned if stamped directed and accompanied by 1½d. Advertisements can only be inserted if unobjectionable in all particulars. Scales of charges and special quotations may be obtained from the Manager.

Franchise...in postages:—For British Islands, Europe, United States, and Canada, a year, 6s.; six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d. For Australia, New Zealand, Cape of Good Hope, South Tramontane, and the Argentine Republic, a year, 6s.; six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d. For India, Ceylon, China, Hong Kong, and the Straits Settlements, a year, 10s.; six months, 5s.; three months, 3s. 6d. Subscribers who receive a free wrapper are thereby reminded that their subscriptions have expired and must be renewed immediately if they wish to continue to receive COMMONWEAL.

STRAW'S FRANCHISES.—To do in operation, the principles, the following largely reduced terms are offered to those who obtain new subscriptions: Two new yearly subscriptions for British Islands, etc., 12s. 6d.; for Australia, etc., 15s.; for India, etc., 19s. Five new subscriptions for British Islands, etc., 15s.; for Australia, etc., 20s.; for India, etc., 24s. 6d. Specimen copies will be sent on receipt of postage.

Remittances from abroad must be made by International Money Order.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

R. W. B.—We regret to find your poem only badly published to standard practice. C. B. (Liverpool).—The photos of Chicago anarchists can be obtained from comsurgists A. P. Forward, America Station, 572 Washington Avenue, New York, 50c. each.

L. H. (Salt Lake).—We have something more important to do than to quarrel over details of future society. Most certainly no intelligent reader of the COMMONWEAL has been unsympathetic as regards parliamentarianism, and we believe L. H. Wood (Detroit, Mich.).—Thank you for communications, which, however, we regret to be unable to utilize.

“A PLEA FOR THOSE WHO LABOUR.”—We regret to find this poem unsuitable, even though it was not sent anonymously.

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Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday May 21.

NOTES.

Probably Mr. Stanley thought he was quite safe at the Guildhall the other night, when he fell foul of the Quakers. Unlike the honest tar in the Savoy opera, who thought the "hitting of a gal was a luberry thing to do," Mr. Stanley liked fighting when there is no chance of effective retaliation. Bullying a Quaker, he doubtless thought, was as safe and exciting as shooting down naked savages with an elephant gun or repeating rifle. He has now found out his mistake, and has made himself look a fool out of the bargain.

Stanley's accusation against Mr. Pease of having attacked the East African Company for their employment of slaves was quite unfounded, and on Mr. Pease demanding a public apology, in the cool, quiet, fashion peculiar to Quakers, the great explorer has had to eat the leak, though he has not accomplished the feat with a very good grace. It is rather amusing to see the fierce African butcher conquered by a mild, peaceable Quaker.

As to Stanley's other charge against the Quakers, of being indifferent to the suppression of the slave-trade, Mr. Pease has done well to leave Mr. Stanley contemptuous of "the judgments of the public. He has only the Quakers do their utmost in this direction, but they have always been noted for their kind treatment of native races. They have been hungry for profit, it is true, but the blood of murdered savages does not cry from the ground against them. Elephant rifles and explosive bullets have not played their part in their commercial propaganda.

Mr. Pease, however, did ask a question about the employment of slaves in Africa, but it was not about the slaves of the East African Company, but concerning the slaves of Stanley. It appears that, according to the admissions of the Government in reply to a question of Mr. Pease in Parliament on Wednesday May 7, the virtuous Mr. Stanley has been "suppressing" the slave-trade by utilising slaves as potters for his expeditions, and was told by his return to Zanzibar he had landed the slaves back to their masters, who took half their wages. We can understand now why so much flogging, etc., goes on in Stanley's expeditions. No wonder Stanley was wild with Mr. Pease for showing him up as a hypocritical fraud, who is always talking about his anxiety to "suppress" the slave-trade, and yet finds his chief allies among the slave-hunting cut-throats, and provides them with a profitable set for their wages by employing slaves for his caravans. Is this what Stanley calls "suppressing the slave-trade"? It is more like encouraging it.

But Stanley has still another cause for anger against Mr. Pease, who, it appears, had also called attention to the "Christian" enterprise of Stanley's friend and patron, Leopold of Belgium, who has been exporting 400 slaves from Zanzibar for the Congo Railway. When we remember that this "noble and public-spirited" monarch was denounced some time ago by a religious periodical as a frequenter of "fashionable gambling assemblages" in which he according to its editor, could sympathise with Stanley's indignation on his behalf. Like Mr. Stanley, this "noble" prince does good by stealth and blanches at its fame. He is of course perfectly qualified as a model of virtuous respectability "to impregnate the dull minds of Africans . . . with the light of religious ideas."

But Stanley was truly "elegant" when, amid an audience of Stock Exchange gamblers, tailor-fed aldermen, the most shameless collection of jobbers and robbers in existence, he declaimed upon the advantages of his civilising march—i.e., unlimited Bibles, bullets, and Christianity for the natives and a "hundred per cent. for investors. How Mr. Stanley's "Christian" friends from the Daily Telegraph must have rubbed their hands when they heard that eloquent sound fall from the lips of the inspired orator! We can fancy them exclaiming, "Van hundred per cent! Yes, yes, my dear Sir, I'm with you."

But under the assemblage was enthusiastic when Stanley denounced his opponents, and called down upon them the rebuke of "every man in whose soul the divine feeling of Christian charity is not quite dead. If the divine feeling of Christian charity can only exist in the souls of those who make a hundred per cent. profit out of the sweat, blood, and agony of miserable slaves, we would rather be without it. Mr. Stanley's "piegy" is like the "godliness" of Thylocal.

We make Mr. Stanley and his congregation of city nurses a present of the quotation.

D. N.

NOTICE.

The Picture on the front page is a reduced fac-simile of a beautiful full-page Cartoon, designed by our comrade Walter Crane, to commemorate the recent world-wide celebration of the Solidarity of Labour. Printed on fine paper for framing, it may be had from this office in cardboard protector, for 3s., post free, 3s. 6d. a dozen.

With the next number of COMMONWEAL we shall be enabled, by the kindness of the proprietor of CYNICUS, to give an outline reproduction of the cartoon "Capital and Labour," which attracted so much notice when published in that paper, and which we refer to with praise a few weeks ago.
THE SONG OF THE WORKERS.
BY PIERRE DUFOUR.

(Translated in the original measure, to be sung to the original tune.)

Let us who hear the shrill voiced cock.
With clarion blast disturb our slumbers,
Who to the mill and forge must flock.
At early morn in countless numbers;
Who for a scanty wage must steal
A second limb but to afford the bow,
The fear of want can never die,
Nor make provision for the morrow.

Chorus—Be brothers, let our glasses clink,
Top up; never more we'll sudder.
Though shot and shell around us thunder,
We'll drink
An end to avarice and plunder.

The jealous wave, the stubborn soil,
Yield up their treasure to our labours;
Our arms are still with ceaseless toil
To pamper those whom fortune favours.
We gather from the hill and vale,
From sea and shore, from mine and meadow,
Those piles of wealth the eyes regale,
Yet die ourselves beneath their shadow.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

Poor sheep! our backs rich garments give
The gilded few who scorn our station;
In pride and luxury they live
While toil and want degrade the nation.
Men and nations, we; we sweat and bend,
To raise great buildings high as heaven;
Without us soon the world would end,
Yet from the hives like bees we're driven.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

The puny heir of some domain
Our wives oft nurse to health and vigour,
And yet with them this Son of Cain
At play or feast would blush to figure.
In olden days the lords might take
The bride from out her groom's embraces;
Now cold and want our daughters make
The prey of such as deal in laces.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

Ill clothed, ill house'd, in cellars foul,
Beneath the thatch, in ruins hoary,
We live companions of the owl
And thieves—in truth a pilot's store!
Yet the red blood within our veins
Impetuous runs inbounding measure—
Ah, could we sport upon the plains
Or seek the green wood for our pleasure!

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

And when, as oft, we shed our gore
In streams that all the wide world cover,
The tyrant only reaps the more;
From fields where'er the vultures hover.
We have been fools—beneath our power
We'll spend in breaking slaver's fetter,
And fill with mirth the passing hour
That brings the world from good to better.

Chorus—Be brothers, etc.

Edinburgh.

J. G.

SCOTTISH NOTES.

"Labour Day" was not celebrated in Scotland.

Our comrades of the Scottish Socialist Federation held a demonstration on Sunday the 4th—in Edinburgh. No other Labour Demonstration that I know of took place in Scotland.

In Glasgow a large demonstration might have been held on Sunday, but it would have required much more than the funds at our disposal to make it fairly representative of the sentiments of the workers, and neither the local Branch of the Socialist League nor the S.D.F. had funds available. The Glasgow Trades Council took no heed of the matter.

In Glasgow none of the Socialist bodies are so strong or so lively as they were a year or two ago. They have been deserted by many of their members, especially the well-to-do ones. Just when Socialist ideas are spreading rapidly among all sections of the people, active interest in propaganda has declined among those who in times past were energetic. Of course this is merely a temporary experience, nevertheless it is not an inspiring one. Many Socialists deserve severe reproach for their indiffERENCE. Their apathy seriously lessens the usefulness of the efforts of those who have unflinchingly stood to their posts of duty.

It must be recognised, however, that this apathy is common to all political and labour associations just now—except the Glasgow parliamentary election or a strike for an increase of sixpence a day is on the field.

There are three Land Restoration (Henry George) Councillors in the Glasgow Town Council, yet not a single voice was raised against the proposal to confer the Freedom of the City on Mr. Stanley. One might have thought that men who vehemently assert that the people of a country belongs to the people who inhabit it, would have protested in some form against any honour, however unsubstantial, being bestowed on a man whose mission has been to confiscate territory by fraud and murder.

There has been a deal of excitement among Glasgow money-bags over the Railway Bills which have been before the Parliamentary Committees during the last two weeks. Westminster has been literally besieged with witnesses for and against the various proposals. Railways, directors and officials, landowners, capitalists, lawyers, doctors, civil engineers, etc., have been there in legions delivering their testimonies in favour of their own and their clients' interests—but no working-man, and no one to represent the interest of the workers, had a hearing. Of course, working-men have no "interest" in railways, land, or vested rights of any description; and the appearance of a representative of labour before the Committees would have been useless and ridiculous. Nevertheless, when Socialists venture to tell the workers this very apparent truth, politicians and editors grind their teeth in virtue of indignation and denounce Socialists as knaves and fools.

The Edinburgh police "are straining every nerve," we are told by the press, to catch the audacious thief who stole some £60 or £70 worth of the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh's jewels from the hotel wherein the royal pair sojourned on the occasion of their opening the Edinburgh Exhibition. I wonder, indeed, when these vigilant thieves will "strain every nerve" to catch the Duke and Duchess for stealing these jewels, as well as every particle of property they possess—from the shirts upon their backs to the horses in their stables—from the starving tax-payers of this rich and enlightened country!

Frank Sherman, aged 84, one of the oldest Freemasons in Scotland, who had reached the twenty-eighth degree, and was a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre, and who had died next to the Prince of Wales at the laying of the foundation-stone of the Glasgow Post Office, died last week in extreme poverty at Castle-Douglas. He had in receipt of pauper relief for many years. The "charity" and "brotherhood" of Freemasonry appear to be about as hollow shams as those of Christianity, in these days.

Some 500 tailors are on strike or lock-out in Glasgow, owing to the Master Tailors' Association insisting that garments hitherto paid first and second class shall in future be paid only third class. Some time ago the masters granted an advance in price for all the three classes; and now, after having raised the selling price of clothes, they seek to rob poor workers of their share by reducing the first and second classes to third class—a stratagem which, if successful, will actually give their workers lower pay than before. Meanwhile, the work of the London strike and lock-out is being done in notorious swindling.

Now these master tailors are not Jews or Germans, they are Christians and Scotchmen. Many of them are elders and deacons in the kirk, and take a lively interest in evangelical and philanthropic missions at home and abroad. I don't think we should add capital punishment just yet.

For several weeks past the Glasgow police have been diligently...
honouring the Sabbath day and keeping it holy by making wholesale raids upon "shebeens." With their usual nice discrimination, they have made no attempt to disturb the Sunday merry-making in hotels, clubs, or mansions of the west-end; they have confined their virtuous efforts to detailing of Drink sellers and those like them in the most unwholesome parts of the city they have marched in martial array, seizing indiscriminately men, women, bottles of beer, and jars of whiskey.

And the temperance people have applauded. It is such and noble work. All the poor woman, poor man, who cannot afford a magazine of champagne, wine, whiskey, and beer, all of the best quality, in their own homes, and get drunk comfortably, from going to places where they can only get raw whiskey and flat beer, and then lie down poisoned on the floor! It is comforting also to these reformers to think that the poor, who cannot afford to take a room in a hotel or hire a trap and drive to some neighbouring town, where they would be bona fide travellers, are saved from the evils of the recent change, that among the disadvantages of civilization, besides having no chance of getting rich during the week days, they will have no opportunity of getting drunk on Sundays.

For downright blazing hypocrisy commend me to your average teetotal magistrate. Look at what they have done in Paisley. That town being only some six miles from Glasgow, many Glasgow people went there for a drink on Sundays, duly qualified as bona fide travellers. This the teetotal magistrate of Paisley determined to put an end to—and this is the way they have done it. Hotel-keepers in future are only to supply one drink to each traveller, and that one drink must be charged not less than one shilling! This sublime arrangement will of course kill off the little business of Paisley hotel keeping. It must be to be bona fide travellers on Sundays nowadays—and it will keep the hotels "gentled" for the sporting men, commercial traveller, shopkeeper, and the like. It has a concomitant and has a drink in every hotel in the town; while the extra charge will recoup the hotelkeepers for the diminished cost.

The "Servant Girl" question is again up for discussion in the press here. The faults and follies of these domestic slaves are being eloquently exposed and denounced by one fine lady after another; and a general concerted effort is being made to do away with this "institution," which ought to be abolished. One energetic lady, in collaboration with her husband, has actually drawn up a form wherein may be dully entered all the faults and follies of servents. Without which certificate from their last mistress no other mistress may engage them.

Servant girls are no doubt often very dirty, very lazy, very frivolous, and sometimes positively wicked; and little wonder that they are so; but in the mass they are superior in every degree of womanhood to their mistresses. Physically, mentally, and morally, they are better fitted to survive. I ask you, who is in the habit of doing all these things for themselves! Why should the daughters of the poor be compelled to leave their own homes and spend the best part of their lives upon the backs of those who exist but in order to be Bandaged and toiling to death their fathers and brothers in workshops and factories! If these girls were retained in their own homes, how much lighter would be the burden of motherhood of their mothers and sisters! How much brighter and pleasanter would be the home life of all the toilers? Surely in the premise that Socialism gives of bringing back our sisters and daughters to our homes—brining them back alike from the sunk flats of domestic servitude and from the wretched dens of warehouses and factories—there is enough to rouse every true and brave man to join resolutely in the struggle for the Social Revolution! J. BRUCE GLASHER.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

London Postmen and the Police.

The beneficent State which is to give us a "legal" eight hours day and leave us to dispose of its treatment, has the justice to be assured that those who are swept by it how likely it is to fulfill all the fond prophecies of its admirers. The London Postmen took advantage of the Jubilee of the Penny Post to hold a meeting on Clerkenwell Green, and demand the abolition of the ticket system, the increase of the postman's salary, and combination, the proper enforcement of the eight hour day, and a minimum wage of 6s. a week. The Postmaster-General issued a manifesto for the afternoon in order to present the case of the postmen, and a gentleman is deeply grieved in his heart because the postmen won't comply with the Social regulations, which is the main topic of the Clerkenwell Green meetings, and that there shall be an official shorthand reporter present who shall take down their speeches, so that any man who speaks out of order shall be called to order. It is not convenient for the梳man to march to the meeting, but these were immediately forbidden by Mr. Morrell. The Kent and London postmen proceeded to the Field to that among the disadvantages of civilization, besides having no chance of getting rich during the week days, they will have no opportunity of getting drunk on Sundays.

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May 24, 1890.

THE COMMONWEAL.

LECTURE DIARY.

London.

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Lectures.—All communications to E. Bayley, 45 Inns of Court, Battersea Park Road.

Commonwealth Branch.—24 Great Queen Street, Holborn, W.C. Business meeting of members every Thursday evening at 8; Discussion Class at 9. Hall open every evening from 2 till 6 p.m., then 7 to 9 p.m.

East London.—All branch communications to be addressed to H. McKenzie, 21 Ealing Place, Kingsland Road.

Hammersmith.—Kilmarnock Room, 311 and 313, New Mill Road, W. Sunday May 25, at 8 p.m., William Thompson, "Women and Citizenship." French Class conducted by Mlle. Deschamps. Ticket 2s, 6d. Merton.—"Lord Napier," Fair Green. Meets every Sunday at 12.30, to enrol members, etc.

North Kensington.—Clarendon Coffee Palace, Clarendon Road. Meets every Wednesday at 8.30 p.m. The branch Band meets every Friday at 8 p.m. for practice. Comrades wishing to hear the Band's music to the instructor at the above address.

Northwood.—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Meets every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.

Strathearn.—Address secretary, R. Smith, 1 Natal Road, Strathearn.

St. Mary's and St. George's Church, 13 St. George's Square, Ecclesiastical Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road. J. Turner, organizing secretary.

PROVINCES.

Abbeystead.—Organizer, J. Lewis, 7 Jamains Street, Branch meets to Hall, 9 Harriet Street, on Sunday evenings at 6.30. Singing practice, etc., in Old Fellows' Small Hall, Crooked Lane, Mondays at 8 p.m.

Glasgow.—Meetings are invited to meet on Thursday and Sunday evenings at 6 o'clock, in the Secretary's house, 209 Crown Street, S.S. All communications to be sent to that address.

Halifax.—Socialists meet every Sunday at 6.30 p.m. at Hollowell's Temperance Hotel, Northgate.

Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Road, School Class. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Leicester.—Exchange Buildings, East Bridge Street. Branch meets on Monday, Thursday, and Saturday at 8 p.m.

Manchester.—Socialist Literary and Scientific Union, Government Street, All Saints. Open every evening. Branch weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 8.

Norwich.—Members' meet at 23 Rose Yard, St. Augustine's, Tuesday at 8.30 p.m. Temperance Hall, 225 London Road, every Monday evening, at 8.30 p.m.

Northwold.—Socialist Club, 18 Goodall Street, Wallasey. Meetings every night.

Yarmouth.—Socialist League Club, 56 Row, Market Place. Open every evening. Business meeting Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Election Class Friday at 8.30 p.m. Discussion Class Sunday 8.30 p.m.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SATURDAY 24

7. Hyde Park

SUNDAY 25

11.1. Latimer Road Station

1.50. Hammersmith Bridge

7.30. "Old Fiege," Kilburn Lane

Malmesbury and Mrs. Laird

Milton Park

Victoria Park

Hammersmith Bridge

Hammersmith Bridge

Wormwood Scrubs

Milton Fair Green

Street Green

Wallah Green—back of Church

Hammermills Bridge

Hammermills Bridge

Wormwood Scrubs

Milton Fair Green

Street Green

Wallah Green—back of Church

Hammermills Bridge

8.15. Hoxton Church

8.30. Sunday School at 11 a.m. Humberstone Gate, at 8 p.m.

Liverpool.—Landing Stage, Sundays at 11.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Manchester.—Saturday, Middleton market ground, at 7 p.m. Sunday, Phillips Park Gates, at 11; Stevenson Market, front of Church, at 2 p.m.

Norwich.—Sunday, Market Place and 7.30.

Sheffield.—Sunday, Monmouth, Fargate, at 11.30 a.m.; Pump, West Bar, 8 p.m. Monday, Lady's Bridge Wicker, at 7 p.m. Richmond.—Sunday, College Yard, at 3 p.m.

Southwark.—Sunday, Priory Place, at 11; Dwellings, 11; Colman's Gray Quay, at 7 a.m.

Commonweal agent in Slaeane Square, S.W.

ROCHEDALE SOCIALISTS.—Meetings held every evening at 25 Westminster Road, Rochdale.

EDINBURGH.—SCOTTISH SOCIALIST FEDERATION.—Meeting in Meadows, Sunday at 3 p.m.

LIVERPOOL SOCIALIST SOCIETY.—1 Stanley Street, Dale Street. Meets every Tuesday at 8 p.m.

MANCHESTER SUBURBAN LEAGUE.—"Three Doors," Berwick St., Soho, W. Sunday May 25, at 8.30 p.m., Henry Green, "Mutual Banking."

THE NORTHUMBERLAND BRANCH appeals to comrades and friends for their aid. There have been other cases of getting drunk very cheap from a bar that was much enjoyed. The only satisfactory way, recommended to you, is 2s. This is the amount that shall be glad of any books for library. We are very much able to accomplish grand propagandas in Sheffield and district during the coming summer, and can enlist the co-operation of all Socialists in this neighbourhood.
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STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES.

The Socialist League advocates International Revolutionary Socialism. That is to say, the destruction of the present class society, which consists of one class who live by owning property and therefore need not work, and another class who have no property and therefore must work in order that they may live to keep the idlers by their labour. Revolutionary Socialism insists that this system of society, which is the modern form of slavery, should be changed to a system of Society which would give every man an opportunity of doing useful work, and not allow any system so doing, which work could not be useful unless it were done for the whole body of workers instead of for doing nothing for individuals. The result of this would be that livelihood would not be precarious nor labour burdensome. Labour would be employed in co-operation, and the struggle of man with man for bare subsistence would be supplanted by harmonious combination for the production of common wealth and the exchange of mutual services without the waste of labour or material.

Every man's needs would be satisfied from the common stock, but no man should be allowed to own anything which he could not use, and which consequently he must abuse by employing it as an instrument for forcing others to labour for him unpaid. Thus the land, the capital, machinery, and means of transport would cease to be private property, since they can only be used by the combination of labour to produce wealth. Thus men would be free because they would not labour or be dependent on it for subsistence; thus they would be brothers, for the cause of strife, the struggle for subsistence at other people's expense, would have come to an end. Thus they would be equal, for if all men were doing useful work no man's labour could be dispensed with. Thus the motive of Liberty, Fraternity, and Equality, which is but an empty boast in a society that upholds the monopoly of the means of production, would at last be realised.

This Revolutionary Socialism must be International. The change which would put an end to the struggle between man and man, would destroy it also between nation and nation. One harmonious system of federation throughout the whole of civilization would take the place of the old destructive rivalries. There would be no great centres breeding hatred and commercial jealousy, but people would manage their own affairs in communities not too large to prevent all citizens from taking a part in the administration necessary to the conduct of life, so that party politics would come to an end.

Thus, while we abide by the old motto

Liberty, Fraternity, Equality,

we say that the existence of private property destroys Equality, and therefore under it there can be neither Liberty nor Fraternity. We add to the first motto then this other one—

FROM EACH ACCORDING TO HIS CAPACITY, TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS NEEDS.

When this is realised there will be a genuine Society; until it is realised, Society is nothing but a band of robbers. We must add that the change can only be brought about by combination amongst the workers themselves, and must embrace the whole of Society. The new life cannot be given to the workers by any higher than they, but must be taken by them by means of the abolition of classes and the reorganisation of Society.

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

NOTICE.

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