

THE COMMONWEAL

A REVOLUTIONARY JOURNAL OF

Anarchist Communism.

[Vol. 7.—No 293.]

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1891.

[WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.]

THE STRIKE

A DRAMA BY LOUISE MICHEL.

SCENE VII.

The great door opens. A servant announces the guests. Gertrude smiles. Eleazar does not recover from stupefaction.

Servant. Baron Ulysses (Sylvester under this name enters in a very rich costume.) Madam Proterpin of the Mothers' Club. (This is an old lady in full dress.) Madam Leuturlur of the Lady of rifles Club. Madam de Bleuze. Madam de Roseray. The Misses Margaret and Blanche de Roseray. (Mesdames Bleuze and Roseray very pompous; the two girls in short dresses, which are of white muslin, enter boisterously.)

(A group of sinister men is announced rapidly.)

Mr. Fidele of the Spanish perfumes' company. His excellency the Marquis of Saint-Ruffian. Count Moonpease. Mesdames de Saint-Pauerals and de Saint-Chloroform. (The men at first get into a group together. A group of little maskers is then announced, also rapidly.)

Servant (still announcing guests). The Duke of Saubespín. My lady his sister. The Marquis Sèzé and his sisters. Mr. Judas. (The little maskers are in Paris clothes and their sisters loaded with jewelry. Blanche and Margaret seem charming in their white dresses, with red roses at the breast. Madam Bleuze is very pale and can hardly hold up. Gertrude and the guests exchange forced salutes.)

Baron Ulysses (to Eleazar who has not changed his seat). You seem to suffer, Baron.

Eleazar. In fact, I do suffer much, Sir.

Gertrude. The poor baron has just had another bad attack of his colonial fever.

Sylvester (Baron Ulysses). It is above all regrettable on such a fine day. How grateful I am to you, Baron, for having bestowed on me your charming daughter Esther.

Eleazar (aside to Ulysses). I will not hide from you, Baron, that there are insurmountable difficulties. Esther absolutely refuses to marry.

Gertrude. The poor baron has some imaginary fears. His illness makes him feel sour altogether. (She leads Ulysses a little further off.)

Ulysses (aside to Gertrude). I would regret much, Madam, to have to publish, in case of refusal, that the woman of Warsaw is Baroness Eleazar.

Gertrude. My promises have always been faithfully carried out.

(Margaret and Blanche timidly approach Gertrude.)

Margaret. Madam, may we go and find Esther, we will return together.

Gertrude. Esther will be here in a few minutes, my dears.

Madam de Roseray (to Gertrude). They are adore Esther. You have a charming daughter-in-law, Madam.

Gertrude. Really charming. (To Madam de Bleuze who approaches them.) You are deliciously fresh to-night, my dear child.

Madam de Bleuze (leaning on the back of an arm-chair). I also think I am getting stronger.

Gertrude. I am quite certain of it. By-the-bye I expect you to-morrow at the regatta, I bet for you on the "Styx."

Madam de Bleuze. I thought there would be no regatta in this time of misery!

Gertrude. I have gone to the expense of this one in your honor, my dear; it will distract you.

Madam de Bleuze. How good you are!

(Mesdames Proterpin and Leuturlur approach Gertrude.)

Madam Proterpin. The card rooms are open, are not they, dear Madam?

Gertrude (showing the rooms). All is already. (Aside.) Yes, play, you others; amuse yourselves at "whist," I play for the world.

Madam Proterpin. I dreamt to-night of the 36 senators. I wager on the president of the council.

Madam Leuturlur. I on the recorder of the fourth commission.

Gertrude (aside). There are bets on the whole state. (They pass.)

Margaret (to Blanche, showing her an album.) Look, Blanche, at his ugly woman, standing up in the middle of a plain covered with snow. There is written below, "Souvenir of Warsaw" and it is signed "Nemo." A nice name, "Nemo," is not it?

(To be continued.)

(This play commenced in No. 281, all back Nos. kept in stock.)

THE SHADOW OF CLEVELAND STREET.

An eminent French historian has pointed out, in a history of the French Revolution, that in the years preceding that convulsion, the shadow of the *Parc aux Cerfs* brooded over the Court of Versailles. The *Parc aux Cerfs* literally "The Park of Deer" was a harem of young girls, collected for the sensual gratification of that monster of voluptuous vice Louis XV. Surely in these days, the shadow of Cleveland Street is on virtuous, respectable, and immaculate English "Society." What else could have moved a young wife, of an age which one would think was of girlish innocence, to accuse her husband and her husband's friend, of horrible vices which it is a shame to mention. Strange to say the accusation appears to have been suggested to her by some of her husband's relatives, who told her that he had left college suddenly, because he was accused of writing an "improper letter" to a man. It is a great pity that this college business was not thoroughly gone into, as it would have enabled Lord Russell to have left the court with a still more unblemished character.

The same may be said of the bedroom scene, where the lady was found by Nurse Vale "naked" standing by the bed speaking in a "pleading voice" to her husband; afterwards she threatened to throw herself out of the window if left alone with him. If both these points had been thoroughly cleared up, the voice of scandal would have been effectually silenced. But it has been proved to the satisfaction of the world, that the husband is not a monster of depravity.

What are we to say of the wife, if she really invented all the stories of brutal ill-usage. What a consummate liar she must be. What a charming result of the education given to girls of the middle and upper classes, who are taught to simulate a baby-like innocence, while they have at the same time, a knowledge of the world and its vices that might startle a roue of the time of that monarch of pious and immortal memory, Charles II. Charming result of an education which fits woman, not to be a companion to man, able to sympathise with his thoughts, his tastes, and his business, but to be a mere toy, a plaything for brutal vices, with an unlimited capacity for lying, and running up jewellers and milliners bills. Lord Russell, with that fine sense of morality that distinguishes the young man who has been wild in his youth, and is anxious that his young wife should not copy his example, forbade her to visit houses where divorced women and kept mistresses resorted.

Charming! this, from a seducer of innocence, though it must be admitted, he paid well for the privilege. The earl forbids his wife to visit houses where women of doubtful reputation resort. But cannot the earl and society see, that his wife's education has only fitted her for the society of these women.

What kind of education was given to the girl victims of Louis XV. Just the same as that bestowed on Lady Russell. They were taught various showy accomplishments, to love fine dresses and jewellery. They were taught a smattering of piety and morality, and they were kept "innocent" till the day they were handed over as food to the hideous vices of the Royal Minotaur. To-day a fashionable prociress follows the same methods with the children she buys for her wealthy customers, and the fashionable mother, who brings up her daughters for the marriage market in the West End drawing rooms, bestows just the same

training upon them. Are they not intended—under the legal cloak of marriage—as tempting morsels for the jaded appetites of worn out rouses.

The procuress and the fashionable mother stand side by side. They are the same, save that the procuress may have the excuse of poverty for her vile trade, which the West End mother often lacks.

No matter what the man may be. He may be accused of all the vices that flourished in the cities of the plain. He may distinguish himself during his career at college even among the wealthy students, by the frequency of his visits to the women of the town. He may be a friend of the Prince of Wales or of Albert Victor. He may be literally rotten with vice. What matters it, so long as he possesses wealth or a title, he is perfectly eligible. A husband, whom a young woman should be proud of. Knock her down. He is the highest bidder. This is how matters are arranged in the West End slave marts. And the end? Is it not written in the records of the Divorce Court.

No, we have no need to heap epithets either upon Lord or Lady Russell. It is society, the system, which has made them what they are. Society and its laws, which bind a woman to a man she so hates and detests, that she will use any weapon to get free. She has failed; an "upright judge" and a "wise law" has decided that these two people, mutually hating and loathing each other, shall remain bound together in holy matrimony, and Society applauds. The capitalist press declares that the result is "satisfactory." Undoubtedly! as satisfactory as a civilization can be, whose fashionable streets are thronged with prostitutes, or with wealthy reprobates, old and young, who tempt young men with golden bribes to the vices of Sodom. "Satisfactory" very! For with a crowd of other scandals, it rings the knell of a society that is not only dead, but rotting in corruption. There is no fire now, to fall from heaven on the modern Sodom, the West End of London. The heavens look blank, silent, and vacant, but a storm is brewing and gathering on earth that shall end it all. "Society" is doomed, and shall vanish in smoke and flame, with the hellish robbery and oppression of the poor, upon which it is founded. Rejoice ye people, for the day of revolution and vengeance is at hand.

ANARCHIST-COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

Let us remember that lesson. Let us realise the absurd anachronism of our landed aristocracy. Let us look boldly at that supremely powerful, almost unique, aristocracy of Capital and Money which we have allowed to grow up in this country. Lastly, let us feel to the quick, the bitter irony of our much boasted "liberal institutions." Let us awake to the consciousness of our true situation, shake off our faith in electioneering and reforms, our servile national submission to law and order, our hereditary weakness for tinkering with laws, and make up our minds to REVOLT!—yes, to fight as brave men do when they are convinced that Justice is on their side. Rise up and insist upon Social justice, as our ancestors have done over and over again in our past history; as did Wat Tyler and the merry men of Kent, and would have been successful too if they had not let themselves be humbugged by a rascally king; as did Hampden, and Cromwell, and the English middle class when the Stuart kings and their court aristocracy tried to crush out their liberties. The more united, the more determined our action, the less danger of bloodshed and outrage. You the producers, who supply all the needs of society, have the command of society in your hands

YOU CAN STOP THE SUPPLIES,

no police or army, no government can make you work if you don't choose and if you are men you will not work except under conditions you consider honorable and just.

If the unionists of England set themselves heart and soul to educate and organise their fellow-workmen, they could very quickly bring about

A GENERAL STRIKE,

which would place landlords and capitalists alike at their mercy, and enable the workers to make their own terms. Then they could repudiate entirely the monstrous claims of Landlord and Capitalist to monopolise, take into their own hands all the means of production, and while denying the right of anyone to own, could use in association, the same as funds of the Trades Unions are used to-day, and work for themselves and each other, like free men who are their own masters. Then they could lay the foundation of a society composed, not of rich and poor, masters and wage-slaves, drones and workers, but of voluntary associations of workmen freely federated to aid one another in the mutual supply of needs.

(Concluded.)

NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA.

WHILE rumaging among some papers the other day in search of Chicago Freedom, I happened to get hold of a copy of the Commonweal dated February 1891 which was left here by W. H. McNamara formerly secretary of the Australian Socialist League, he having been on a visit up here. As I used to be in the habit of reading the 'Weal when a member of the A. S. L. which I have lately left, as it ceased to be a Socialist Organisation, I could not help but be struck with the difference of positions now taken up by the respective parties, for whilst you have going on in the march of progress, the A. S. L. which as comrade J. A. Andrews says, should now be styled the "Alleged Socialist League" instead of Australian Socialist League, the initials being much more appropriate for the former than the latter denomination, has made a decidedly retrogressive move.

To bring the circumstances more plainly before you I will go back for some little time and relate to you the movements of that League as they have come under my notice, having been a member of it for the last two years or so.

The League not making much progress in regard to getting new members to join, some of the members having no doubt in their minds the apparent advance of the Socialist Party in Germany at the elections suggested the advisability of adopting a political platform. This in my opinion was the first blow given to the stability of that organisation.

The step thus taken, together with the defeat of the unions as the disastrous result of the great strike, upon which occasion the Socialist League issued a special manifesto, which no doubt you have seen, made the League better known to the public which would have been very well, had it not been for the political platform previously adopted, and which tended to bring in a number of political mountebanks who saw a chance of making use of the League as a political machine for their own purposes. The most windy customers were selected to form a so-called executive committee consisting for the most part of trades unionists who could not raise themselves above the ordinary routine of mere trades unionism, with the result that the League was made a mere appendix to the Trades and Labour Council. The practice of appointing deputations to go cap in hand to members of the government; also to ask for concessions from the Trades and Labour Council was adopted; an occasional snub being administered to said deputations.

The Queensland shearing trouble then eventuated, which struggle was watched by me with some interest, and as the Queensland government in my opinion exhibited gross partiality in favour of the squatters and against the toilers on strike, I with some others, then styling ourselves the Communist Anarchist Group of Central Cumberland forwarded the following resolution to the Colonial secretary of Queensland:—

To the Colonial Secretary.

SIR,—I herewith enclose a copy of a motion passed unanimously at a meeting of the Communist Anarchist Group of Central Cumberland, New South Wales.

"That this meeting condemns the action of the Queensland government (i. e. the cabinet) by converting the aforesaid cabinet into a committee of the Employers Union for the sole purpose of disgracing the workers and making them slaves under their fetish of Freedom of Contract, by despotic and unjust lawful methods and wishes to point out that the time is not far distant when the workers especially of Queensland will prefer death to injustice."

To the Colonial Secretary,
Queensland Government,
Brisbane,
Queensland.

Joseph Schellenberg,
Sec. Communist Anarchist Group
of Central Cumberland,
Smithfield, N. S. W.

This was done in the hope of raising the moral tone of the "Alleged Socialist League." The tenor of the resolution being altogether out of harmony with the style of address usually adopted by the former organisation. Since then I have come into communication with J. A. Andrews, Communist Anarchist, formerly of Melbourne who has now joined me in the work of propaganda and working hard for the cause, and we are hopeful of being able to bring out an Anarchist paper by the 11th November.

The A. S. L. about the end of April commenced an unemployed agitation, comrade M. Healy being appointed to conduct the campaign, after said agitation had been carried on for about 3 weeks Parkes, the head of the government here was said to have expressed his determination to put a stop to the unemployed movement by adopting drastic measures such as arresting the leaders, etc. Articles to this effect appeared in the daily press on the Saturday previous to a meeting called for the Sunday night following, and at which meeting the effigies of Parkes and different other trash was to be burned.

Comrade Andrews and myself happened to go to Sydney that morning and so came to hear of it (Smithfield being about 20 miles from the metropolis). We came to the conclusion to stop and see the fun, as it was expected that there would be some trouble as the authorities were expected to interfere. When however the time of meeting arrived it was evident that the members of the Socialist League who before were so loud in their advocacy of physical force began to funk over the matter as M. Healy did not turn up, no more did a committee which had been appointed to make arrangements (including one person named S. A. Rosa who came over from Melbourne about December last year having been secretary of a Socialist organisation there). These gentlemen calling themselves Socialist were with some difficulties got away to the scene of action, after having for over an hour discussed the advisability or otherwise of taking the red flag and deciding it prudent not to do so. The flag was after they had gone, quietly taken down by a Communist Anarchist.

When I arrived a few minutes after 8 o'clock the time announced for the meeting to take place, I found that there was no one present of the conveners of the meeting courageous enough to start proceedings, and the whole thing threatened to end in a fiasco. There being about 5000 persons assembled. Comrade Andrews and myself decided to set the ball rolling; unfurling the red banner, therefore, I called for three cheers for the red flag which was responded to by a great majority of those present. As no one else seemed inclined comrade Andrews mounted the stump and addressed the crowd from an

Anarchist standpoint, at the conclusion of his speech calling for three cheers for the Social Revolution, which were given with a surprising energy considering it was the first time any meeting in Sydney had ever been addressed by an Anarchist. The "Alleged Socialists" present, seeing that things went along smoothly, now came forward, evidently being afraid of losing their hold upon the people, the latter seemed to appreciate the Anarchist sentiments.

S. A. Rosa and J. D. Fitzgerald the one time delegate to England deeming it expedient to disavow any connection with the Anarchists, and the latter after declining just before to fill the breach, going so far as to deny the right of Anarchists to speak upon any Socialist platform, and even went so far as to tell the people that they must respect Law and Order. At this I thought it high time to lower the red flag while he was speaking, which until then I had held aloft; even a majority of those present expressed disapproval with his remarks. Two or three other speakers a little more advanced having spoken J. A. Andrews was asked to give the English version translated by himself of the Marseillaise. The crowd joining in the chorus with great enthusiasm. At the conclusion a majority of those present marched in procession through the principal streets led by the red banner and singing the Marseillaise and other revolutionary songs.

I give all these particulars as I think they give a clue to the subsequent action of Fitzgerald, Rosa and Co. namely:—

Three resolutions have lately put through by the Law and Order party of the A. S. L.

The first being: that the Socialist League discontinue the unemployed agitation.

The second being to the effect that all avowed Anarchists be excluded from the Socialist League; that no person be allowed to use revolutionary language on a Socialist platform.

And the third was that no person having a criminal record (no matter how obtained) be allowed to speak from the public platform of the S. L.

I think this is sufficient to give you an idea of the work at present being done by the "Alleged Socialist League."

NOTES.

Distress in England.

Serious distress prevails among the working classes in Cumberland; not a single rail mill is at work at any of the ironworks there; hundreds of workers are without food or fuel. Our advice to them is to take it and not wait for the master class to give it to them. That they will never do until they are forced. Again we say take whatever you want and act like men, not things.

The De-population of Villages.

We have received a bright little pamphlet by Scrivener C. Scrivener entitled "The Depopulation of Villages, an address to Trade Unionists on the influx of the Population to Towns, with a proposal for its abatement." The author is evidently an authority upon agricultural matters, and his proposal for the abatement of the influx of the agricultural population into the towns, is a suggestion that the Trade Unionists should spend £10,000 in acquiring 300 acres of land for a "free community" of sixty farm labourers, who could work the land co-operatively, and thus obtain a decent livelihood. This proposal, we fear, is not likely to be adopted by Trade Unionists. They are too cautious and conservative, to even buy land from the robbers, who have stolen it from the people. If the rich land thieves were wise, they would adopt our friend's suggestion, and some of them might do something to make up for plundering the poor for generations, by presenting sixty farm labourers with 300 acres to see what they could do with it. But of course they will do nothing of the kind. Thus the chances of peacefully introducing Anarchist Communism by such experiments in "free co-operation" are almost hopeless. Neither Trade Unionists nor rich men are likely to bestir themselves, till the revolution thunders at their doors, and then it will be too late, for the people will then take, and not buy the land from their oppressors. We recommend the pamphlet to all interested in the social question. It is well worth reading. Those who have read the author's book "Our Fields and Cities" need not be told that he has not derived his opinions concerning the solution of the land question from books, but from personal experience. We wish the same could be said of all writers and speakers upon the subject. "The Depopulation of Villages" 1d. and "Our Fields and Cities" 1s. can both be obtained from the Secretary Commonwealth Group 145 City Road E.C.

Free Speech at Chelsea.

The fight which the rank and file of the S. D. F. have been waging for weeks for the right of "free speech" at the World's End Chelsea is now to be taken up by the Trades Unions, and last Sunday our friend Votier of the Boot and Shoe Riveters Union was arrested. Great credit is due to these members of the S. D. F. who have dared imprisonment for the cause, but it is a great pity, that their unselfish exertion should be utilized for promoting candidatures for Parliament or the School Board. But this is not the first time, that the self sacrifice and the courage of those, who are Revolutionists in heart, has been turned by intriguing politicians to their own advantage, and the only way to prevent this, is to imitate the Anarchists, by refusing to have anything to do with politicians at all.

The Prize Policeman.

The police seem resolved at Chelsea to have a field day of the old Trafalgar Square pattern before very long. The Star says they were less "brutal" last Sunday, that may be. But they were pretty ferocious

considering how very peaceable and quiet the crowd was. One sergeant 11 BR set an excellent example to his men by striking a lad, a heavy blow with his clenched fist in the face, when the police were rushing to arrest Votier. Another constable six feet high and so fat, that he obtained the nickname of the "Prize Policeman" made himself very "active" not only in moving people on, but in treading on their toes, and kicking them when they declined to move directly, they were "ordered." When a sufferer took the number of this monster, he grew very indignant and informed the rash man, that if he was not careful, he would have him "inside." To take a policeman's number is a serious offence now-a-days, it is outraging the majesty of the law. We repeat, that though matters are quiet at Chelsea at present, we should not be surprised, if there was not rough work before long. The police are a "picked" body of men "all very fine and large" and there are many of the brutal giants among them, who distinguished themselves by their savage ruffianism in Trafalgar Square.

East End Tailors.

A meeting of East End Tailors was held in the Working Lads Institute on Saturday the 28th ult. to condemn the action of Lewis Lyons, whose recent conduct has been so bad that the Tailors Machinists and Pressers Union has been broken up into what seem hopeless sections of dissatisfied and disgusted workmen. Incompetent officialism has again succeeded in throwing the work of organisation back for a long time. It is pity that the Jewish workmen of East London are trammelled so much by their religion, jealousy and suspicion as to render it almost an impossible task to organise themselves. John Burns has promised to organise them. We should suggest that Yanovsky, Wess, and other Yiddish speaking comrades, should not leave the work entirely in his hands, but attend and do their best to explain the seriousness of the position to these workers. Neither Lyons or anyone else ought to be allowed to stand in the way of a thorough intelligent organisation being built up.

Exit Lewis Lyons.

So the East End Tailors have at last decided to get rid of Mr. Lyons. Last Saturday, the following resolution was carried by an overwhelming majority at Kay Street Radical Club. John Burns being in the chair "That this mass meeting of all sections of workers of the Tailoring Trade in London, hereby condemns the action of Mr. Lewis Lyons, in connection with his management of the affairs of the International Tailors, Machinists and Pressers Union, which in our opinion has tended to do great harm to the Labour cause, and places no confidence in him as a leader." During the meeting Mr. Lyons was accused of dishonesty and of falsifying the Strike balance sheet. He said that "if the allegations against him were correct, he was one of the greatest scoundrels on the face of the earth" and was met by an answering shout of (Hear, Hear.) from the audience. And this is the gentleman, who is gave Bedford a "character." When are the Railway workers going to send their "vice-president" after Lyons.

CORRESPONDENCE.

PROPAGANDA BY DEED.

FRIENDS,—I am pained at some of Creaghe's remarks of last week. It's very certain in spite of his cry for immediate action, that we've got to do a devil of a lot of propagandism first. Action at present would result in mere fiasco, and it is damned shame therefore, that Creaghe and dozens of others as enthusiastic and as capable can't be sent from one end of England to the other to stir things up. But we're not strong enough to pay them mere working expenses; more's the pity! I can't see what good's going to be done by pitching into one another though. I am a friend of Creaghe and a friend of Morris and Carpenter, but a greater friend of Socialism, than of any of them; and I say that Morris and Carpenter have as much right to look at Socialism their way as Creaghe has his. Surely, as Socialists, we are all sincere. There was a time not long since when I was not an Anarchist, and if any one sent me to the devil, I should have been no nearer him or Anarchism. Even if Morris and Carpenter were enemies, we should have no right to attack them personally, unless we could impeach them of being so from selfish and tyrannical motives. Let Creaghe pitch into some dirty swine of a sweater, or humbugging tyrant of a politician who can be convicted of knowing that Socialism is right, but out of cupidity hates and misrepresents it. That's the man to be challenged and abused; not men who have done good work. I say again that more propagandism is necessary before we begin to act. Look at the Teetotal fad, the Co-operative fad, the Trades-Union fad, the Neo-Malthusian fad, the Political fad—all these want arguing down. They have millions of advocates, and stand in the way. Then look at the multitudes of working men given up to sport and gambling as if the Social Problem were solved and there were nothing serious wanted doing! These fellows would only think Creaghe a sanguinary idiot if he got twelve years imprisonment for their sakes, I don't blame them, the poor ignorant slaves, nor anybody else unless I can bowl him out a hypocrite. We're all necessarily what we are—perhaps even the hypocrite, though I'm drawing the line at him. If Creaghe had attacked the "Refutation of Anarchism" of G. B. Shaw, or the inconsistencies of the Individualists, I shouldn't have been surprised; but I confess I am, when he falls foul of the authors of *Signs of Change* and *England's Ideal*. I fancy I hear the reproachful *Et tu Brute!* of both our comrades.

Fraternally

THOMAS BARCLAY.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

A bomb exploded at the house of a blackleg who refused to join the strikers in the Calais district. The house was totally destroyed.

The Republic for the people and by the people, makes it very hot for the Anarchists who belong to the people.

In Lyon an Anarchist can no longer exist by honest work. They are shadowed and boycotted by the police who leave no stone unturned to have them sacked by their employers. Foreigners are warned not to go in Anarchist restaurants, on the black list of the prefect or county lieutenant. Those who frequent these places are sure to be expelled in a very short time. What will come out of all this? Surely the tyrants are helping us to hasten on the Social Revolution. A. C.

SPAIN.

England and Spain are the only countries in Europe where Anarchists are not expelled. Foreign Anarchists are allowed to starve in these countries, unless they have pluck enough to expropriate the big robbers. This is what most of our comrades do on stepping on Spanish soil. What would be impracticable in England, poaching collectively, in easily done there on account of the scattered population and the police being badly paid. Our comrades there, on the tramp, have always back numbers of "El Productor" and "La Anarquia" which they give freely in return for the food and clothing they TAKE. A. C.

GERMANY.

The Anti-Socialist "Freisinnige Zeitung" of the 2nd inst. reproduces from the "Nester Zeitung" the words addressed by the Emperor to the recruits of the 1st regiment of foot guards quartered at Potsdam on the occasion of the administration of the oath of allegiance. The words were as follows: "Recruits, you have in the presence of the consecrated servants of God, (meaning the parsons) and before the altar, sworn fealty to me. You are still too young to understand the meaning of the words which you have just spoken, but be diligent in following the directions and the teaching you will receive. You have, my children, sworn fealty to me, which means that you have given yourselves to me body and soul. There exists for you only one enemy, and this is my enemy. With the present Social Democratic agitation it may possibly happen that I may have to order you, which God forbid, to shoot down your own relatives, your brothers, even your parents, but if I do so, you must obey without a murmur."

This needs no comment, for every soldier stands committed to this same same blind unreasoning obedience.

On the 2nd inst. the President of the Reichstag administered a severe rebuke to the Social Democratic deputy Heine for declaring that he and his party would always advance under the red flag as heretofore, and never under the black, white and red colours of the government.

Captain Müller, an officer of the Franco-German war, who was deprived of his rank and title by the late King of Wurtemberg, has published a pamphlet, exposing the cases of ill treatment of soldiers which came within his own knowledge and which he defies the authorities to prosecute him for, as he is willing to appear before any court and prove the truth of his statements. Some of the offences cannot be described in decent language, others have resulted in driving men mad. A Prussian general boxed the ears of a Wurtemberg soldier and called him a "Swabian swine" because he did not make the requisite number of points at the targets. A man was scrubbed under the half frozen pump at Ulm. Another had buckets of ice cold water thrown over him, and had lost the power of speech. A man at Strasburg became a confirmed idiot from ill usage.

The supreme court of Leipzig has decided that considering that the Holy Coat of Treves is revered by a large number of Catholics, to publish statements stigmatising the exhibition of the relic as humbug is a punishable offence.

A musical society in Metz, called Cercle Choral des Amis, was officially suppressed on the 3rd inst. on the ground that the members were engaged in an anti-German agitation.

During a sham fight held by the 35th Fusilier Regiment in the neighbourhood of a village called Brielow two soldiers were struck by two bullets fired from the ranks of the 3rd battalion. The cartridges of the battalion have been seized and an inquiry opened to ascertain whether the incident was due to accident or design.

Several hundred women have been engaged for the royal rifle manufactory at Spandau. They will be employed in rolling the paper lining of cartridge cases. This work has till now been done only in prisons.

AMERICA.

Concerning the ~~circumstances~~ the Chicago police on the occasion of the 11th November anniversary, we hope to be able to give a detailed account of the circumstances in the next issue of the 'Weal' as we have not yet obtained sufficient information to this effect. As regards the statements which appeared in the bourgeois press, they must be taken for what they are worth. We know too well that official telegraphic agencies and other representatives of "public opinion" are singularly skilled in the art of lying. How, indeed, could these scribes state the facts as they are without injuring their own interest?

In spite of the bad weather a procession of over 3000 men and women with red flags and bands marched on Sunday, Nov. 8th to Waldheim cemetery. At the grave of our five comrades, Emma Pokorny recited a poem in Bohemian, entitled "Our Martyrs." Comrade Mathias Schmidinger, the able conductor of the procession, briefly addressed the meeting whereupon Henry Weisman, Editor of the "Baekerzeitung," held a most powerful speech. Hundred and twenty men under the able management of the music master Otto W. Richter, then sang "For Truth and Right" and "On the Grave of our Friends," whereupon Moritz Schulze, Editor of the Chicago Arbeiter Zeitung made a very eloquent speech, exhorting his hearers to think like August Spies, to be eloquent like Albert Parsons, courageous like Fischer and Engel, and valiant like Louis Lingg; then the world will be theirs, and the work which our comrades had at heart will also be achieved.

NOTICES.

LONDON.

Socialist Co-operative Federation 7 Lamb's Conduit Street W.C. Lectures every Sunday evening, at 8 o'clock.
Club Autonomie.—6, Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Young Anarchists meet every Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock.
International Club.—40, Berner Street, Commercial Road, E. Discussion Class every Tuesday evening at 8.30.
South London.—Socialist Society, 149, Manor Place, S.E. All communications should be addressed to F. A. Fox, Secretary.
Commonweal Group Meets every Wednesday at 8 p.m. at City Road.
Manilla Cutlers and Pressers Union.—Falcon Hotel, Falcon Square. Business meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. H. Green, Secretary, D. Morgan, Treasurer. Members please make this known.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Revolutionary Socialist Federation. Meetings are held in Oddfellows Small Hall, Crooked Lane, on Tuesday evenings at 8.
Dundee.—Anarchist-Communist Group. For information apply to Wm. Reekie, 15 Ann Street.
Edinburgh.—Scottish Socialist Federation. Club Rooms, 333 High Street, Edinburgh. J. Pearson, Secretary.
Glasgow.—The Socialist League meets in the Hall 20 Adelphi Street, S. S., every alternate Friday evening at 8 p.m. Lectures and Discussions.—French Class every Wednesday evening at 8.30 in 105 London Street. Fee: (voluntary) to be devoted to the Anarchist School.
Hull.—Club Liberty, 1 Beets Court, Blanket Row.
Leeds.—Anarchist Communist Group 38 Balloon Street, Jack Lane, Holbeck International Group. Barleycorn Inn, Hope Street, North Street. Every Friday at 8 p.m.
Leicester.—Room No. 7, Co-operative Hall, High Street. Members meet on Friday at 8 p.m. Lecture in the Spiritualist Hall, Silver Street, every Sunday at 6.30.
Leytonstone.—Anarchist-Communist Group meets at Gouldings, 2 St. Georges Villas, Montague Road, every Sunday at 8 p.m.
Green, every Sunday at 7.30.
Manchester.—International Club, 25, Bury New Road, Strangeways. Open every evening. Weekly meeting on Tuesdays at 8.
Newcastle.—Anarchist-Communist Group. Open-air meetings every Sunday morning on the Quay. Discussion every Monday at 8.30 p.m. in Lockhart's Cocoa Rooms, Bigg Market.
Nottingham.—Socialist Club, Woodland Place, Upper Parliament Street. Club contribution, 1d. per week; Dancing every Wednesday, 8 till 10.30—fee 3d.
Norwich.—Members' meeting held every Tuesday at 8.30, at 65, Pitt Street.
Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. First Friday in every month, at 8.30 p.m.
Sheffield.—Socialist Club, 47 Westbar Green. French Class, Tuesday at 8.30. Discussion Class, Wednesday at 8.30.
Walsall.—Socialist Club, 18 Goodall Street, Walsall. Meetings every night.
Yarmouth.—Socialist League Club, 56 Row, Market Place. Open every evening. Business Meeting, Tuesday at 8. Singing Practice, Wednesday at 8.30. Discussion Class, Thursday at 8.30. Elocution Class, Friday at 8.30.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

London.—Sunday: Regent's Park 11.30; Hyde Park and Victoria Park at 3.30 Thursdays; Hoxton Church at 8.15
Aberdeen.—Sunday: Castle Street, at 6.45 p.m.
Edinburgh.—Sunday: Leith Links at 2; Meadows at 6.
Glasgow.—Sunday evening, Parkhead Cross and St. George's Cross at 5 p.m.
Leeds.—Sunday: Market Gates, Kirkgate, at 11.30 a.m. and 7 p.m.
Leicester.—Sunday: Russell Square, at 10.45 a.m., Market Place at 6.15, and Humberstone Gate at 8 p.m.
Liverpool.—Landing Stage, Sundays at 11.30 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Manchester.—Sunday: Philips Park Gates, at 11.30; Stevenson Square, at 3.
Nottingham.—Sunday: Sneinton Market, at 11 a.m.; Great Market, at 7 p.m.
Norwich.—Saturday: Haymarket, at 8. Sunday: Market Place at 11.3, and 7.30.
Sheffield.—Sunday: Monolith, Fargate, at 11.30; West Bar, at 11.30; Newhall Road, Attercliffe, at 11.30; Grimesthorpe, at 11.30; Rotherham, at 3; Woodhouse, at 3; West Bar, at 8; Attercliffe Road, at 8.
Yarmouth.—Sunday: Priory Plain, at 11; Fish Wharf, at 3; Hall Quay, at 7.

THE LONDON ANARCHIST GROUPS hold their monthly meeting at the Hall of the SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION, 7 Lamb's Conduit Street, W.C. at 3 p.m.

AGENDA.

- (1) Discussion of the Anarchist manifesto, and arrangements for issuing.
 - (2) The Anarchist Lecture List and appointment of Lecture Secretary.
 - (3) Consideration of letters and business from provincial groups. Proposals for a course of lectures in the provinces according to arrangements made by provincial comrades.
 - (4) The question of having a central hall for the London Anarchists for lectures, entertainments, etc.
- Comrades and groups should send at once, suggestions concerning the Manifesto and the Course of Lectures, stating also, how much they could contribute towards expenses. As this meeting is of considerable importance, all comrades are earnestly invited to attend. We shall be very pleased to see any provincial comrades who can be present.

Owing to the success of our last Distribution of Prizes we have decided to again give our Comrades and Friends an opportunity of getting valuable Books and Pamphlets the price of which keep many of them out of their hands. Therefore a Distribution will take place on Christmas Eve, of 30£ worth of Books at 8.30 at the Commonweal Group, 145, City Road. Among the Prizes will be found the following: 20 Elements of Social Science, neatly bound.—12 News from Nowhere, neatly bound.—12 News from Nowhere, paper.—12 Vols. Bound Commonweals.—100 Copies Essay on Love and Marriage, paper.—100 Labor Day, Engraving by W. Crane.—100 Engraving of Mrs. Parsons.—100 Engraving "Vive la Commune," by W. Crane.—100 Utopia by Petzler.—100 Sets of 6 Pamphlets, Socialist and Freethought.—And many others.—Complete list in future numbers. Secretaries of Socialist and Anarchist groups please note and send.