C. L. James

The saddest thing in this world is death. To be born, to grow and unfold into womanhood or manhood, to absorb knowledge, to learn about ourselves and the world, and when we have fairly well fitted ourselves for life, lo! life is taken from us. Grip death stretched forth its palsied hand and beckon us forth to the unknown reigns from whence no traveler e'er returns.

On June 4th, C. L. James obeyed the inevitable call, that sooner or later will come to us all. James spent sixty-five years learning the ways of the world; and that he had made a success of his pilgrimage here the quality of his work well testifies.

Comrade James was the youngest son of the celebrated English novelist, G. P. R. James, who was called the Dumas of England. The father was a voluminous writer, but a poor thinker. The son was quite the reverse.

C. L. James was one of the keenest and brightest thinkers of his age. An Anarchist for 30 years, he used his profound historical knowledge to vindicate his philosophy.

His “Vindication of Anarchism” is a profound analysis of history, a work of so much merit that no publisher will touch it.

This work was run through the columns of “Free Society” some years ago. Since then attempts have been made to get it out in book form, but without success.

Some time before his death, he addressed the writer, saying: “I may be long before my ‘Vindication’ will see the light in book form, so I have ‘boiled it down’ to pamphlet size, with the hope that you may be able to publish it.”

The Agitator will shortly publish this pamphlet.

His “History of the French Revolution” challenges anything written on that great historical event. Its dashing style, its intimate knowledge, and its faultless inclusions, betray the hand of a master, and makes this volume a valued addition to the literature of modern education.

James was a staunch believer in the theory of Malthus, that population tends to increase faster than the means of subsistence, and, therefore, no real progress towards happiness in society can be reached until the individual members of society shall learn to control the population.

As a means to this end Comrade James advocated the absolute freedom of woman from the domination and control of man.

Woman must be economically and socially free. She must own herself. Being free, she will not bear undesirable children, she will not bear many children. She will control the population, and thus make possible the realization of a state of society wherein the struggle for food will not be an ever threatening menace to the happiness of the people, thus solving a greater problem than that of food itself.

On the economic side of our social problem Comrade James was very well versed. He exposed the fallacy of saving by proving that “a penny saved is two pence lost.”

Whoever would put a halter or restraint on Progress in the name of progress. “Do not allow your good to do you harm please and take the consequences.” was the only definition of Freedom that appealed to him; and he proved it to be the only logical one—first, because everyone did so anyway; and, second, because it is impossible to define the limits of liberty.

He was a direct actionist and revolutionist, and exposed the fallacy of “the peaceful” ballot-box “revolution” with a master hand, while maintaining that at the present hour education is the most vital element in our propaganda.

Oh, that the world were filled with his kind. Clear-minded lover of mankind, seer, philosopher, teacher, gone forever. A pang of biting pain shoots through the heart and tears rise to the eyes of the pupil and fellow worker at the thought.

Death is the saddest thing in the world.

Is the Revolution Crushed?

The Madero government, aided by the U. S. government, have set in in earnest to crush out the rebels in Lower California. The members of the Junta have been arrested and the books and papers confiscated. An army has been sent through American territory, in fraudulent violation of the neutrality law, yet Magon and his comrades are under arrest for alleged violation of that law.

Justice, fair play, surely thy name is not Capitalism.

The brave men who gave their lives for the cause of Mexican freedom have lost their lives in vain, if the lesson of failure has no message for the workers of America and the world.

It has demonstrated clearly that no single state or country can hope to free itself from the grasp of capitalism, single handed. The fight will have to be universal, it will have to be as wide as the system. For it is clear capitalism is a unit. It is a strong adherent to the practice of, One cause, one fight.

The organization and education of the workers must go on and on till the active minority, if not the majority, is enrolled under the banner of one union. Then by one united strike extending across the seas and lands of the earth the system will fall.

Prepare for the Social Revolution.

Otis and Teddy.

Gin’ral Otis and Kurnal Roosevelt have started to pummel each other at long distance with their favorite weapons—inflected words.

Otis didn’t like Teddy’s criticism of him and struck back as only the gentle general can.

“If Theodore Roosevelt had been a contemporary of Ainsires, Baron Munchehausen and Mendez Pinto,” said General Otis, “those illustrious romancers would have been distanced. The many-colored coat of Joseph was uniform and sombre compared with the coloring of the Roosevelt political robe. Of all the Jamus-faced, channel-hued, upright and downright fellows, Roosevelt is the most patent of friends and invited the criticism of foes, here, certainly, is the limit. The name ‘Face-Both-Ways’ is inadequate.”

It is not often The Agitator agrees with General Otis, so must hasten to say amen to the above inspired sentiments, couched as they are in the General’s choicest language.

Whatever may be said against Otis, no one can charge him with being two-faced. He has but one face and an awful one it is; brassy and croaking, but it is genuine. It is a real capitalist mug. It typifies the system for which both Otis and Roosevelt stand.

Teddy classifies Otis with the “bad” capitalists, the kind that bring the system into disgrace. Therefore he takes a shot at him. Anyway it is popular to rap Otis, and the Kurnel is not overlooking any bids for popularity.

Teddy is tactful. It was a master stroke of politics to get the despised “Times” to hurl its stink pots at him. The muddily-minded many who vote the Republican ticket, and believe in “good” capitalists will turn again to the wind-jammer of Oyster Bay for political salvation.

From the workers’ standpoint Otis is really a good capitalist. His heartless, brutal attacks on labor are helping the cause of the social revolution. What he is on the surface every capitalist is under the skin. Roosevelt and Otis are brothers. Their economic interests are the same. They both live off labor. They are a pair of capitalist hogs who eat from the same trough.

Militarism in United States.

It is a fundamental principle of private property that there shall be a strong government to protect wealth from its creatures—to keep the men and women who work from getting more than a bare living, and while not employed to see that they get no share of the vast wealth their labor produced, even though they starve, which they do.

The strength of government lies in the common soldier who is taken from the ranks of the hungry ones, and taught the art of killing his brothers and sisters, and comrades of the bread line.

So long as these misguided, hungry slaves join the army and navy of their own accord there is no need of the “draft.” But so soon as the supply runs short the Government will exercise its “fundamental principle,” take the citizen by the collar and force him to lay down the tools of production and take up the implements of destruction.

The Dick law does not prescribe compulsory service, but it makes it easy for the Government to “git” you, when it needs you. It is an introduction to a law that is being nursed by the army, and which will be railroaded through congress as soon as the public has been sufficiently “prepared.”

The diligent work of legislation will prescribe that every “citizen” shall serve one or two years in the army.

It will not be introduced in times of peace. The public won’t stand for it. But let the country be plunged into a war with some big power, and the United States will put on a European military coat at once.

JAY FOX.
THE AGITATOR

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THE AGITATOR does not bear the union stamp because it believes that there is and it is unworthy of the labor movement. It is printed and published by unions and their friends in the interests of the labor movement and their fellow toilers. Much of the labor in it is done by voluntary contributors, and the work of love—the love of the idea, of a world for the free.

Who will fight for Freedom is worthy only to be a slave.

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

Our "first socialist congressman" told his fellow par

situates the Mexican Revolutionaries are Bandits; fol

lowing which the Junta was raided and Madero's troops

free given passage over U. S. soil, on their way to the

suppression of the Revolution. Social-democracy, they

name is TRAITOR.

The Mexican Revolution is facing its foes on both sides of

the line with the courageous gallantry that wins.

I quote from a letter by Mayon to M. W. Walesy, sec. N.

American Union of Socialist, which shows the real

cause of the Revolution and the traitor, Madero's

alliance with the capitalistic of Mexico and the U.S.

countries has gradually produced the slums, the over-

flowing prisons and all the mass of misery that accom-

panies modern life, have operated in Mexico with the

swiftness of a cyclone. Within a few short years capita-

lism has swept our country from beneath our feet and

left the great mass of the Mexican people homeless and

helpless.

Now, after years of preparation, in the course of which our

leaders have been repeatedly and sent to prison by the

hundreds, we have had a revolution. From the Rio

Grande to the Central Mexico boundary my people have

sought desperately to regain possession of their lands and

time economic liberties which without a life worth

living cannot be sustained. At immense sacrifice of life

they have triumphed, from one end of the country to the

other, and now they are being cheated of the fruit of

their victory.

Will Madero help the people to get back their lands? The

Standard Oil concessions cover a seventh of my country. Two Los Angles men own a sea frontage of over 50 miles. Everywhere the country on and from which the Mexican must live has been gob-

bled up by domestic and foreign financiers. Will Made-

ro help the people to get back their homes, too? We

know he will not. We know that the most he promises are but conducted elections, better schools, a more fair administration—the sort of promises with which Díaz deceived us.

Furthmore, he himself has declared publicly that his administration comes foreign capital, from the moment when Juárez was taken his headquarters notori-

ously awashed with concession hunters; he has put at

the head of the temporary government the most detested of the financial magnates who surrounded Díaz; his own brother has stated most frankly that at every step Linzmul and the money power of the United States and Europe were consulted.

Obviously Madero will not help the people to recover the heritage of which they have been robbed. He who yesterday was himself an armed rebel has executed the orders of our members under the pretext that they were bandits; uniting his own forces with those of the late government, he has attempted to oust us as a war of extermina-

tion; he has set the machinery of law at work for our
complete destruction. Last week my own Brother who is a prominent attorney at Mexico City and does not pre-


tend to be a revolutionist, visited me in Los Angles, having been sent by Madero to lull me to give up the fight. The arrest of the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party followed.

Madero had the support of the moneyed power of the world. It was the same support that the representatives of the United States army, the officers of which fled him after the fall of Juárez. All the assistance that money and in-

fluence could command was at his command, regardless of

national boundaries. For he had made his peace with

THE NUDE AND THE PRUDES

Clothing was made to protect the body, not to hide it. The mind that associates impurity with the human body is itself impure. To the humanitarin, the idea of the human body is divine, "the dwelling place of the soul," as the old poets sang.

To the coarse, half civilized barbarian, steeped in a mixture of superstition and sen-

sualism, the sight of a nude body suggests no higher thoughts, no noble feelings than those which the sight of one animal of the lower order of creation produces in another.

The vulgar mind sees its own reflection in everything it views. Pollution cannot escape from pollution, and the polluted mind that sees its own reflection in the nude body of a fellow being, and arises in early morning to enjoy the vulgar feast, and then calls on the law to punish the innocent victims whose clean bodies are exposed to the savage instincts, is not fit company for civilized people, and should be avoided.

These reflections are based on an unfortunate occurrence that took place recently in Home.

Home is a community of free spirits, who came out into the woods to escape the polluting atmosphere of the cities. The young girls, conventional so-

ciety. One of the liberal law and by Home, legalities was the privilege to bathe in evening dress, or with merely the clothes nature gave them, just as they chose.

No one went rubbingnecking to see which suit a person wore, who sought the purifying waters of the bay. Surely it was nobody's business. All were sufficiently pure minded to see no vulgar,

which none of anything vile or inde-

ent in the thought or the sight of nature's masterpiece uncovered.

But eventually a few prudes got into the community and the brutal, un-

neighborly way of the outside world to sup-

press the people's freedom. They had four persons arrested on the charge of "indecent exposure." One woman, the mother of two small children, was sent to jail. The one man arrested will also serve a term in prison. And the perpetrators of this vile action wonder why they are being boycotted.

The well-meaning indignation of the people has been aroused. Their liberty has been at-

tacked. This first step in the way of subjecting the community to the domination of the outside has been taken. If this was let go with-

out resistance the prudery of the prudes would be easy.

The foolish people who came to live among us only because they found they could take advantage of our co-operation and buy goods cheaper here than elsewhere, have found they got into a hornet's nest.

Two of the stores have refused to trade with them and the members avoid them in every way.

To be sure, not all have been brought to see the importance of the situation. But the propa-
ganda of those who do, will go on, and the matter of avoiding these enemies in our midst will be pushed to the end.

The lines will be drawn and those who pro-

fess to believe in freedom will be put to the test of practice.

There is no possible grounds on which a libertarian can escape taking part in this ef-

fort to protect the freedom of Home. There is no half way. Those who refuse to aid the defense is aiding the other side. For those who want liberty and will not fight for it are parasites and do not deserve freedom. Those who are indifferent to the invasion, who can see an innocent woman and a child who have been seduced and shackled and packed off to jail and are not moved to action, can not be counted among the rebels of authority. Their place is with the enemy.

The boycott will be pushed until these invaders will come to see the brutal mistake of their action, and so inform the people.

This subject will receive further consider-

ation in future numbers.

J. F.

A NEW PHILOSOPHY OF THE UNIVERSE

Will the Roman Church get and keep the control of the American labor unions? To that important question, raised in a recent number of The Agitator, a European comrade will venture to give an answer.

We know full well that, day after day, petty is declining all over Europe. Being interested now in the every day struggle for bread, lea-

sure and liberty, far more than in the hope of an hypothesetical, unapproachable paradise, the modern wage-slave here sees to understand more and more clearly that the joys which make existence worth living are to be conquered only by himself, during his lifetime. If there is an Eden to be reached elsewhere, does he think it will be reached through a universal effort of solidarity between the oppressed and exploited of all countries? That is to say, an Earthly Paradise may be created by Mankind in a very near future, and perpetuate itself by the mere virtue of the fraternal entente of its members, up to the day when, for some physical or cosmic cause, the last human being will have disappeared from the surface of our planet.

There are plenty of reasons for us to sup-

pose that such rapid waning of the religious faith will take place among the American work-

ers with the irresistible fatality of a natural phenomenon. In a report of the Pittsburg Sur-

vey, which had been issued in charitables three years ago, one of the surveyors estimated that, notwithstanding the fact that the new immi-

grant from southern Europe was so prone to spend his money in building churches and attendi-

ing offices, the priests were on the way to lose their grip on them, because they did not understand in the least the needs and re-
THE AGITATOR

IN THE SWEATSHOP.

Pule she sits in the sweatshop, bent o'er the whirring machines.
Her eyes half dimmed with the vigil of her iron-gray task.
Her face is bohey and bloodless, her cheeks all hollow and lean,
And she wipes hot away from her forehead the cold and the clammy dew.

She wipes not away from her forehead the mark of her duty plain;
She stops not even to sigh, but she coughs as she labors on.
Too long she has striven thus to quench the pangs of her pain,
And every wish that she knew in the long ago has gone.

And every wish that she knew in the hour of girlish gladness,
Each glad, warm dream of the heart, and plan for the days to be,
Is lost 'mong the ghosts of that which only stagger and grope.
Where the past and the present seem one with a cold eternity.

Where the past and the present seem one, where the future comes unsearched,
With the song of her childhood husbund, and her childhood laughter diurnal;
She will never again take hope, or doubt or question ofught;
Not for the hollowness of life in the frost of her fate is chilled.

Nor for the hollowness of life in the frost of her fate is chilled;
For the living lie is set to frozen sleep;
'Ken the love of a man, of a child—the mother-longing, is o'er;
And the shroud of the home is a spot of place where the weary creep,
While nightflies 'round the dawn that will bid them forth once more.

While nightflies 'round the dawn is she chained to her lifeal way;
The her fingers must fold and falter, they move, for the shuttle drive.
Shall the in the heart of people touches and hides her obey;
Turns and to the kindly grave from the hordes of the dead, the dying! 
WILLIAM FRANCIS BARNARD.

The Agitator Volume XXIV

Notice of Withdrawal.

I hereby give notice that on March 25th, 1911, I tendered my resignation and withdrawal of membership in Home Grocery Company of Home, Washington, and deny all responsibility for any obligations incurred by said association since April 25, 1911.

Fannie Burton.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

RECEIPTS.

Balance, last report...
$59.37
Subscriptions & Donations...
194.28
Excursion June 11th...
368.45
$422.05

EXPENSES.

Stimulated Paper Co.,...
$51.85
Palor & Co., linotype...
72.70
Smith-Kline, press work...
13.75
Jay Fox, wages...
150.00
Am. Type Founders...
2.15
Miscellaneous...
3.30
$306.53

Balance on hand July 1st...
$115.52

RECEIPTS.

Genome,...$5.00
J. Marcus,...$3.00
Brothers,...$2.00
Ratner,...$1.00

Lamb, 75 cents: Yearly, Reynolds, Clarke, each 50 cents
Mundell, 75 cents; Johnstone, O'keefe, Breenlan, each 35 cents; Stark, 25 cents.

The WORKERS' UNIVERSITY.

Books and Pamphlets For Sale By the Agitator

The Ancient Lowly, a history of the ancient working people, C. Osborne Ward; two large volumes...
$4.00
Either volume separately at...
$2.00
A Physician in the House, J. H. Strong...
$2.50
Life of Albert R. Parsons, with a true history of Ancient Society; or Researches in the Anarchist Trial...
$1.50
Human Progress, Laws...
$1.25
Flowers of the Mind, the best poems...
$1.25
Thoughts of a Fool...
$1.00
The Cost of Something for Nothing, J. F. Alpold...
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The Moods of Life, Poems, W. F. Barnard...
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$1.00
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Anarchy vs. Socialism, W. C. Owen...
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ARISTIDE PRATTELLE

Subscribe for THIS AGITATOR.
THE AGITATOR

MASTERS OF LIFE

To one who understands life, its complexities disappear. He who is brave enough and big enough to as thoroughly discern himself as he would another—who can get outside of himself and look at himself, impersonally—has seen and knows the Asiatic, the European. He is the real cosmopolitan, though he has never traveled outside his own state.

Every living thing is impelled by one of two motives—Love or Fear. A Love so great that it casts out fear makes us masters of life.

We are ruled by what we fear and we fear only the unknown. The doctor writes his prescription in a dead language—the ignorant treatable and thus perpetuates this paralyzing fear.

The lawyer and the preacher work on the principle that “all men are liars” and “in sin did our mothers conceive us,” and as long as they are the interpreters of our legal and moral rules—as long, in fact, as we think we need legal and moral rules (always for the other fellow) so long will the preacher and the lawyer live on our fears and grow fat without producing anything useful.

It has been said that in our topsy-turvy civilization interest is the only resource. Perhaps that is so. It appears then that financial gain, property and prestige are our masters and the punishment meted to the doctor, lawyer and preacher is to be forever tied to the dead past, and having these impedimenta—property and prestige—they are the most servile slaves of fear.

I know that this will be considered by many an ingenious way out of our economic mist, but why not be honest about the matter? Is it not so? Then who would be free must first study proportions and learn that the things so generally regarded as quite essential are made so only because of our fears.

I heard a good friend of mine say the other day, “A family man has no business being a revolutionary”—but the young men who made the remark had in mind the perpetuation of the selfish little family—he did not stop to think that all life is one—and to give all—to utterly ignore the subtle economic dictum of personal property in human beings is beyond even most revolutionists.

To be free—free from church, free from state, free from that greatest fetich of all, the family, is to love the things that the church thinks it stands for; to be a citizen of the world and to know and feel the universal kinship which far surpasses the ignorance and selfishness of the mother and father, whose world is at the most a very tiny speck on the vast ocean of life.

S. T. HAMMERSMARK.

PARENTS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN’S DULLNESS

This is the opinion of Rev. A. A. Berle, pastor of the Shawsnt Congregational Church, of Boston. Dr. Berle has four remarkable children, who were trained, when quite young, along lines originating with and carefully worked out by his wife and him. The eldest, sixteen, is a sophomore at Radcliffe College; the second, fifteen, is a sophomore at Harvard; the third and fourth, twelve and nine respectively, are attending high schools.

Just how they obtained their high order of mentality is told by their father, whose ideas were set forth by H. Addington Bruce in “New Ideas In Child Training” in The American Magazine for July.

“All that many ‘backward’ students really need, says Dr. Berle, is to have the gates of their intellect opened by the stimulating of interest in the tasks they are set to do. This, particularly in the case of very young children—that is to say, children at the age of three or four, when the beginnings of education may most profitably be undertaken—is a duty which obviously should fall on the parents. But how many parents are willing to give as much as thirty minutes a day to the education of their little ones? The day must surely come, though, when parents will appreciate their duty in this respect, and when that day does come a new and more hopeful era in education will have dawnt.”

TOM MANN QUITS POLITICS

(Letter from Tom Mann to H. W. Lee, Secretary-Social Democratic Party, London, England.)

Dear Sir and Comrade—I hereby tender my resignation as a member of the S. D. P.

I do so partly because of the endorsement by the recent conference of the official attitude of the party on the subject of war, but more because, since rejoining the party a year ago, on my return to this country, I find myself not in agreement with the party on the important subject of parliamentary action.

My experiences have driven me more and more into the non-parliamentary position; and this I find is most unwelcome to most members of the party. After the most careful reflection, I am driven to the belief that the real reason why the trades unionist movement of this country is in such a deplorable state of inefficiency is to be found in the fictitious importance which the workers have been encouraged to attach to parliamentary action.

I find nearly all the serious minded young men of the Labor and Socialist movement have their minds centered upon obtaining some position in public life, such as local, municipal or county councillorship, or filling some governmental office, or aspiring to become a member of parliament.

I am driven to the belief that this is entirely wrong, and that economic liberty will never be secured until the workers in favor of Direct Industrial Organization, not as a means, but as the means whereby the workers can ultimately overthrow the capitalist system and become the actual controllers of their own industrial and social destiny.

I am of the opinion that the workers’ fight must be carried out on the industrial plane, free from entanglements with the plutocratic enemy.

I do not forget that it was in the ranks of the Social Democratic Federation that I first learned the principles of revolutionary socialism, and I believe I am entirely loyal to those principles in resigning my membership for the reasons given. Yours fractionally,

TOM MANN.

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Editor The Agitator:

Dear Comrade: I have often wondered why the popular story magazines contain so many detective, mystery and “get rich quick” stories. As Jack London Post says: “There’s a reason, and after asking about one hundred regular buyers of such magazines as the Popular, People’s and Adventure, I find that invariably the reader wishes the criminal to escape—the detectives to get the worst of it, or the “get rich quick” artist to get away with the goods.

For, be it known—the great Public,—the unthinking Public that reads these magazines is supplied because there is an increasing and intransigent demand for the same. It is a detective who is foiled or justice is gained without legal aid and the criminal is acquitted after being discovered. But in these stories there is always close distinction made between the un-social and technically illegal acts of the criminal.

May it not be that this great class of readers revolt at the work of the clumsy law spies, and, though not conscious of the fact they live by proxy in the so-called lawless actions of the criminal who ignores the sacredness of property—domestic or real.

The ordinary reader’s great love for the “get rich quick” artist is but an acknowledgment of his diabolical in the possibility of honesty in business, and the humor of too often seeing himself as one of the victims.

We do not know all the agencies of radical propaganda and the so-called cheap story quite often contains the seeds of social revolt.

Is it not a fact that we are inclined to be didactic and narrow in our insisting on nothing but what is so often dubbed “high-brow literature”? There is such a thing as mental dyspepsia from too much rich mental food. It will not hurt us to eat a few flakes now and then.

S. T. H.

Taff and his cabinet are as bitterly opposed to unionism as are any other employers.

SOME VERY WORTHY PERIODICALS

“SOLIDARITY.” A weekly revolutionary working class paper.

Published by P. O. Box 622, I. W. W., NEWCASTLE, PA.

“MOTHER EARTH” Monthly Magazine Devoted to Social Science and Literature. 30c a copy. 51 a year.

Published by H. M. GOLDMAN, Publisher 210 B, 13th St., New York, N. Y.


Published by 1/2 Sundown Street, London, N. W., England.

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