

THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

VOL. 4.—No. 154.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1888.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE news from the Soudan is somewhat portentous, if, as seems pretty certain, Stanley as well as Emin Bey is in the hands of the Madhi. It is in any case satisfactory that Stanley's expedition has fallen through; it gives us breathing-space, at any rate. Also as a matter of course the Soudanese are in a better position, for the present, for their possession of these important hostages. But on the other hand the danger of these "pioneers of civilisation" (once called pirates) will be worked by the market-mongers and Christianity-shovers for all that it is worth, and the difficulties in the way of having a small half-responsible expedition in the Soudan will tend to push us into a big affair in which we shall be fully responsible, and in which it would be almost too good to hope for serious defeat.

Mr. Page Hopps' "Radicals' Creed," as printed in the *Pall Mall*, is as lamentable a piece of feebleness as a well-meaning person ever produced: the opening sentence of it convicts him at once of incapacity of understanding the whole social question. Says he: "It is always foolish and wicked to set class against class, but the time has come for a resolute forward movement in favour of the toilers of our streets and fields." Indeed the time *has* come, and long ago; nor for such a movement has the time ever failed. But pray, how can "a resolute forward movement" on behalf of the toilers take place without its finding itself at once face to face with a class which says, "Thus far and no further; we have won our position by a long struggle and have overthrown our masters; but now *we* are the masters. Your resolute forward movement must stop, unless it can go forward over us."

Will Radicals of Mr. Page Hopps' kind *never* learn that whatever is done to raise the condition of the "poor" *must* be done at the expense of the rich; since the latter are only rich because the poor make them so by allowing themselves to be compelled into poverty? To waste their labour for the rich, and to be paid for their wasted labour with leave to live to waste their labour, this is what they are compelled to do. This is a fact, and there is no evading it. Let the "Radical" read his Adam Smith, and see it stated there in plain terms before the days when the modern social revolution was thought of and when there was no danger in stating it.

Who or what sets class against class? The whole evolution of society. That is, the existence of the classes. That is indeed a foolish and wicked thing, and since we now see that we can make an end of it, let us make an end of it at once. Here is a wall which hinders us from the use of a fair garden: there is the hindrance, and it is caused by the wall; which is there, whether we shut our eyes to it or not. Nor shall we be any more inside the garden because we turn round and dabble in a few potatoes outside it, and pretend there is no wall between us and the garden, and that we don't want to get in if we could. Moral—down with the wall! even if it is necessary to say plainly that it exists. More of the Radicals' Creed another time.

Mr. Arthur Arnold takes the trouble to attack Mr. George, over whom he, as a defender of capitalism, could win an easy victory, if he had taken the trouble to understand what the land monopoly really signifies, and how impossible it is to separate it from monopoly of the other means of production; but such a victory would not be a victory for the champion of "free land," but for the Socialist. Mr. Arnold tells us pretty plainly what his aim is when he says: "Here, alas! the monopoly of the land is neither great nor wide nor deep; it is only narrow; I trust we shall make it great and wide and deep." Just so; Mr. Arnold's aim, like that of many others whose instinct rather than their reason drives them to seek it, is the perpetuation of inequality—*i.e.*, the misery of the many, by means of the widening of the basis of robbery. He thinks (or feels), and rightly, that the more people you can get interested in the maintenance of oppression, the safer that oppression will be from the attacks of the disinherited. Plunder by all means, but don't let the few keep the plunder to themselves: if many share the plunder they will form a stout body of men who will be as firm in their opinion that "the abolition of the monopoly is impossible" as the slave-owners of Aristotle's time were as to *their* monopoly.

Says Mr. Arnold, something or other "would be cruelly unjust to the working-classes, and would impoverish them by enhancing the value of foreign investments." How a labouring man on 15s. a-week can be impoverished by a rise in prices in foreign investments, is surely beyond the ken of anybody but a very wise financier—or a very great fool.

Mr. Arnold makes a curious quotation from J. S. Mill: "'The monopoly of land,' says Mr. Mill, in words which no accurate thinker can repudiate, 'is a natural monopoly . . . which cannot be prevented from existing.'" Well, I cannot, I fear, claim to be an accurate thinker, but I am in the habit of weighing the value of language, and I should say that a man who would use such a phrase as "natural monopoly" might presently talk about "dry water" without astonishing us much. To such a man I should deny the title of an "accurate thinker," were he Mr. Mill, or the Pope, or even Mr. Bradlaugh.

In plain words a monopoly can be maintained as long as the monopolists have fraud and force enough to hoodwink the most of men and bully the rest; failing that sufficiency of fraud and force, it is scattered to the winds.

But will Mr. Arnold, or any other Free Land Leaguer, tell us *why* the abolition of the monopoly of land (or say the means of production generally) is impossible? He might as well say that it is impossible for a man to touch his toe with his hand. It is impossible as long as his hand is tied behind his back.

Mr. Morley has been making what is conventionally called a "great" speech in Clerkenwell. To judge by the reports and their many columns, it was at least a big speech; but there was in it little or nothing to note. Leasehold enfranchisement was the chief part of the song; and it is to be hoped that even advanced Radicals are not blind enough to see it as, what Mr. Morley half hinted he considered it, a step to the abolition of the land-monopoly. A measure to increase the number of landlords is about all that its supporters can claim it to be. But, as a matter of fact, it means merely aggrandising the capitalist, big or little, at the expense of the land-owner; and it is only meant to stop people's mouths, a make-believe of energy on the part of the "Great Liberal Party."

Mr. Morley put before Liberals an ideal quoted from Shakespeare: "I earn that I eat: I get that I wear: owe no man hate: envy no man's happiness; glad of other men's good." Very pretty sentiments, but to whom are they addressed? To the workers? Well they certainly earn what they eat and get that they wear, but also what other people eat and wear. To the possessing classes? well, when they can say that with truth it will be a changed world indeed. For they would be both naked and hungry if they only ate and wore what they earned; and if they were glad of other people's good, how about the Soudan, and Imperial Federation, and the whole disgusting war of the market, and oppression of that great tyranny the British Empire?

The *Star* has been doing a little bit of canonisation of Mr. Brunner as the worker's friend, which under all the circumstances it was bound to do, for where would the *Star* have been without Mr. Brunner, or rather without Mr. Brunner's money? But Mr. Brunner is a Gladstonian, so the *Evening News*, which is no doubt quite prepared to canonise a Tory or Unionist employer of labour, has taken the part of the Devil's Advocate, and has taken pains to show that Mr. Brunner is just about as good as might be expected from his position, *i.e.*, a man belonging to a class which compel other men to keep them gratis against their will, and competing (*i.e.*, fighting) with other members of his class for the biggest share he can get of this plunder. The motto of the *Star* is, "a Gladstonian can do no wrong even if he is one of our owners," and the *Evening News* has done some service to us (unwittingly) by attacking this "eternal truth" or infernal lie. Let the *Star* do as much for the *Evening News* another time, and so do honour to an ancient proverb.

W. M.

In reference to what I have said about the new President of the United States and his descent from the great regicide, a genealogical friend sends me the following:—

"It seems that the new unco' guid President (who never so much as

smiles on the 'Sabbath') has no excuse of ignorance for endorsing this audacious lie, since his ancestors have been always cheap-jack aristocrats, and are well known to him and others, and the impossibility of his descent (very much of a descent: it would be) from Thomas Harrison is obvious. Benjamin Harrison, of Indiana, the president-elect, is the son of Senator John Scott Harrison, of Ohio, son of President William Henry Harrison, of Ohio, son of Congressman Benjamin Harrison, of Virginia (signer of the Declaration of Independence and the cowardly opponent of Patrick Henry), son of Benjamin Harrison (speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses), son of the 'Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Esq.', who was born in Surrey, Virginia, in 1645, whose epitaph loudly proclaims he was 'always loyal to his prince.'

Now even a Philadelphian lawyer, much less one from Indianapolis, cannot cram down our throats the tale that the great Leveller, Thomas Harrison, who in 1645 was winning his spurs in the flush of youthful prime on the battle-fields of England, had a "descendant" born in far-off Virginia at the time, and one, too, "always loyal to his prince"!

The fact is that Thomas Harrison is the one Englishman about whom more infamous lies have been told than any other. He was one of the simplest in demeanour, most honest in action, most brave in endurance, most advanced in intelligence, and clearest-headed in understanding. That he was deeply imbued with the doctrines of the Bible is most true. But all those alleged rantings and ravings we have heard so much about, are the dust his enemies designedly kicked up to hide his real character. Carlyle has a justly savage tirade against the cowardly stupidity of the English people in allowing the one great heroism of their history, the uprising of the Puritan democracy, to be lied down.

In his single person, Thomas Harrison represents the lion's share of this martyrdom. From the pamphleteers and balladists of 1660 down to that bigoted Tory, Sir Walter Scott, every use of Thomas Harrison's name has been coupled with an outrageous invention. The few fragments of his utterances preserved to us, and every authentic fact recorded of him, prove him to have been the unswerving, incorruptible apostle of the rights of man. Among a phalanx of thieves, who had stabbed the fair form of English liberty and sold the English Republic to stuff their own insatiate maws (and whose descendants are revelling in that plunder to this hour), it was Thomas Harrison's boast when, as first martyr of the Restoration, he mounted the scaffold at Charing Cross, that he left nothing to his wife and babes but the Bible he had held as his text-book. No wonder the land, and tax, and usury-eating thieves, who had just partitioned England among them, had to lie down such a reproach to their iniquity! S.

JONES' BOY ONCE MORE.

"SAY, pa, what is that big place over there?" asked the inquisitive boy, as he was taking a walk out on Sunday afternoon.

"That is the central prison, my son."

"What is it for, pa?"

"Oh, for putting bad people in; thieves and such."

"What are thieves, pa?"

"A thief is a man who takes things that belong to other people."

"Oh, yes, I mind now. When Bill Fisher went into Mr. Shortweight's grocery store and bought some things, and then, when Mr. Shortweight was not looking, put a whole lot of other things in his basket, they said he was a thief. He was sent to prison, wasn't he, pa?"

"Yes, my son. Everybody said it served him right, too."

"No, not everybody, pa; I heard one man say that the judge should have considered that Bill's wife was sick, and he hadn't any money except what he had just paid the grocer, and had no work, and that the things he stole were just what his wife and his little baby needed. He said the jury should be strung up. You was on the jury, wasn't you, pa?"

"That man was some socialist, or something. It would not do to allow sentiment to interfere with justice."

"I heard a man say that Bill's wife had died of a broken heart; that two of his girls had turned out bad, and that it was more than likely all the others would, as no one would hire them because their father was a thief. He said, too, that Bill would come out of prison a regular criminal."

"You see, my son, the way of the transgressor is hard; and the sins of the parents are visited on the children."

"If ma was sick and me and the rest were starving, and you had no money and couldn't get work, and had a chance to steal a loaf of bread, and couldn't get it any other way, what would you do?"

"I'd— Why do you ask such foolish questions?"

"Because I think you'd be too mean to live if you didn't steal it. And if I had been on the jury, Bill wouldn't be in jail and his girls wouldn't be gone bad."

"But stealing must be put down."

"Then it's really and truly stealing if a man takes two dollars' worth of goods and only pays for one of them, is it; even if he does it to keep his family from starving?"

"To be sure."

"Say, pa, is Sam Jones working in your brick-yard now?"

"Yes, and he is a pretty good man; about as good as I've got."

"How much do you pay him?"

"A dollar a day."

"How much do you pay the other men?"

"Just the same; a dollar a day."

"Well, I heard you tell ma that Sam did more work than three men; does he?"

"Yes, he's a first-class man."

"Why does he work for the same as the men who don't do as much work? Why don't he quit?"

"He's hired by the year, and his time is always up in the slack time, when he couldn't get another job. Then he has a lot of children, and his wife is sick mostly, so he can't risk losing his job."

"My! you got him in a fix, didn't you, pa?"

"Oh, well, business men have to make the most of their opportunities."

"I guess Bill Fisher thought he was making the most of his opportunities when he took his chances when the grocer wasn't looking."

"What do you mean?"

"Oh, nothing; only I was thinking whether there was much difference between you and Bill Fisher. He took more things from the grocer than he paid for; you take more work from Sam Jones than you pay for. Is taking more work than you pay for stealing, pa?"

"No, stupid! What I make off Sam is profit; it is perfectly legitimate!"

"What's legitimate?"

"Legitimate is legal; sanctioned by law. Anything the law allows is legitimate."

"Oh, I see. Taking a man's work without paying for it is profit, because it's legitimate; taking a man's groceries without paying for them is stealing, because it isn't. That's the way, is it?"

"Oh, don't bother; you make me tired."

"Say, what's law? What makes anything law?"

"Why, the voters; that is, those who have votes elect men to Parliament, and then Parliament says what is to be law. Do you understand?"

"Have you got a vote, pa?"

"Yes, I vote for four members."

"Has Sam a vote, too?"

"Yes, he has one."

"Does he vote for the same men as you do?"

"Well, I expect him to. If I found he didn't I might discharge him."

"I guess men who work like Sam have not much to say in making laws, have they?"

"Well, they have their votes, but intelligence counts. We generally fix things so they can't do much harm. Last election our side nominated Mr. Straddle and the other side put up Mr. Jumper, and so, whichever was elected, we knew that the laws would be all right anyhow."

"I guess if Sam and his set had the making of the laws they would send men to prison for the legitimate stealing just the same as the other kind. How would you like to be sent to jail, and have ma die and your children go bad, like Bill Fisher, and when you couldn't say that you stole Sam Jones' work to keep your sick wife and children from starving, either?"

"Tut, tut, boy; don't be so silly."

"Say, pa, I heard the minister telling you that Sam and his wife are real Christians; are they?"

"I believe they are."

"He said that though they were very poor, and had no carpets and pictures, and no furniture to speak of, and hardly enough to eat, they were content and piously thankful to God. Do you believe that?"

"Why, of course."

"Are you piously thankful, too?"

"I hope so."

"Well, you ought to be. If Sam is thankful for one dollar when he works for three, you ought to be pretty thankful for two when you don't work for any."

"Run away now, and play. Here's ten cents to go into the zoo and see the monkeys."

"I don't want to see the monkeys; I'd rather talk to you and amuse you. The minister said it was the devil that tempted Bill Fisher to take the things from the grocer; was it him that put you up to making that bargain with Sam?"

"Oh, don't bother me; you're talking nonsense."

"Say, pa, will Sam Jones go to heaven?"

"Likely: he's a good Christian."

"Will you go, too?"

"I hope so."

"What will you say if he asks you about that two dollars a day, and begins to talk about doing unto others as you'd like them to do to you?"

"Oh, don't chatter so; you make my head ache."

"And suppose they ask you about being on that jury, and about Bill Fisher and his girls?"

"Stop talking, I say."

"Say, pa, have they got dictionaries in heaven?"

"What a question! What would they do with dictionaries?"

"Oh, I just thought it would be lucky for you if they had, or they mightn't know the difference between legitimate stealing and the other kind."

"Quit, now! Not another word or I'll send you right home."

SPOKESHAVE, in *Labour Reform*.

THE RECENT INTERNATIONAL TRADES CONGRESS.

The Trades Union Congress Parliamentary Committee report as follows to the trades unions of the United Kingdom, on the International Trades Union Congress, held in London on November 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th, 1880. We think that our readers will find it interesting, though hardly in the way it was intended:—

TO THE OFFICERS OF TRADE SOCIETIES AND TRADES COUNCILS.

Gentlemen,—In obedience to the resolution passed at the Bradford Congress, appointing us its representatives, we attended the International Trades Union Congress, held in London, in November, 1888. In addition to ourselves, there were 77 delegates from the Unions of the United Kingdom, 17 from France, 10 from Belgium, 9 from Holland, 2 from Denmark, and 1 from Italy, making a total of 115 delegates present. Mr. George Shipton, our chairman, was elected chairman for the week, Mr. Slatter, treasurer, and Mr. Broadhurst secretary. In consequence of the publication of a report of the Congress, it is unnecessary here to dwell on the details of its procedure and results. The initial difficulty of international gatherings is the confusion of language. However efficient the interpretation, it can never serve the purpose of direct verbal intercourse. Having regard to this great barrier, we may with reason say that less confusion was felt than might have been expected. Mr. A. Smith (the committee's interpreter) is a writer for the *Proletariat*, one of the organs of the Paris workmen, and in an article immediately preceding the Congress, used language in respect to the British trade unionists calculated to lessen their influence in the Congress, and to hold them up in a disparaging, if not odious, light to their fellow delegates from the Continent. Mr. Smith was questioned by us with regard to his conduct, and made what we considered to be a very unsatisfactory reply. After a careful perusal of the report of the Congress you will be enabled to form your own opinion as to the resultant value of the meeting. In order to assist you to arrive at a sound judgment we present the following points for your consideration:—1. Has the cause of labour in the United Kingdom been advanced by the Congress? 2. Has the cause of trade-unionism (as we understand it) been advanced on the Continent? 3. Has the Congress done anything towards cementing the friendship of the workers of different nationalities? We cannot undertake the responsibility of saying no to these questions, but, notwithstanding our present inability to discern that any good has been accomplished, we trust that seed may have been sown and germs engendered which may in the distant future grow and ripen into solid gain and advantage to the cause of labour. It must always be remembered that the Continental worker starts upon a basis not yet adopted in this country—that with regard to labour it is the duty of the State and the Municipality to do nearly all that has been done and is being done in this country by private and individual or associated effort. On the other hand, the Anarchists—the extreme party—disbelieve in governments and corporations, and advise universal strikes at a given time, throughout the world, in order to bring about a revolution and to starve capital. It was not shown at the Congress whether labour was or was not to starve also at the same time. Curiously enough the majority of the British section was driven to vote for a resolution proposed by an Anarchist in preference to a Socialist resolution. In this case we only voted for certain words, and were entirely opposed to the reasons which prompted the resolution. This incident illustrates the difficulty and danger of going into such diverse councils without appearing to support resolutions which we really condemn in order to escape from what we consider to be greater evils. We shall, however, take no action on any of the resolutions passed unless instructed so to do by the Dundee Congress next September. As an appendix to the Congress report, we publish the agenda of business, which contains the whole of the resolutions that were prepared on the four questions contained in the programme upon which the Congress was convened, in order that you might see what possibility there was of any practical decisions being arrived at. The people represented by the continental delegates are engaged in the same industries as those represented by the British delegates; and in many cases are manufacturing goods which come into competition, both at home, our colonies, and abroad, with the goods manufactured in this country. Continental workmen are toiling 60 or 80 hours per week for about half the wages obtained by Trade-unionists in Great Britain for 40 to 60 hours' labour per week. Yet, so far as we are aware, little or no notice was taken of this vast difference of condition. No inquiries were made as to how we had obtained this advantage; nor was any tribute paid to the organisations and the means by which our present position had been attained. We were advised that it was our duty to obtain by law a further approach to a national eight hours a day. Of course, the foreign delegates gave the same advice to their own countrymen, but we would rather see them reduce their own excessive hours down to our level, and bring their wages somewhat nearer to our standard, before we enter into an agitation for the establishment of an eight hours law in this country. We think eight hours' work per day is long enough for any man, much less a woman, and we are glad to know that many British workmen have practically reduced their working time to that limit, and in some cases to even less. This might be even more extensively accomplished if the workers would join trade unions in greater numbers. The general outcome of our observations is that we think there is little substantial advantage to be gained by the British trades in taking part in an international conference while such conditions prevail. If the Continental workers would organise and make a determined stand against their low wages and long hours, it would be our duty to help them in every possible way; but until they accomplish something solid in this direction, it is open to grave doubt whether much practical good can come out of conferences the constituent parts of which are so dissimilar and unequal. We do not at present intend to express any definite opinion on the question of future International Congresses, as we have no desire to prejudice the trades on the subject. The voting at the late Congress was by nationality, and as all the Continental delegates almost invariably voted one way, the British were destined beforehand to be out-voted in most cases by five to one. It was the desire of our friends that the foreign delegates should have every opportunity of making speeches and inquiries, consequently the British delegates occupied but little of the time of the meeting, many not speaking at all during the whole week. The Parliamentary Committee gave a reception, at the Westminster Palace Hotel, on the eve of the Congress, to the whole of the delegates, both British and foreign. The London Trades Council gave a princely (*sic!*) dinner to the whole Congress, at the Holborn Restaurant, on the Thursday night, and the managers of the Toynbee Hall gave a supper to

the foreign delegates on the Wednesday night, to which the Parliamentary Committee were invited, but were unable to accept the invitation. We felt that a brief report of some impressions of this international event was due to the trades who composed the last Congress, and who delegated us to represent it. In consequence of the correspondence being very large, and most of it in foreign languages, the work of organising the Congress was exceptionally heavy. It is quite safe to say that such a pressure on the office has never been known since the formation of the committee, twenty-one years back. Yet we hope, and believe, that our heavy home correspondence and general work has not been neglected to the detriment of the interest of the trade. We are, yours truly,

G. Shipton (chairman), E. Harford (vice-chairman), H. Slatter (treasurer), J. Mawdsley, W. Crawford, T. Birtwistle, J. M. Jack, W. Inskip, J. Inglis, J. Swift, Hy. Broadhurst (secretary).

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1888.

23	Sun.	1789. Heine born. 1864. Bronterre O'Brien died.
24	Mon.	1795. Trial of Michael Maguire for high treason. 1883. Arabi leaves Egypt an exile. 1887. Strike on Philadelphia and Reading Railroad.
25	Tues.	Christmas Day. 1066. Inauguration and election of William the Conqueror at Westminster Abbey. 1676. Sir Matthew Hale died.
26	Wed.	1825. Revolutionary rising of several guard regiments against accession of Nicholas to the throne (<i>Decembrists</i>). Sentences: death, 5; hard labour, 88; banishment, 18; enlisted as soldiers, 9.
27	Thur.	1867. Fenian attack on Fota Martello Tower. 1880. Trial begins of Parnell and others for "conspiracy to prevent tenants from paying their rent."
28	Fri.	1795. Trial of John Leary for high treason. 1870. Marshal Prim shot at and fatally wounded.
29	Sat.	1834. T. R. Malthus died. 1883. Col. Soudeikin and his chief assistant found dead.
30	Sun.	1870. Death of Marshal Prim. 1878. Henry Vincent died. 1884. Socialist League founded.
31	Mon.	1857. Sepoys blown from guns. 1874. Ledru Rollin died. 1882. Gambetta died.

James Bronterre O'Brien.—This greatest of the Chartist leaders was probably the most honest and widely informed of all social reformers who have put their faith in the sublime blessing of a paternal government, acting in the interest of "the people." That no coercive government, acting through frail mortal agents, can possibly be an honest servant of all its constituents is one of those eternal truths which men are learning by sad experience. O'Brien was unfortunately a lawyer, and poisoned from the start with a lawyer's religious reverence for "legal" methods. The wonder is, however, that O'Brien was able as an outsider to so educate himself and to educate others in the secrets of the social shackles of the wage-slaves. O'Brien was born in Ireland in 1802, and died in London. To him, more than any other individual, the newspaper press owes its present freedom. He suffered imprisonment and ostracism, and the only powerful democratic newspaper to-day in Great Britain which has the remotest claim to be anything but a wolf in sheep's clothing, so far as the workers are concerned, practically owes its foundation and all its inspiration to O'Brien. It is a satire on human fancy that, although Irishmen are above everything else devoted to political and social science, by far the greatest man as a politician and social philosopher Ireland ever has or is ever likely to produce, is almost unknown even among his fellow-countrymen, while swarms of Irish place-hunters and spouters, creatures of the hour, have their names on every tongue and consider themselves enshrined in "history." Yet thoughtful men, honestly seeking for solid intellectual food on social subjects, will keep enshrined as that of a giant memory the name of James Bronterre O'Brien.—L. W.

The following note was omitted last week through want of space:

The Ghost of the Czar.—A report circulated in St. Petersburg that the ghost of the late Czar had been seen during the night in Kazan Cathedral. It had come out of the sanctuary and had proceeded to light the candles upon the high altar. It had then turned towards the body of the church, and said, "My son, come to me; thou shalt meet with the same fate as thy father." The next night a sentinel was placed on guard inside the cathedral, and it is said that he witnessed the same apparition and was afterwards found half dead with fright. It is very improbable that this miraculous event could have happened anywhere else but in Russia, where the dim twilight of ancient superstition still lovingly lingers. One wonders whether the awful apparition was the effect of the great events which disturb men's minds, an adventurous Nihilist, or a somnambulant priest whose nightly slumbers were disturbed by an indigestible supper. Probably the latter hypothesis is the correct one, as we are not aware that his late majesty, before his translation to heaven by scientific agency, knew much of priestly duties, in which the ghost appears to have been an adept. Will the prophecy fulfil itself, I wonder, and thus add another authentic apparition to the list of the *Psychical Society*?—D. N.

NOTE.—The Revolutionary Calendar has now completed a year in the columns of the *Commonweal*. During the latter part of the time, the notes upon the events recorded in it have suffered from the pressure of unforeseen events. It will be again issued weekly in the *Commonweal* throughout the coming year, and advantage will be taken of the fact to perfect it in all ways as far as possible, and to prepare for its issue in a volume of handy size as an almanack and calendar for 1890. As will be remembered, the nucleus of the calendar was compiled by comrade Tom Muse of Carlisle; with his consent, I assumed the editorship and set to work to add dates and secure contributions. In so doing I have received constant and valuable aid from comrades Dave Shore, Thaykovsky, and Withington, who have all promised to continue their co-operation. Further announcement will be made shortly. H. H. S.

SAME HERE.—In New South Wales, a rioter is one who strikes against long hours, low wages and industrial slavery, and passes, his time in hooting scabs. An industrious and honest working man, is one who works when others strike, and loafs when others work; and who always assists the down-trodden capitalist to defeat the tyrannical unionists.—*Radical*.



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

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 15 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors. Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

Business communications to be addressed to Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 15 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

CLUB SECRETARY.—We shall be pleased to insert notices of your lectures regularly if you send them in time. We make no charge.

- O. F.—The "White Terror" was that which followed the restoration of the Bourbons in 1815, when the clericals and reactionaries took a wild and sweeping revenge.
- S. F.—"Selections from the Poems of Alex. Petöfi," translated by Henry Phillips, jun., Philadelphia (privately printed), 1885; 12mo. "Translations from Alexander Petöfi," by Sir J. Bowring, London, 1886; 8vo. "Gems from Petöfi and other Hungarian Poets," W. N. Loew; New York, 1881; 8vo. None of these contain any of his revolutionary poetry.
- S. M.—Warren Hastings, Governor-General of India, was tried by the peers of Great Britain for "high crimes and misdemeanours," the taking of bribes, etc. The trial lasted 145 days, covering seven years and three months; beginning February 13, 1783, ending with his acquittal April 23, 1795. Sheridan's was chief among the great speeches delivered in the course of it.
- S. C. H. and J. S. R.—Replies next week.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday December 19.

ENGLAND	Chicago—Knights of Labor	ITALY
Freedom	Vorwärts	Turin—Niniva Gazzetta Operaia
Die Autonomie	Die Fackel	Rome, L'Emancipazione (daily)
Justice	Herald	SPAIN
Labour Tribune	Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Barcelona—El Productor
London—Freie Presse	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	Madrid—El Socialista
Montrose Review	Coast Seaman's Journal	PORTUGAL
Norwich—Daylight	Valley Falls (Kan.)—Fair Play	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Postal Service Gazette	FRANCE	Porto—A Revolucao Social
Railway Review	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	GERMANY
Rochdale Observer	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	Berlin—Volks Tribune
Social Democrat	La Revolte	AUSTRIA
The Union	Le Proletariat	Wien—Gleichheit
Worker's Friend	Le Coup de Feu	Brunn—Volksfreund
NEW SOUTH WALES	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	HUNGARY
Hamilton—Radical	St.-Etienne—La Loire Socialiste	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
INDIA	HOLLAND	ROUMANIA
Banking—Behar Herald	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Jassy—Municipalul
Madras—People's Friend	BELGIUM	DENMARK
UNITED STATES	Ghent—Voortuit	Social-Demokraten
New York—Der Sozialist	Liege—L'Avenir	SWEDEN
Truthseeker	Antwerp—De Werker	Malmo—Arbetet
Alarm	SWITZERLAND	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
Baecker Zeitung	Arbeiterstimme	NORWAY
Workmen's Advocate	Geneva—Przedswit	Kristiania—Social-Democraten
Boston—Woman's Journal		
Liberty		

TALK AND ART.

THE ART CONGRESS (or whatever is the proper name for it) at which I assisted last week, may easily be made a mark at which to shoot shafts of ridicule. The crowds of lion-worshipping ladies, the many worthy artists set up to speak about an art which is above all things a matter of the instructed eye and deft hand; and many of them into the bargain but poor speakers, in all senses of the word (small blame to them for that same, since above all things their craft is of doing). The bands of idle busy-bodies; the stock phrases bandied about by people who, if questioned about them, would have been able to give but a sorry account of their meaning; and which phrases, when repeated to a reasonable person for the fiftieth time, became at last difficult to reply to with the amiable grin expected on the occasion instead of an outburst of the fury within him. All this the outward manifestation of the set of fashion towards "earnestness" in the minor arts is discouraging enough, and I thought I discerned in the faces of my Socialist friends whom I met there some of the shame-facedness which I myself felt. Nor did I wonder that the "manufacturers" lay low under the storm of open denunciation and implied censure and scorn which was the leading feature of the Congress: nay, I had an uncomfortable sensation, as though I could feel them chuckling at our expense, as if they were saying, "Well, after all, this fine gathering for talk, and all its materials, including the well-fed, well-clothed, well housed artists who are abusing us, have passed through our hands before they got here, and by no means unfruitfully for us. You also, our friends the artists, are our slaves, though your tether may be somewhat longer than that of our factory hands; nor do we much heed your talk, for it and your Congress and your village industries do us

no harm on the one hand, and are rather good for trade on the other. In short, we are the masters of the situation, and you cannot help it; and indeed the greater part of you would be very sorry to help it if you could, and sacrifice your comforts to disturbance in the present and severity of life in the future."

That at first seemed to me to be the mocking echo of our talk at Liverpool; and no doubt not one cog or fly-wheel will be displaced in that horrible South Lancashire by all the murmuring sea of talk. Yet after all even this set of fashion against commercial production on one side of it, and the silence of the manufacturers under it, are tokens of the sickness of society and the change drawing near: an epoch whose system is healthy and flourishing does not protest against and is not conscious of any loss which it suffers from the necessary process of that system; it accepts without murmur the gains which the system has brought about, and only thinks of fresh gains to be obtained by the perfecting of the process which has been found necessary to the conditions of life of the passing day. Nor, in spite of their chuckling, are the manufacturers in as good a position as they boast themselves: we know that. They are driven by necessity to find work for the demon which they have created, and which threatens to eat them up. Perhaps it is the knowledge or suspicion of this fact that keeps them silent under the attack of the artists. Else one would have expected to have seen many utterances like a clever letter published the other day in the Manchester Guardian, the writer of which told the artists roundly that it was their business to paint and not to talk (meaning, of course, that they should forget that they, scrubs as they are, are citizens), taunting them with wrapping themselves up in the past and not heeding the present world-grief (he used the German word), and reminding people that a spinning-jenny was a much more important thing than a carved chest or an illuminated manuscript.

All this sounds at first sight like common-sense, and even seems to have some elevation of aim in it; but after all it is but clap-trap. Let us forget the grievance of the humbug and hypocrisy that always hangs itself on to every movement that shows discontent with the present, and see what it is that the artists are aiming at, those of them who are in earnest. Their aim, instinctive or conscious, is to make everybody an artist; whereas the aim of the Guardian letter-writer (signing himself "P.") is to make everybody a "manufacturer" or a manufacturer's "dependent." To him the spinning-jenny is glorious, not because it produces yarn which the public can use, but because it produces "hands" whom the manufacturers can use; so no wonder that "P." wants the artists to glorify the modern world-grief, since it is the system which he and his live by and have created. "P.'s" aim is to realise a world for the manufacture of market-wares—i.e., manufacturers' profits—made without the will of the makers and in the teeth of their miserable toil.

And what for? That Manchester may be made. And why should Manchester be made? That market-goods bearing a profit may be made. What a lamentable vicious circle! But the artists' aim is that all men should be artists. Folly! cries "P." and perhaps also some of our readers. But wait a little! What is an artist? A man who works at useful work that is fit for him and according to his own will. Therefore the artists are right in their aim; for when work is so done the world will be happy, but not before. Here is a worthy aim indeed; whereas "P." and his brethren have no aim, nothing more than an instinct for going on living at the expense of the workers.

I say again, in wishing to make all people artists, the artists are absolutely right, whatever follies they may be entangled in while they are still unconscious of their aim and its meaning. But those of them who are worth anything will not long remain unconscious of their aim. They see through the hypocrisy about the world-grief, with which the Philistine tries to sentimentalise filth, stink, and hideousness; their senses as human animals have led them on the right road so far at least as to demand beauty and interest in life for themselves at anyrate, and they will soon find out that they cannot have this except by means of the co-operation of the labour that produces the ordinary wares of life; and that co-operation again they cannot have as long as the workmen are dependent on the will of a master. They must co-operate consciously and willingly for livelihood, and out of that free co-operation will spring the expression of individual character and gifts which we call art. Then those spinning-jennies which so affect "P.'s" soul will be used for producing yarns which we want, and not yarns that we only want to sell.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

NOTICE.

Subscribers who find a red mark against this notice are thereby reminded that their subscriptions have expired and must be renewed before the New Year if they wish to continue to receive *Commonweal*.

ENGINE-DRIVERS' HOURS.—What does Colonel Rich mean when, in his report on the collision at the Subway Junction of the Great Western Railway, he presents to the Board of Trade the hours of duty of the engine-driver in such a form as he has selected? He says the driver commenced work at 4.45, but was not working between 9.50 and 12.37 p.m., 1 and 2 p.m., 2.30 and 4 p.m., 4.55 and 5.55 p.m. At 7.13 p.m. he came into collision, but Col. Rich declines to say that he had been on duty 14½ hours, as he had been, simply because between the hours mentioned above the man was not running a train. Is Colonel Rich so ignorant of railway matters as to believe that in those intervals he has quoted the driver had nothing else to do but twirl his thumbs or lie on his back? If he is so credulous as to believe such things, the fact is to be deplored that one holding such a position as he does should be so easily gulled.—*Railway Review*.

THE SOWER.

JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

I SAW a Sower walking slow
Across the earth, from east to west ;
His hair was white as mountain snow,
His head drooped forward on his breast.

With shrivelled hands he flung his seed,
Nor ever turned to look behind ;
Of sight or sound he took no heed ;
It seemed he was both deaf and blind.

His dim face showed no soul beneath,
Yet in my heart I felt a stir,
As if I looked upon the sheath
That once had clasped Excalibur.

I heard, as still the seed he cast,
How, crooning to himself, he sung,
"I sow again the holy Past,
The happy days when I was young.

"Then all was wheat without a tare,
Then all was righteous, fair, and true ;
And I am he whose thoughtful care
Shall plant the Old World in the New.

"The fruitful germs I scatter free,
With busy hand, while all men sleep ;
In Europe now, from sea to sea,
The nations bless me as they reap."

Then I looked back along his path,
And heard the clash of steel on steel,
Where man faced man in deadly wrath,
While clanged the tocsin's hurrying peal.

The sky with burning towns flared red,
Nearer the noise of fighting rolled,
And brothers' blood, by brothers shed,
Crept curdling over pavements cold.

Then marked I how each germ of truth,
Which through the dotard's fingers ran,
Was mated with a dragon's tooth
Whence there sprang up an arm'd man.

I shouted, but he could not hear ;
Made signs, but these he could not see ;
And still, without a doubt or fear,
Broadcast he scattered anarchy.

Long to my straining ear the blast
Brought faintly back the words he sung :
"I sow again the holy Past,
The happy days when I was young."

LETTER FROM AMERICA.

How depraved American journalism is may be seen from the following paragraph I clipped from the New York *Herald* (italics mine): "The heaviest sorrow of his life has fallen upon General William Tecumseh Sherman, for his beloved wife, whose hopeless illness was announced exclusively in the *Herald*, died yesterday morning at half-past nine o'clock."

The delegates to the Knights of Labour General Assembly at Indianapolis have gone home. More than likely this will be the last conference of any importance. The seceders, under leadership of Thomas Barry, will meet in a few weeks in Chicago and draw up a constitution and declaration of principles for an improved society. I believe this new organisation will meet same fate as one Joseph Buchanan and some previous seceders started also in Chicago about one year ago—that is, it will die pretty speedily. In the declaration of principles, Barry will lay special stress on the eight-hour day, the abolition of child labour, the regulation of female labour, manual training, and factory and shop inspection. He will denounce the antagonism of the Knights of Labour to the trades unions. The local assemblies will be independent, acknowledge no general executive board, and pay no tribute to general officers. The organisation is to be secret in the same sense as the Knights of Labour. The chief novel feature, however, is said—and here the cloven foot is shown—to be the active interest the new organisation will take in politics, and Barry will use either Democrats or Republicans to gain his ends.

In my last letter I predicted a general onslaught on organised labour, but I never supposed the bosses would act so cynically as they have done during the last week. The Brewery Working-men's Protective Association (ale and porter brewers) of New York had boycotted David Stevenson and Co., on account of employing rats. The Employers' Association resolved to sustain the boycotted firm. The Protective Association threatened a general strike of the fifteen hundred employés. The bosses resolved to discharge any employé who would not pledge himself to stop paying dues to his union so long as it is engaged in a boycott. They advertised for men in want of permanent employment, and 1,400 immediately offered. Their names and addresses were taken. Promptly during the dinner-hour each boss assembled his men and required each one to pledge himself as stated. With the exception of perhaps a dozen men, all the employés agreed to the terms proposed. The bosses at once met and resolved—

"Whereas all our present employés have this day pledged themselves not to contribute to any organisation which is engaged in forcing a boycott; and whereas we have accepted this pledge in good faith; therefore be it resolved that upon receiving sufficient evidence that any man in our employ has broken this pledge he will be immediately discharged."

Jay Gould's nerves may be unstrung, but his condition, apparently, does not prevent him pursuing his old game of robbing the public in grand style. He has developed a scheme for concentration which bids fair to be the

marvel of the nineteenth century. Perhaps in no branch of trade or industry has competition been so bitter as between the different railroads. Yet Jay has found the way for union. It is not a trust in name, but a trust in fact. The inter-State commerce law forbids the railroads to unite as a trust or to form a pool; but Jay Gould has found, to use the words of Russell Sage, his henchman, "a way to evade that law." Another equally candid railroad magnate says, "The railroad managers have succeeded in beating around the inter-State commerce law." But to the point. From the best information now available the railroad mileage of the United States is estimated at 152,781. Jay Gould, C. P. Huntington, Charles Francis Adams, and others, have been in conference for weeks, and the result has been a great combination to include all the lines between Chicago and the Rocky Mountains. The roads who consent to join are—Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe, 8,000 miles; Burlington and Missouri River, 2,753; Burlington, Cedar Rapids, and Northern, 1,046; Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy, 2,063; Chicago, Burlington, and Northern, 442; Chicago, Rock Island, and Pacific, 4,000; Chicago and North-Western, 4,383; Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul, 5,669; Chicago, St. Paul, and Kansas City, 800; Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha, 1,354; Colorado Midland, 221; Central Iowa, 636; Chicago and Alton, 1,000; Denver and Rio Grande, 1,474; Denver, Texas, and Fort Worth, 800; Fremont, Elkhorn, and Missouri Valley, 1,351; Illinois Central, 2,600; Minneapolis and St. Louis, 600; Missouri Pacific system, 6,000; Northern Pacific (part of), 1,000; St. Louis and San Francisco, 1,457; Union Pacific, 6,392; Wisconsin Central, 700; Wabash (part of), 956; Southern Pacific (part of), 1,200. Total principal systems, 65,997 m.

Three propositions were presented to the conference—one providing for a division of traffic, another for a division of earnings, and a third for a "clearing house." It is understood that the last plan was accepted because the other two were likely to bring the roads interested into conflict with the inter-State commerce law. Under the "clearing house" arrangement, there is to be an executive board of three. One is to be chairman of the "clearing house," and the other two are to be known as vice-chairman of the freight department and vice-chairman of the passenger department. The object of the "clearing house" is—

"(a) To secure complete reports of all competitive traffic carried by either of the parties hereto between points west of a north and south line drawn through Chicago and Milwaukee on the east, St. Paul and Minneapolis on the north, the State of Colorado and the territories of New Mexico and Wyoming, all inclusive, on the west, and the State of Kansas on the south. (b) To prescribe the rates, rules and regulations which shall govern in the conduct of the passenger and freight traffic as aforesaid, and insure their strict maintenance by all members. (c) To prescribe the character of the service and the conveniences which shall be offered the travelling and shipping public."

It is expected that rates will go up at once in consequence of this arrangement about 25 to 50 per cent.

The wholesale butter-dealers have formed a trust, and the price of butter has been raised within the last ten days from 1s. 1½d. to 1s. 10d., or a sudden increase of 8½d. a pound.

The trial of John Hronek has come off in Chicago, and he has been sentenced to twelve years' imprisonment. It is the same old story, and Bonfield has not even thought it worth while to introduce new methods. State-Attorney Longenecker appeared for the prosecution, and a Mr. Goldzier for the defence. The "trial" began on November 27th in the Court of Judge Collins. Longenecker explained that Sevic, Chapek, and Chleboun had been granted separate trials to enable Chleboun to turn informer. Chleboun testified that he met prisoner at the house of an Anarchist; afterwards he was a frequent visitor at Hronek's house. The last Sunday in May, Hronek said he had missed a chance to kill Bonfield, and showed him about ten bombs. Bonfield here produced a tin can about 5 inches high, covered with a pretty paper and labelled "Cure for Rheumatism." Bonfield said the can contained dynamite of enormous strength, and the jury got the cold shivers. Hronek, continued Chleboun, said he wanted to kill Bonfield, Gary, and Grinnell. Hronek told him he wanted to do the killing himself, and after he was hung he wanted him (Chleboun) and Chapek to avenge his death. When Cleveland was last in Chicago, Hronek would have thrown a bomb under his carriage if a man called Schneider had not prevented him. Hronek had confessed having thrown the bomb at the Haymarket meeting. Some Bohemian detectives gave similar testimony. For the defence Hronek was put on the stand. He denied Chleboun's story *in toto*; he said he never had any confidence in him, and always believed him to be in police pay. As regards the empty bomb-shells found in his house, he said, a man called Karafiat had given him a box in charge. Karafiat is now in Europe. The defence put about 50 of Chleboun's acquaintances on the witness-stand, who all gave him a very bad character. Many of them declared they would not believe him even under oath. He was a man who never could tell the truth. The jury returned a verdict of guilty. The jury was out for about an hour, and then could only agree to a compromise, many of the jurymen being in favour of a longer sentence.

Hronek is as innocent as a child. The whole affair reduces itself to this: Bonfield wants to make his position safer by always "saving" the Commonwealth of Illinois. He got on to this man Chleboun through the good services of an unprincipled lawyer named Fisher. Chleboun knew Hronek, and had also heard of a mysterious box left by Karafiat at Hronek's house. Taking this as a basis Bonfield constructed the whole case. There is only one witness of importance—an informer; a person whom most of his acquaintances knew to be a confirmed incurable liar, and yet his testimony is taken to send a human being for twelve long dreary years to incarceration. However, we are living in a free country!

Newark, N.J., December 3, 1888.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

RAILWAY TYRANNY.—"We wish," says the *Railway Review*, "that the official in charge of the locomotive department at Grantnam, Great Northern, would endeavour to act with a little more consideration towards those who are placed under his supervision, as by doing so he would not only render their lives a little more endurable, but would gain for himself a small modicum of respect, which by his present attitude towards his men he forfeits. Fines and other punishments for petty offences have been grievances for some time now at Grantnam, and we have frequently been requested to refer to them. The latest infiction is that of multiplying the punishment for one offence, seeing that now all men who are fined have to sacrifice what becomes due to them as a coal premium. The originator of such a shabby proceeding has himself to thank for any ill-feeling that springs up against him in consequence of his action." That is all right so far as it goes, but are not the shareholders responsible for the ill-doings of their tool?

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

Sheffield and Rotherham ironworkers expect another advance shortly under the arbitrator's award.

Derbyshire miners are getting along well with their new organisation; they are feeling the effects of standing aloof hitherto.

In response to an application for an advance by the stokers in its employ, the Wolverhampton Gas Company has conceded 2s. per week.

The Brechin mill-workers resolved, at a meeting on Saturday night, to use all legal means to secure the advance of wages demanded.

WELSH MINERS.—Six hundred men, employed at Battisfield Colliery, Bagillt, Flintshire, struck work on Tuesday in consequence of a wages dispute. This is the third strike within that number of months at the same colliery.

WAGES IN IRELAND.—Lady Aberdeen says the deepest depth of the sweating system is touched by the Donegal worker. The knitters of Donegal are paid from 1½d. to 2d. a pair for long socks; 1½d., or 2d. at the outside, for a day's work; 1½d., if we include Sunday as a working day, for a whole week's toil.

CARPENTERS' STRIKE.—The carpenters employed in the Grangemouth dockyard, struck work Dec. 17th, and state that it is on account of the masters breaking an agreement made with them the other week, viz., not to employ joiners at carpenter work. The men on strike number thirty, and are members of the Trades' Union.

LYE CLAY MINERS.—There is a movement among the clay miners in the Lye district for an advance of wages. The men engaged at one important firm have ceased working owing to their application not being granted, and others are expected to follow their example. The men work under charter-masters, the rate of pay being according to the bulk of clay got.

SHORT TIME IN THE COTTON TRADE.—At a meeting of the Master Cotton Spinners Association of Bolton and district, held in Manchester on Tuesday 11th, it was resolved to run the mills only three days a week. The decision, which will affect many thousands of operatives, is the outcome of a dispute between the employers and workmen as to the quality of material supplied.

SCOTCH COAL TRADE.—At a private meeting held at Glasgow on Wednesday 12th, the Lanarkshire Coalmasters' Association agreed to advance their colliers' wages an additional 5 per cent. from the 15th January. This makes the total advance since October last 12½ per cent. The Fife and Clackmannan miners determined, Thursday 13th, to strike unless they received 10 per cent. advance.

GLASGOW BAKERS.—At a mass meeting of bakers held at Glasgow on Dec. 15, Mr. John Hayworth, President of the Baker's Federal Union, spoke of the need that existed for action, as he had met a man the other day who worked 86 hours a week. A motion was agreed to unanimously pledging all "to continue the present agitation until, by establishing a uniform hour in the morning, the trade as a whole may enjoy the rights of which they have for years been deprived."

CRADLEY HEATH CHAINMAKERS AND CO-OPERATION.—On the 12th inst., Cuninghame Graham, M.P., and Mr. Mahon, Secretary of the Labour Union, waited, at Dudley, on the Counties Trade Federation to explain a co-operative scheme for the Black Country chainmakers. The scheme was to borrow money from the Government at a minimum rate, erect factories, take tenders, and dispense with middlemen. The Federation agreed that the scheme was practicable, and proceeded to discuss it as workmen.

CUMBERLAND MINERS' WAGES.—At a meeting of the Cumberland Coal-owners' Association and the miners' representatives, held at the Commercial Hotel, Workington, on Thursday 13th, after a long discussion, it was agreed that an advance of 5 per cent. be given from the 10th inst. to the January audit, 1889. Should the audit allow a greater advance, the miners are to receive more; but should the audit give less, no reduction to be made till the April audit, at which time the wages will be paid on a sliding-scale average.

THE WALSALL CHAINMAKERS.—Application has been made by the men in connection with this trade for an advance in wages. At a meeting on Friday last (Dec. 14), replies were received from eight masters, four of whom expressed their willingness to give an advance if others would. The other replies stated that the application was premature, the state of trade not warranting an advance at present. The men contend that trade has improved, but that under it they are getting worse off. Ultimately it was resolved to appoint a deputation to meet the employers as early as possible in the new year, and that the secretary should write to the employers asking them to meet the deputation.

HORSE NAIL MAKERS.—The employers in this industry a short time ago decided to advance wages of operatives 3d. per 1,000, consequently the strike, which was general, soon terminated. The advance was given on condition that all employers paid the same. In one or two cases the whole of the men were not allowed to resume work, the employers refusing to pay the advance except on orders that were required. This, it was feared, would lead to another general turn out. This has now been avoided by the last of the employers sending for his workmen on Saturday last, and giving out iron at the advanced price. The operatives began work Monday. The workmen have now formed a union, and joined the Midland Counties Trades' Federation.

UNION OF BURNLEY MINERS.—Friday 14th, a large and enthusiastic mass meeting of Burnley miners was held with the view of forming a Union in the town. The President of the Lancashire Miners' Federation said that miners here, who number six thousand, had not dared to hold a public meeting for fourteen years, but during the last few weeks three hundred had joined the Union. Several of these had been discharged by their employers, but the matter would be brought before Parliament. The 10 per cent. advance had been refused in Burnley. The following resolution was unanimously passed: "That this meeting rejoices in the great amount of success which has attended the efforts recently put forth to organise the miners of Burnley like their fellow-workmen in other parts of Lancashire. We deeply regret the unfair action of the managers at the several collieries in discharging, and thus boycotting, about sixteen colliers for no other crime than joining the Union. Believing as we do that an intelligent Union is a means of self-protection, necessary to get miners their just rights, we hereby determine to press on with the work of organisation, and not to rest satisfied until we have got perfect freedom of action."

COLLIERY DISPUTE AT GREASBRO'.—The Old Parkgate Colliery has been set down owing to the dispute about the appointment of a checkweighman, and a fresh method of sorting the coal in the pit being introduced by the manager. The men have all along been indifferent as to unionism and organisation. During the recent agitation for an advance, they gave notice for 15 per cent., finally accepting 10 per cent. Since then a great change seems to have come over them. They have all, or nearly every one joined the association, and because there is no convenient place near the colliery where they can hold their meetings, they have allied themselves to the Carr House branch of the Yorkshire Miners' Association. They have not hitherto had a checkweighman. The men say they are now required to pick out all the hards from the softs in the pit, and receive no extra price for it. This, the men say, is giving them 10 per cent. with a vengeance. A number have received summonses for damages in laying the pit idle.

DEDUCTION OF FINES FROM WAGES.—In the House of Commons on Friday 7th, Mr. Bradlaugh asked the Home Secretary whether he could communicate to the House the opinion of the law officers of the Crown with reference to deductions from wages as "fines" when such deductions are other than the stoppage of unearned wage, and whether he would issue a circular to the inspectors of mines and factories giving instructions on that point. The Attorney-General, who answered the question, said: I have no objection to state that, in the opinion of myself and of the Home Secretary, deductions from wages as "fines" other than the stoppage of unearned wage are illegal. Of course, I ought to say that the facts of each particular case would require examination. The *Birmingham Post* comments: It is scarcely necessary to point out the great importance of this pronouncement. Fines are decreed for specified acts of misconduct, and are enforced by deductions from wages, in a very large proportion of factories in Birmingham and throughout the country. The legality of deducting fines from wages has, it is true, always been contested by the trades unions; but we believe no clear decision from a superior court has ever been obtained, and the almost invariable practice of magistrates in cases brought under the Employers and Workmen's Act of 1855 has been to confirm all such deductions from wages. After this declaration by the law officers of the Crown and by the Home Secretary, the practice of the magistrates will probably be reversed, and fines, if inflicted, will have to be recovered in some other way. At any rate the attention of the working classes will everywhere be directed to the fact that they are entitled to all the wages they have earned without any deduction. The pronouncement will be received with great satisfaction by trades unionists; and, there can be no question that in many factories systems of fines, pushed to an undue extent, and rigorously enforced, have been made the instruments of great hardship and tyranny.

"SOCIETY."

"WHY, yes. It cannot be disguised. There *are* at Chesney Wold this January week, some ladies and gentlemen of the newest fashion, who have set up a Dandyism—in Religion, for instance. Who, in mere lackadaisical want of an emotion, have agreed upon a little dandy talk about the Vulgar wanting faith in things in general; meaning, in the things that have been tried and found wanting, as though a low fellow should unaccountably lose faith in a bad shilling after finding it out. Who would make the Vulgar very picturesque and faithful by putting back the hands upon the Clock of Time, and cancelling a few hundred years of history.

"There are also ladies and gentlemen of another fashion, not so new but very elegant, who have agreed to put a smooth glaze on the world and to keep down all its realities. For whom everything must be languid and pretty. Who have found out the perpetual stoppage. Who are to rejoice at nothing, and be sorry for nothing. Who are not to be disturbed by ideas. On whom even the Fine Arts attending in powder and walking backward like the Lord Chamberlain, must array themselves in the milliners' and tailors' patterns of past generations, and be particularly careful not to be in earnest or to receive any impress from the moving age.

"Then there is my Lord Boodle of considerable reputation with his party, who has known what office is, and who tells Sir Leicester Dedlock with much gravity, after dinner, that he really does not see to what the present age is tending. A debate is not what a debate used to be; the House is not what the House used to be; even a Cabinet is not what it formerly was. He perceives with astonishment, that supposing the present government to be overthrown, the limited choice of the Crown, in the formation of a new Ministry, would lie between Lord Coodle and Sir Thomas Doodle—supposing it to be impossible for the Duke of Toodle to act with Goodie, which may be assumed to be the case in consequence of the breach arising out of that affair with Hoodle. Then, giving the Home Department and the Leadership of the House of Commons to Joodle, the Exchequer to Koodle, the Colonies to Loodle, and the Foreign Office to Moodie, what are you to do with Noodle? You can't offer him the Presidency of the Council, that is reserved for Poodle. You can't put him in the Woods and Forests, that is hardly good enough for Quoodle. What follows? That the country is shipwrecked, lost, and gone to pieces (as is made manifest to the patriotism of Sir Leicester Dedlock) because you can't provide for Noodle.

"On the other hand, the Right Honourable William Buffy, M.P., contends across the table with some one else that the shipwreck of the country—about which there is no doubt; it is only the manner of it that is in question—is attributable to Cuffy. If you had done with Cuffy what you ought to have done when he first came into Parliament, and had prevented him from going over to Duffy, you would have got him into an alliance with Buffy, you would have had with you the weight attaching as a smart debater to Guffy, you would have brought to bear upon the elections the wealth of Huffy, you would have got in for three counties Juffy, Kuffy, and Luffy, and you would have strengthened your administration by the official knowledge and the business habits of Muffy. All this, instead of being as you now are, dependent on the mere caprice of Puffy.

"As to this point, and as to some minor topics, there are differences of opinion; but it is perfectly clear to the brilliant and distinguished circle, all round, that nobody is in question but Boodle and his retinue, and Buffy and his retinue.

"These are the great actors for whom the stage is reserved. A People there are, no doubt,—a certain large number of supernumeraries, who are to be occasionally addressed, and relied upon for shouts and choruses, as on the theatrical stage; but Boodle and Buffy, their followers and families, their heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, are the born first actors, managers and leaders, and no other can appear upon the scene for ever and ever."

CHARLES DICKENS in 'Bleak House.'

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

As our readers are aware, we do not care a fig for parliamentary methods and tactics, and electioneering at large is considered by us as mere humbug and dodgery; but at the same time, in this column of "notes and record of events" we have only to deal with facts, not with theories. As such, we chronicle this week the election of General Cluseret as representative of the Var Department, a completely agricultural district, in the French Assembly of Deputies. His election is all the more worth noticing, because it clearly shows the more and more revolutionary character of the French provinces. The bourgeois of the Var Department resorted to all sorts of means, good and bad, in order to defeat the Socialist candidate, and yet it was all in vain. Cluseret, the peasants were told, is a revolutionary by profession—the worst kind of man; with him the doctrines of international Socialism would enter the Chamber, exclaimed the *Temps*, the biggest of all bourgeois papers; his return meant "violent revolution" and "revenge of the Commune," and so on. The Opportunists, the Radicals with Clémenceau at their head, the Possibilists—all did their utmost against him; the whole governmental and administrative machinery was set at work to beat him; and the Boulangists throw their best forces against him in the battle. At last they contested even his eligibility, he having been at war with Garibaldi against the Bourbons of Naples and afterwards against the slaveholders in America, losing thereby his nationality as a French citizen. In spite of all that, and solely because he was put forward as a revolutionary Socialist and an ex-member of the Commune, he won the contest. And on the very same day, in the Ardennes Department, another ex-member of the Commune, J. B. Clément, was shamefully beaten, not because he had been a "Communard," but because he had morally ceased to be one since he joined the "Possibilist Socialists," who seem to go more and more hand in hand with the Floquet-Ferry gang of sham-Republicans.

GERMANY.

We shall soon have a monster trial for secret conspiracy at Elberfeld. No less than one hundred Socialists are to be tried on that indictment, and it is said that the proceedings will last for three months. There has never before been such a gigantic judicial farce in Germany. Several hundred witnesses, male and female, will come forward. The preliminary instruction of this forthcoming trial commenced on April 4, and concluded on Nov. 21. Several of them were then set free on bail, amounting to 10,000 marks. A considerable number of the accused having wives and children, the Socialists thought it their duty to collect funds for their support, but the magistrates, no doubt thinking that it would do them good to let them starve somewhat before sending them to prison, hurriedly got out an order preventing any collection being made. Such magistrates are not even scoundrels, they are simply beasts, and there will come a time when such beasts will be remembered by our German friends.

Last week, in connection with the above-mentioned trial, a thorough search was made at Dresden, at the houses of the two Socialist deputies, Bebel and Singer, who are already comprised in the list of witnesses. Perhaps the authorities thought that they would find something important, which might have enabled them to raise their position of witnesses into that of accused. But it appears they were completely disappointed.

BELGIUM.

Strikes are going on in the Hainault province, increasing in some places, decreasing in others, but on the whole affect a rather serious character. In fact, it cannot be foreseen what to-morrow may bring us: the workers may at once recommence toiling for mere starvation wages, or a violent and desperate insurrection may be the result, and a very natural one too, of the numerous black meetings that are held day after day. We do not intend to record to-day, as we started doing last week, the new spots where strikes have broken out, or the numerous dynamite attempts that have been made here and there; we possibly may have to consider these events in our next issue under a somewhat different light to what many people perhaps think, and if so, we shall speak plainly. For the time being, some fifty or sixty men have been sent to prison, the Attorney-General of Brussels, Van Schoor, and the Administrator of Public Safety (*i.e.*, the head of the Belgian detective department), Gauthier de Rasse, are on the spot, a thing which has never been seen or heard of before, and their agents, known and unknown ones, act under their personal supervision. We only wish to say now to the Belgian miners at strike that it will be very wise for them to be more prudent than ever and to watch very closely the various sorts of people they are dealing with in the numerous meetings and other manifestations they are now engaged in.

The open-air propaganda is carried on very lively in a way in Belgium. The Brussels burgomaster has prohibited meetings altogether; the mayor of Laeken, a suburb, also; that of Ixelles, another suburb, has allowed them to be held and even protects the meetings; and so it goes on in the various suburbs, the silly magistrates prohibiting and the wise ones admitting the public gatherings. Comrade Verrycken speaks at Laeken on the revision of the Belgian Constitution; is at once stopped by the police and charged by the disapproving magistrate with obstruction or what not. Then he walks along for half an hour or so and reaches Ixelles, where he speaks on the very same subject, amidst the general applause of the audience, including the approving mayor, who listens very attentively to our comrade. At Huy, near Liège, another Socialist has started open-air speaking and the mayor there fails to see anything wrong in it; at Liège, the burgomaster, a most liberal-viewing man, issues a decree based on a law enacted August 4th, 1790, and forbids all speechifying! On the whole, open-air meetings will be held everywhere, and the magistrates will soon be defeated.

ITALY.

Our comrade Paolo Valera, who has been sentenced in Italy to several years of imprisonment, and has since lived in London as a political refugee, will shortly issue at Milano a pamphlet entitled 'Lasciatemi passare' (Let me pass through!), which is likely to create a great deal of sensation in Socialist circles, and perhaps also some ill-feeling. He intends therein to persuade Socialists convicted for political offences to ask for pardon from their respective governments, in order, as he takes it, that they might again be enabled to devote themselves to Socialist work and propaganda in their own country. Having been compelled to live far away from Italy for a considerable time, he seems to have come to the conclusion that Socialists

are hardly useful workers in the cause as soon as they have left their native land. We may further discuss his views when we have read his pamphlet; but in the meantime we know comrade Valera well enough to predict that he will hardly himself take advantage of his proposal. His intentions, we are certain, are good enough; but we know that hell even, as the saying goes, is paved with good intentions. V. D.

After the strike of the silkworkers of Varese and Como, the town of Lecco in the same province had its turn. On the 3rd inst. all the female silk-spinners struck work for shorter hours and an increase of wages. Their demands give a very sad illustration of their wretched condition; more impressive than any words could convey. They asked a franc (*i.e.*, tenpence) for a working day of ten hours and continuous employment all the year round. Great excitement prevailed. The women diverted the water of the Gerenzone, which supplies the motive-power of several mills, and marched with flying banners through the town. The masters on their part declared every concession impossible, and called for protection. Police and troops were drafted into the town, and after these preparations for a free and friendly settlement of the dispute, a benevolent mayor—like in the case of Como—intervened as peacemaker. After a wrangle of several days, the starving workers accepted the following conditions: 12 hours' work in autumn, winter, and spring, 13 the three summer months, for a daily wage of tenpence.

The strike of the journeymen bakers of Venezia has ended with a defeat of the men, thanks to the intervention of the authorities.

One of the measures towards the solution of the social question, so boastfully announced in consequence of the royal visit to the Romagna some time ago, has at last been brought forward in the shape of a police law for the regulation of emigration, or better, for putting emigration agents under police supervision. Comrade Costa asked in Parliament whether that was redeeming the pledge of the Government? Not regulation of emigration was wanted, but the removal of the causes of the evil. If, he says, in the province of Ravenna the emigration has not taken greater proportions, it is because the Socialists in this province advise the workers not to ask bread and work from America, but from their own country. The cultivation of immense barren plains like the Agro Romano and the Tavoliera di Puglia would give bread to millions. But, he exclaimed, you have not the money to undertake the cultivation, you will answer me. You squander it in distant enterprises and in armaments which drive the nation into a dishonourable war, that is condemned by the public conscience!

Whilst the Government thus make a lame show of protective legislation for the working classes, they are most carefully engaged in the brutal repression of the labour movement. In Florence our comrades Cioci and Clementi, the editor and the publisher of the suppressed paper *La Questione Sociale* have been condemned to eighteen months' imprisonment and to a fine of 1,800 francs each. At Carrara fifteen Anarchists were brought before a middle-class jury for "seditious cries and rebellion"—that is, resistance to the police. Nine of them were found guilty and condemned to imprisonment from four to five years. "E pur si muove!" H. SCH.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

The Offices of the Socialist League will be open for the sale of *Commonweal* and all other Socialist publications from 8.30 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day except Sunday. The Secretary will be in attendance from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily.

Library.—The Library is open to members of the Socialist League and affiliated bodies. LIBRARY CATALOGUE, containing the Rules, 2d. D. J. NICOLL and W. BUONDELL are the Librarians.

London Members' Meeting.—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, Jan. 7, 1889, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock sharp.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.—1888: Clerkenwell and Leicester to December. *Notice to Branch Secretaries.*—Please remit to Central Office your Branch Capitation fees as soon as possible. A list of Branches in arrears will shortly appear.

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

REPORTS.

CLERKENWELL.—H. Davis lectured last Sunday on "Anarchist Communism v. Social Democracy" to crowded and attentive audience. A very interesting discussion followed. 25 *Commonweal* sold, besides other literature.—B.

FULHAM.—On Tuesday evening, back of Walham Green Church, Sampson (S. D. F.), Hall, Groser, and Smith addressed a fair meeting. Sunday morning, opposite the Railway Station, Hall spoke for an hour to an excellent audience. Fair sale of *Weal*. In the evening, outside our rooms, Hall and Davis spoke, and succeeded in obtaining a good audience for Sparling, who, inside, lectured on "The Leprosy of Politics." Several questions asked and some discussion followed.—S. B. G.

HAMMERSMITH.—Good meeting at Latimer Road Sunday morning by Maughan, Catterson Smith, and Dean; choir assisted. At Welje Road in evening, Lyne, jun., Maughan, and Catterson Smith spoke to good audience. Choir sang "No Master." At Kelmscott House, Mr. de Mattos lectured on "Socialism and Political Economy."

ABERDEEN.—At indoor meeting on 10th inst., Leatham lectured on "Materialism and Transcendentalism." At Castle Street on Saturday night, good meeting addressed by Aiken and Barron, the latter satisfactorily disposing of questions at the close.—P. B.

GLASGOW.—Sunday at 5, good meeting as usual at Paisley Road Toll, where Glasier and Joe Burgoyne spoke. Our own members mustered well. 2s. 4d. collected. At 7 o'clock we held a short open-air meeting at the Co-operative Stores, Morrison Street, where Downie spoke with unusual vigour to an unusually small audience.

IESWICH.—On Thursday, Murphy lectured on "The Church, what Effect it has upon the People," J. Thomas in chair; good discussion followed. On Sunday, a debate took place between Read and Murphy, "Can Parliament set aside the Law of Supply and Demand?" Goodhouse in chair.—J. T.

NORWICH.—Thursday, Mowbray continued series of lectures; subject, "Life and Times of Edward III." Swash took the chair. Sunday afternoon short open-air meeting in Market-Place, audience small owing to inclement weather. Sunday evening usual lecture not held in Gordon Hall; a conversational meeting held by a few members.

LECTURE DIARY. LONDON.

Bloomers.—This Branch is now actively working. Socialists resident in this locality should send their names in at office to 13 Farringdon Road. Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Sunday December 23, at 8.30, Free Concert by Members and Friends. Ham.—8 Effie Road, Waltham Green. Committee meetings are held on Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock. All members are earnestly requested to attend. Sunday December 23, at 8 p.m., G. Berners (Fabian), "Socialism and its Rivals." Hackney.—Secretary, E. Lefevre, 14 Goldsmiths Sq., Goldsmiths Row, Hackney Foal. Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday December 23, at 8 p.m., William Morris, "Equality." The series of Wednesday lectures will be resumed early in January; further notice will be given. Hoxton.—12, Basing Place, Kingsland Rd. Business meetings of this branch are held every Friday evening at 9 o'clock. London Fields.—All communications, etc., to Mrs. G. G. Schack, 26 Cawley Road, South Hackney. Merton.—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singlegate. Lecture on Sunday evenings at 8.30. Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road. North London.—Business meetings held at 6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, on Friday evenings. All members please turn up, without fail, to appoint a new secretary, on Friday next, December 21st. Important. Waltham and Camberwell.—This branch is now in working order. Friends in this locality are earnestly invited to co-operate, and send their names in. Committee meetings every Monday, 7.30 p.m., at 3 Datchelor Place, Church St., Camberwell Green. Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.—International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road. Meet for urgent business Friday next at 8 o'clock sharp; hoping secretary will turn up.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—Secretary, P. Barron, 14 Ann Street. Branch meets in Oddfellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8. Bradford.—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivegate. Meets Tuesdays at 8. Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Tuesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. Samuel Wilson, Secy. Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Edinburgh (Scottish Land and Labour League).—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8 p.m. Galashiels (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 184 Glendinning Terrace, secy. Gallatown and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatown Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St. Glasgow.—84 John Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Weekly meeting of members on Thursday evenings at 8. French Class meets every Sunday at 11. SPECIAL.—Soiree, Concert, and Dance on Hogmanay Night, to bring in the New Year, Waterloo Pillar Hall, at 7.30. Revolutionary songs in English, French, and German. Tickets, 1s. 3d. Ipswich.—Pioneer Hall, Tackett Street. Meets on Sunday evenings. Kilmarnock.—Secretary, H. M'Gill, 22 Gilmour St. Branch meets on every alternate Tuesday. Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Rd. and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m. communications to T. Paylor, Leicester.—Hosiery Union Offices, 11a Millstone Lane. Fridays at 8 p.m. Norwich.—Sunday, at 8, Gordon Hall. Monday, at 8, Meeting in Gordon Hall. Tuesday, 8.30, Members Meeting. Wednesday, at 8, Educational Class. Thursday, at 8, Lecture by Mowbray, subject "Life of Copernicus the Astronomer"; tickets 1d. each. Friday, at 8.30, Meeting in Gordon Hall. Saturday, 8 until 10.30, Co-operative Clothing Assoc. Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 25 1/2 Pembroke Street. Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m. Walsall.—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m. West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

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

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA. (Weather permitting.)

Table with 2 columns: Time and Location. Includes entries for Latimer Road Station, Regent's Park, Waltham Green, Hyde Park, Victoria Park, Broad Street, Soho, Clerkenwell Green, and Welford Rd.

Tuesday. 8.30...Fulham—back of Waltham Green Ch. ...Branch EAST END. SUNDAY 23. Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Nicoll. FRIDAY. Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...The Branch. PROVINCES. Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7 p.m. Glasgow.—Sunday: Glasgow Green at 2 p.m.; Paisley Road at 5.30. Ipswich.—Sproughton, Wednesday evening. Westerfield, Thursday evening. Needham Market, Sunday morning and evening. Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m. Norwich.—Sunday: Market Place, at 11 and 3.

BRYANSTONE WORKING-MEN'S CLUB AND INSTITUTE, Broadley Terrace, Lissong Grove.—Rev. S. D. Headlam. Sunday Dec. 23. ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, HAMMERSMITH.—Rev. F. L. Donaldson, M.A. (Special Sermon), "The Renewal of Society." Sunday Dec. 23, at 5 p.m. CHELSEA BRANCH S.D.F., Pelham Rooms, Kimbolton Row, Fulham Road, S.W.—Sunday Dec. 23, at 8 p.m., W. L. Phillips, "Labour and Socialism." BERNER STREET CLUB.—On Saturday December 29, Mr. Gould, of the Limehouse Branch S.D.F., will deliver a lecture—"Will Parliamentaryism help to bring about the Social Revolution?" NORTH HACKNEY RADICAL CLUB, 83 Church Street, Stoke Newington.—Sunday Dec. 23, at 8.30, Mr. G. Langley, "Is War Beneficial?" The Mitcham Branch is about to be reconstituted. All desirous of helping in the work of the S. L. in and around Mitcham, Merton, and Streatham should communicate with comrade J. Campbell, 98 Wellfield Road, Streatham. LEICESTER.—A course of lectures on "Socialism, its Aims and Principles" is being delivered in Leicester Secular Hall. The fourth lecture will be delivered on Sunday Dec. 30 by Sydney Olivier—subject, "The Moral Aspect." THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—The Committee will meet at the house of S. Oliver, 139 Trafalgar Street, Waltham Road, on Saturday Dec. 22 and Dec. 29, at 7.30 p.m., to receive subscriptions and enrol members. Friends in South London particularly requested to be present. SOUTH LONDON.—Friends who will help to establish a Branch of the Socialist League in South London will please place themselves in communication with C. Henze, 41 Bolton Street, Thomas Street, Kennington Park, S.E., or by letter to H. Hopkins, 17 Gairloch Road, Shenley Road, Peckham, S.E.

SOCIALIST LEAGUE LITERATURE.

- Chants for Socialists. By William Morris. 1d
Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades' Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Binning (London Society of Compositors). 1d
The Commune of Paris. By E. Belfort Bax, Victor Dave, and William Morris. 2d
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