

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE great demonstration against coercion in Ireland which took place on Sunday afternoon was rather spoiled by the very heavy snowfall which had taken place and which was still going on throughout the whole of the proceedings. Of course, as it was the weather, that was to blame, one could only "damn the nature of things" and endure the ill-hap with what philosophy one might. The Unionists have been chuckling over their foes' discomfort, and the Home Rulers have answered them with justifiable pride in the numbers and spirit of those who turned out; and the Socialists, who joined with all their hearts in the protest, and, with the advanced Radicals, formed the bulk of the meeting, are not quite heartbroken at the loss of a mere parade.

For these Home Rule demonstrations which lead to nothing but more demonstrations are getting rather played out. A real "demonstration" means something, and those who really "demonstrate" are there to show that they mean it. But these happy-hunting-grounds of the politician, we now know under the much-abused name, mean nothing but the keeping Radicals quiet and giving Socialists a chance of working off their steam, while the Whigs quietly play their part of the parliamentary game for all it is worth. There are men, even among Liberals, who are tolerably earnest; but the bulk of them—!

Putting Gladstone to one side, for he can with some show of reason plead age and infirmity, what ails Harcourt or John Morley that they should not go to Ireland and there demonstrate? They could at one and the same time show their hatred for the plank-bed argument and test for themselves its efficacy in converting a political opponent. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, even, might for once pluck up his courage to the point of incurring a slight personal risk. That would win him some of the respect he lacks now, and advertise the *Star* as well. Especially if he took his proprietors along with him.

We have given the same advice before: it was not taken. It will not be now. The fact of the matter being, that while the Tories are in earnest, the Whigs are not. For a long while the game of party politics was played in "gentlemanly" style. The opposing forces marched and counter-marched with much bravery and banners. Nobody meant anything, outside an inconvenient small minority who could be kept within bounds. But the people are waking even in England, and the Tories begin to see that the game is growing dangerous for them; the people have an ugly habit of getting serious, and then they refuse to be frightened at pasteboard bogies.

So the Tories must needs recur to the old-fashioned friends and allies of law-n'-order, the plank-bed and the prison-cell. They must leave off playing at government and begin to govern. The Whigs are half in sympathy with them, knowing that they would have to do the same were they in the same place; as they have done, and will do again. But they must go on with the game; and as they are too cowardly to make it earnest, they play monkey to the Radical and Home-Rule cat, ever ready to claim advantages and repudiate responsibility. At the same time they make the most of their time while the temporary alliance lasts, to demoralise the party of progress as much as they can and retard its advance.

If the wheel takes another turn, and a strong Whig ministry comes into power, we shall speedily see what a giant fraud is the "Great Liberal Party," and what uncanny creations are the fruit of it. Meanwhile we must not be led away too far by the glory of great names and the bluster of the *Star*. Our aim is a single one, and reached by one road. So far as any one will walk with us, we are willing to allow him to keep our company; but that should not mean slackening our pace to suit his. The passing agitations of the time are helpful to us, or not, as we make use of them; and in doing so we must never lose sight of the inevitable revolt against the commercial system for which we prepare, and which is coming with ever-increasing speed. S.

It is extraordinary how little the average middle-class newspaper requires to build up a charge of incitement to "crime" on the part of an Irish Home Ruler, or an English Socialist. Here is the *Echo* trying to prove that Mr. O'Brien deserves his four months because he incited the people to kill Inspector Martin. Here are the sentences of Mr. O'Brien's speech which the *Echo* relies upon to prove this most extraordinary assertion.

It appears that Mr. O'Brien in his speech at Ballyral, after recommending Irishmen to follow the example of the Primrose League, continued as follows: "Yes, you must do this, *there is no alternative but the bludgeon.*" The *Echo* then points out that on Sunday week an Irish mob acted on Mr. O'Brien's advice, and bludgeoned Inspector Martin to death.

I am at a loss, however, to see what connection there can possibly be between the two events. There is not the slightest attempt on the part of Mr. O'Brien to recommend the use of the bludgeon, but only the peaceful methods of the Primrose League, pointing out at the same time that if the boycott were not used extreme measures would become necessary; but how this can be tortured into a kind of general injunction to settle the hash of police inspectors on every available opportunity, puzzles the wit of man to discover.

The Unionist press does not fail to do its utmost to work up most agonising and realistic accounts of the condition of the said inspector's smashed skull. The same thing was done in Chicago with regard to the wounds of policemen injured by the explosion of the bomb. If these people would only use the utmost resources of realism in describing the ghastly injuries inflicted by English Gatling guns and grape-shot upon the bodies of the unfortunate savages, it might perhaps have given the general public a higher opinion of their humanity.

It is all very well to go into hysterics over the killing of a police inspector, but how is it that these same journals which are so eloquent upon this topic could not find a graphic paragraph to pile up the agony over the fearful condition of the heads of the poor workmen bludgeoned to death by police last year in Trafalgar Square? If the murder of four workmen is such a small matter, surely we may conclude that the killing of a policeman is also of no very great consequence.

For my part, the trimming cowardice of the Liberal leaders, who are so very anxious to protest their detestation of this act of resistance against the law, is about as mean as it can be. After all, what did the people do but defend the person of a man they loved and admired against the legal outrages of the prison cell; and if the emissary of legal brutality came to grief, what reason is there for these Pecksniffian tears over his fate?

The *Star* seems suddenly to have reawakened to the extraordinary merits of its chosen candidates. The men who last week were "timid, vacillating, and commonplace," are our democratic heroes now they have been bullied into accepting the *Star* list; they are "stalwarts" once again, say till their next fit of vacillation and timidity; so the world wags. If any one will take the trouble to collect the varied utterances of the *Star* during the ensuing year concerning its favourite councillors, it would doubtless form an interesting collection.

Mr. Firth had betrayed the people the other day, now "We have won and splendidly won, thanks largely to Mr. Firth's energy and good management," and the people of London may be happy in the knowledge that "We now have on the Council a majority large enough to make Our programme a happy reality for the people." O let us be joyful! The capitals in the quoted sentence are mine.

The wicked Tory is warned that if he dares to obstruct, something dreadful will happen to him. "Let the monopolists obstruct if they dare!" After this Titanic sentence I naturally expected to hear

that they had got a new patent-guillotine up in the *Star* office, that with the aid of the steam engine would cut off heads with the same rapidity as the press throws off copies of the paper; but I am greatly relieved to hear that the *Star* will only shatter the Tories into everlasting nothingness by a "protest" if they should be too daring.

Mr. John Morley prefers to lose his seat rather than accept that very moderate item of the Social Democratic Programme, an eight hour bill. He has, of course, plenty of objections from the practical point of view, though the only one which is really serious is the objection that it would do nothing to diminish sweating, as the worst forms of sweating occur when work is taken home by the slaves of that system.

Your objections are all very well, Mr. Morley; but what are we to gather from them? Is it that you think with us that nothing but a Social Revolution can really raise the condition of the workers, or have you some better plan for making misery more bearable than that of the Social Democrats? Or do you think that this is the best of all possible worlds managed in the best possible manner? We would like to know.

It has come at last to this. He who is not with us is against us, just as much if he is a superfine Liberal philosopher, whose works abound with passages of pretended sympathy for the people, or one of those who join in the "brutal feasts of the rich," heedless of the handwriting of doom upon the palace walls. The day has gone by for words, it is deeds that are needed now; and it is by deeds that we shall know our friends from our foes. That is the message of the people to Liberal and Tory alike. D. N.

DISGRACEFUL FACTORY RULES.

MANY of our readers are ignorant of the inside of factory life; perhaps believing some of them that what they hear about it is exaggerated. In order, then, to give them an idea of its truth we offer the following little piece of realism, the "Rules and Regulations to be observed by the Work-People employed by Clarke, Nickolls and Coombs (Limited), Hackney Wick Confectionery Works, London, E.," which are given letter for letter from the printed copy issued by the firm. Inside the cover is printed in red the following:—

These Rules and Regulations will come in force on January 1st, 1889, and every employee of the Company, and all succeeding employees in their first engagements, will receive a copy free. In the event of any person leaving and presenting themselves for re-engagement, they must produce this copy, or if they are unable to do so, must procure a new copy, for which a charge of one penny will be made.

LODGE ACCOMMODATION.—A charge of one penny per week for each person is made for the use of the lodge. This penny will be deducted from wages. Those who stay in the lodge for meals will be required to pay an extra penny each per week. The persons in charge of the lodge will collect this extra penny.

FINES.—Any person on whom a fine may at any time be inflicted has a perfect right to refuse to pay the same by accepting the alternative of immediate dismissal. A fine once paid cannot be recovered.

Then begin the

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Work to commence at 8 a.m. punctually, and to terminate at 7 p.m., except on Saturdays, when the Works will close at 2.30.
2. Fifty-six hours of actual work to be reckoned a week.
3. One hour allowed for dinner, 1 p.m. to 2 p.m., except on Saturdays when half-an-hour is allowed, 1 to 1.30 p.m.
4. Any one coming late will lose half-an-hour's pay. If twice late in one week to lose half-an-hour for the first and one hour for the second time, and if more than twice late to lose one hour for each time, including the first. No one allowed to come to work after 8.30 in the morning, nor later than 2 o'clock in the afternoon, except by permission of the Manager or of the General Foreman.

Note.—This rule applies to piece workers as well as day workers.

5. Every person on entering the Works both morning and afternoon must take their brass tickets from the board and deposit the same in the time box, any one omitting to do so will be marked absent and paid accordingly, but no one allowed to place in the time box any ticket other than their own, and any one so doing will be liable to immediate dismissal.

6. The gatekeeper will every morning and afternoon, make out a list of those numbers which he has marked as being either absent or late. This list will be hung up where it can easily be read, and every person is requested to examine it twice-a-day, and if they find that they have been marked late or absent by mistake must immediately report the same to the gatekeeper who, if satisfied that a mistake has been made, will alter his books accordingly.

7. No person is entitled to notice before dismissal, nor is any re-

quired before leaving, although wages will only be paid once a week.

8. Any person absent for a whole day without sending word to the General Foreman as to the cause of absence, will be considered as having left, and be treated accordingly.

9. The time for each week to be made up to 7 p.m. on Thursday; overtime for that day to be carried forward to next week. Piece work also to be made up to Thursday night. Wages to be paid on Friday.

10. No one allowed to leave the premises during working hours without permission of the Manager or of the General Foreman, and no one allowed to leave at any time except by the proper entrance at the gatekeeper's lodge.

11. No child, young person, or woman, allowed on any part of the premises except the lodge during meal-times, and no man allowed on the premises except such as may be specially required.

12. No person allowed to enter any room except where he or she works or has business.

13. To prevent accident or damage to machinery, everyone is strictly forbidden to go near any machinery except employed thereat. Damage done to machinery, implements, materials, goods, or property, to be paid for by those causing such. And any person being cognizant of any infringement of this rule and not immediately reporting the same to the Foreman of their Department, or to the General Foreman, Manager or Directors, will be treated as an accomplice of the offender.

14. For the support of the Medical Club, one penny per week will be deducted from the wages of every person employed in the works, in return for which they will be entitled (with certain exceptions) to receive Medicine and Medical Attendance in the event of illness while in the Firm's employ.

Note.—As a matter of convenience 6d. will be deducted every 6 weeks instead of 1d. weekly from those whose earnings amount to or exceed 10s. per week.

15. No tea or coffee making or drinking allowed on any part of the premises except the lodge.

16. No intoxicating liquors to be brought on any part of the premises including the lodge, and no smoking allowed.

17. Reading of books or newspapers in the works is not allowed.

18. No swearing or obscene language allowed, and quarrelling and striking strictly prohibited. And any annoyance caused to fellow workpeople will be treated as a misdemeanour.

Note.—This rule applies to all not only while at work, but also when coming to or going from the Works.

19. No one allowed to use sugar sacks as aprons, or aprons made of sugar sacks, whether belonging to the firm or otherwise.

20. Every one must be decently dressed and cleanly in appearance.

21. No person allowed to light the gas but a Foreman, Forewoman, or his or her Deputy, who must use the lamp or taper specially provided for that purpose, and on no account must lighted paper or matches be used.

22. Loan Societies or Clubs of any sort are not allowed within the precincts of the Factory. Nor is it allowable to raise a subscription for any purpose whatsoever without the consent of the Directors.

23. Goods or materials are not allowed to be eaten or taken away. Any one offending against this rule will be subject to immediate dismissal and to the forfeiture of what wages may be due, and also to be rigorously dealt with according to law.

24. The bell rings for half a minute before one o'clock, and again for half a minute before seven o'clock, and no one allowed to discontinue actual work until the bell begins to ring, nor to leave the room in which they are employed until it has ceased to ring.

25. Every one must consent to be searched before leaving the premises.

26. Punishment in the shape of fines or dismissal will be inflicted at the discretion of the Directors for any breach of the above Rules and Regulations, but wilful damage, theft, etc., are also liable to be dealt with according to law.

27. No one will be allowed to come to work while suffering from any infectious disorder, nor while any infectious disease is present in their homes. Any breach of this rule will be punished by instant dismissal, and the offender will not at any future time be taken on again.

Here follows a "Wages Calculator showing the rate [from 3s.] . . . up to 40s. per week," and three pages of "General Information," as to "engaging new hands", Factory Act, Library "of several hundred volumes of standard works, open to all employees who have been 12 months in the Company's service", Annual Collection for Hospitals, Holidays, and Fire Practice. The holidays are "Good Friday, Easter Monday, Whit Monday, First Monday in August, Christmas Day, and Boxing Day." "In general the day following each of these days is also observed as a holiday." There is no intimation whether any of the holidays are paid for or no: they are not. The firm which enforces the above rules is one of the best and most respectable of its kind in London. What, then, must the position of the workers be in a lower-class factory?

S.

IPSWICH UNEMPLOYED.—Thomas and Creed held first meetings of unemployed here on Monday, 10th, first addressing them at the Commissioners' Yard, where about 200 of them had assembled. Thomas afterwards visited the Labour Bureau, where he had a very stormy interview with the rev. gentleman in charge, who stated that there were not 50 men out of work. We afterwards addressed about 400 on the Cornhill, who listened with great attention, and who seemed to take in the new ideas, so that further meetings are arranged for.

THE KIRK'S ALARM.

"The fact was, the churches in Glasgow, Edinburgh, or any other great city, had become far too much a mere Sunday meeting-place for the highly respectable and well-to-do. Those for whom the church chiefly existed were conspicuous by their absence. When people went to church in this country, it was not so much to engage in an act of common worship at the footstool of God as to meet together in social respectability to listen to a sermon—at least to sit at a sermon, whether they listened to it or no."—Rev. Professor Story (Established Church).

"One of the greatest difficulties which the Church had to contend with was the indifference of multitudes who were within its shadow. How it had arisen it would perhaps be difficult to say. But, however, it had arisen; it was a great appalling fact with which the Church had to reckon."—Rev. Wm. Watson, Dumbarton (U. P. Church).

"There's a heretic blast
Has been blawn in the wast,
That what is not sense must be nonsense."

EVER since the days of Burns, when the unco' guid were alarmed with the heretic blasts of the New Light clergymen, by their "preaching that three's ane and twa," the Scotch kirk has winked at the preaching of all such "damnable doctrines," which seek to join faith and sense. But the kirk of to-day is moved with an "alarm" that affects it in a more vital part than the orthodoxy of its preachers. Its pocket is affected; for by its own confession it has lost any influence it ever had over the artisan population, and for them alone is its gospel preached. Those interested parties who have hitherto been the stoops of the kirk have discovered that the kirk is not effectual in doing that for which they have been supporting it, and it is admitted by the clergymen and presbyteries of Scotland that the numbers who have ceased to attend "divine worship" in the churches "are very large and alarmingly on the increase." It is also admitted that not more than ten per cent. of artisans attend church, and a census taken by one of the sects showed only 4 per cent. of an artisan population doing so in the southern district of Glasgow. In pointing out these facts at the last Established Presbytery meeting in Glasgow, ex-Baillie Gray said "there was a great Africa in our midst." The report submitted to the Established Church Assembly showed that in 407 parishes 102,367 are not connected with any church, in 505 congregations the membership has alarmingly decreased, in 163 the membership has remained stationary, and over the whole country the membership has declined in proportion to the increase in population.

The puerile suggestions to remedy this which have been put forward by the various presbyteries, and the inventions and innovations of individual parsons, give evidence of how dark they all are respecting the real cause of the decay in churchism, or, if they be cognisant of it, all their innovations, debates, and commissions testify of the many incongruous shufflings they are prepared to adopt before they apply themselves to the one thing they lack. A close observation of those who attend church in Scotland will reveal the fact that not more than 20 per cent. are men, the balance being made up by women, girls, and boys who have not yet command over their own choice. Of the men it will be found they are mostly shopkeepers or others who place a money value on church attendance. The different tradespeople are, in all districts, in evidence at the church in the same proportionate preponderance—drapers are always before grocers and so on—the bigger profits each trade yields being the measure of "religion" found amongst its dependents. The state of affairs respecting church attendance is more alarming in the cities to those who hold undue privileges in the present false society; than it is in the country districts. The *odium theologium* has lost its powers in our cities. The people are more unrelated in cities than in the country districts, and they have consequently freed themselves earlier from the theological ban. It has now no power in the cities to prevent the workers from meeting on the day most suitable to them, to discuss matters pertaining to their daily life and work.

The parson's monopoly of Sunday is doomed. The country districts follow the cities in social customs, and already it is becoming fashionable in country districts to be somewhat unconventional. Signs are not wanting that the workers of both city and country will soon use the time they already refuse to the church, in discussing and deliberating affairs of vital importance to them here and now. It is not so long since social, labour, or political meetings would have been impossible in Glasgow on a Sunday, and now they are of a weekly occurrence; and in country districts—where the Sunday usually was devoted to the church alone, unless when the "unco' guid" were closeted in their homes with the blinds drawn and the toddy-kettle on the fire—it is common now to see mass meetings of miners deliberating on affairs which press upon them more closely than the plain pulpit platitudes to be heard in the churches. The gentry who give money to the church so that its gospel may be preached at the poor, have certainly ample cause for alarm at the failure of the church in its policy of mental coercion. Workpeople have ceased to believe that it is the will of a good God that they should be content in the position they now find themselves. They decline to load God with such a responsibility, which, they see clearly enough, belongs entirely to the church itself with its "damnable doctrine" of perpetual poverty. The truth is beginning to dawn upon Scotch artisans that it is not in consequence of anything outside of the province of our moral teachers which causes the poor to be always with us. They now see there is enough and to spare, produced by the workers and the resources of nature to provide for the needs of all, if our moral teachers had performed their part of the social contract as efficiently as the workers, scientists, inventors, sun and earth have done theirs. Our moralists

are the only defaulters. This is now recognised by the dullest day labourer who knows of the increased stores of wealth that cannot find a means, under the present arrangement, to reach the ends for which they exist. When our moralists see the way to abolish the thieving checks which at present stem the free flow of the industrial channel, and preach and act accordingly, I have no doubt "the common people" will flock to them in as large multitudes and hear them as gladly as their prototypes did of old when a present living gospel was preached to them.

The failure of the church to reach the workers, is found in the fact that the "gospel" it now preaches is not a gospel for them. They have taken away the gospel, which the common people of old heard gladly, out of the church and hid it so that the artisans of to-day do not know where to find it. They have "made the house of prayer a den of thieves." Its triune god is manifested through pride, laziness, and hypocrisy, and in its temples the "money-changers" do congregate. The church of to-day instead of being a house of prayer, is converted by the "money-changers" into an instrument for acquiring wealth, position, and power—things which drove the real Christ to his greatest outbursts of anger. Is it any wonder that educated artisans should cease to attend such a place, or that its priests should be forced to entice them with smoking sermons, or theatrical mounted pulpit performances, or pulpit gags of the Beecher type, such as "The Tilton scandal has knocked my 'Life of Christ' into a cocked hat?"

There is hope in the present alarm of the church for Socialists. The Established Church Presbytery of Glasgow has, by its late debates, confessed that it is not now the church of the poor. At a late meeting the "shepherds" proclaimed their ignorance of the poor in their own "fields of labour," and appointed a commission to enquire and report. This commission has only to enquire into the housing of the poor, for if it would extend its enquiries to what makes them poor, members of the Presbytery would be scandalised thereby. They apparently forget a mouse can die as readily of starvation in a gilded trap as in any other. In the vast 96 per cent. of the artisan population which the church fails to touch, there is a something which only requires the light of Socialist truths to enliven it into action. The deeds done to, and by, these artisans, are the simple ingredients of that something—

"Our deeds do follow us from afar,
And what we have been makes us what we are."

Our duty as Socialists, therefore, lies openly before us, viz., to reach that something with the only additional ingredient that can make it a living force for reform. By bringing the light of Socialism on the deeds they are forced to perform for the present false society, and what they get in return for doing them, and by holding up the hope of the new society of justice, plenty, and happiness, in the way we can most efficiently reach them, we will enliven the 96 per cent. as rapidly and efficiently as a lighted match would enliven a powder magazine.

GEORGE M'LEAN.

DISCRETION OR — ?

ON the evening of Friday, 1st February, Professor Geddes, of Edinburgh, delivered a lecture on "Theories of Social Progress" to the Aberdeen Junior Liberal Association. While "going for" the orthodox political economist on the one hand and the Socialist on the other, and partly misrepresenting the position of both, he said that the formation of commercial syndicates and the socialization of labour simply paved the way for the community to take over production and distribution. He pointed to the difference between the condition of the newsboy and that of the telegraph boy as an indication of how much better it would be to live in the future as a servant of the Co-operative Commune than to live in the present as the wage-slave of a capitalist.

From what we had heard of Professor Geddes, we were led to expect that he would hit out at trades-unionists, co-operators, and Socialists alike, and that, as an admirer of Ruskin and as something of a Positivist, he would advocate the moralisation of trade. We were at once surprised and bewildered to find him advocating Socialism very explicitly. Comrade the Rev. Alex. Webster and myself had gone to the meeting with the intention of opposing him; but we were so taken aback by the upshot of the lecture, that we hesitated to tackle him for his misrepresentation of the Socialist position, thinking we must surely have misapprehended him. We or at least I, did not realise how far the lecturer had erred until after the meeting, which the chairman seemed anxious to bring to a sudden close. Geddes admitted frankly to myself when the meeting had broken up that he was a Socialist.

This may be a good way of stealing a march on the enemy; and I do not care to accuse a man like Geddes of want of courage and honesty. But it does not seem quite fair to pretend hostility to the Socialists and then to adopt their ideas; to set political economy on the one hand and a misrepresentation of Socialism on the other, and then to set forth Socialism as advocated by us as the golden mean. As to the avoidance by Mr. Geddes of the name Socialist, I do not see that this policy can be justified on the plea that there is a prejudice against Socialism. Socialism is a good name for an excellent set of principles (to put it mildly); and what we ought to do is unreservedly to adopt the name, and by advocating the principles, root out or live down the prejudices against it. JAMES LEATHAM.

STRIKE OF SEAMEN.—There is no change in the situation with respect to the strike of seamen at Liverpool. The Union continues firm, while owners profess confidence in their ability to tide over the difficulties caused by the strike. Meanwhile men are being attracted from the outports. It was thought that some "knobsticks," as outsiders are termed, would be turned back when applying for service on the *Servia* on Saturday, being unable to produce their discharges. However, everyone presented was duly passed by the inspector and went on board the unionists displaying great irritation.



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, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. A.—'Poland: an Historical Sketch,' translated by E. S. Buchheim from the German of Count Helmuth Carl Bernard von Moltke, was published in 1885 by Chapman and Hall. You will find the following useful and trustworthy: 'Poland: her Glory, her Sufferings, her Overthrow,' by Prof. K. Wolski; published by Kerby, London 1883, 8vo.

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Justice	Boston—Woman's Journal	Antwerp—De Werker
Labour Elector	Chicago—Knights of Labor	Liege—L'Avenir
London—Free Press	Detroit—Der Aitte Tausel	ITALY
Norwich—Daylight	Milwaukee—National Reformer	Turin—Il Muratore
Postal Service Gazette	Port Angeles—Commonwealth	SPAIN
Personal Rights Journal	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	Seville—La Solidaridad
Railway Review	S. F. Coast Seamen's Journal	Madrid—El Socialista
Social Democrat	FRANCE	Cadiz—El Socialismo
Worker's Friend	Paris—L'Egalite (daily)	PORTUGAL
INDIA	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Bankipore—Behar Herald	La Revoltte	GERMANY
Madras—People's Friend	Le Coup de Feu	Berlin—Volks Tribune
UNITED STATES	HOLLAND	AUSTRIA
New York—Der Sozialist	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Wien—Gleichheit
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THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS.

(Concluded from p. 42.)

LITTLE more remains to be told. How false was the verdict and the evidence of witnesses in one case, was shown by the testimony of some thirty or forty English reporters connected with the London and provincial press, who declared that, despite the evidence of witnesses and the verdict of the jury, "they believed, on the strength of their long experience in cases of criminal procedure, that Thomas Maguire, private in the Royal Marines, was innocent of the crime of which he had been convicted and that his conviction has resulted from mistaken identity." This knocked a tremendous hole in the conviction; for in spite of the opinion of judge, jury, and witnesses, these reporters declared their belief in the innocence of a man whom these good people had condemned to death. This placed the Government in an awkward pickle: if they acted on the testimony of these newspaper reporters and liberated Maguire, they would discredit their own court of justice, for if it could condemn one to death who was innocent, might not the others it had condemned be also innocent? But his innocence was so evident that the Government feared to be logical, and Maguire on 21st of November received a "free pardon" for what he had not done. Maguire was at once liberated; Allen, Larkin, Shore, and O'Brien were still detained in custody. Many were the efforts made to obtain a reprieve for them. John Bright, Algernon Charles Swinburne, and many other Englishmen, were among the petitioners. We are pleased

to say that the London workmen also did their best to save these gallant lives: Protests were passed against the execution of the condemned Irishmen at many large public meetings in London. But the capitalistic press shrieked for blood, and howled at and cried down these demonstrations of humanity. Lord Derby, who was then at the head of the Government, refused to listen to any appeal. He declared that it was not a political offence, but a murder, commonplace save for its peculiar atrocity. He even went out of his way to say that the act for which these men had to die was "a cowardly and detestable deed." It may be doubted whether his lordship would ever under any circumstances find sufficient courage to imitate it. A deputation of the London artisans attempted to approach her majesty with a petition, but the petitioners were driven from the palace gates and were mobbed and hooted by the royal funkies and tradesmen.

At the very last moment another man had his sentence commuted—Shore, the Irish-American. Why he was respited is a mystery; for if taking part in the rescue of Kelly and Deasy was a crime deserving of the penalty of death, Shore clearly ought to have been hung with the others, for in the dock he proudly declared before a crowded court that he was a full participator in the rescue. Some explanation may be found for this unexpected clemency when it is mentioned that Shore happened to be an American citizen, and the brave English middle class, always courageous before the weak, and cowardly before the strong, feared to incur the enmity of the powerful American Government. This last reprieve raised the hopes of the friends of the condemned men, but alas! these hopes were soon to be disappointed.

Even before the respite of Shore the Government were pushing on the preparations for the execution. Troops were poured by rail into Manchester and every other city where an Irish element existed. The inevitable "specials" were sworn in in abundance, and their ranks were greatly strengthened by all the roughest in Manchester by the announcement that beer and refreshments should be free as air to every gallant "special" who rallied around his beloved queen and country on this momentous occasion. All the streets in the neighbourhood of the prison were closed to ordinary traffic, filled with police and "specials," and were crossed at close intervals by strong wooden barriers. Troops and artillery garrisoned the jail, and large platforms were erected on each side of the scaffold on which the troops crouched down "with the muzzles of their rifles resting upon the wall." The whole terrific preparations were capped by a proclamation from the mayors of Manchester and Salford, advising all law-abiding and peaceful citizens to keep away from the place of execution. Of course, as our readers know, in those days executions were public. The account of these mighty preparations may give them also some idea into what a pitiful state of funk the bold money-grubbing Briton had been thrown by the attack on the prison-van at Manchester.

In the midst of this excitement and terror, the condemned men were quietly passing the last hours of their lives. On the day before their execution, Friday the 22nd of November, the doomed men bade farewell to the few relatives who were allowed to see them. The parting of Larkin with his family was agonising. Poor Allen, although not quite twenty years of age, was engaged to a young girl who loved him most devotedly. She was refused by the tyrants who were murdering her lover the last poor consolation of bidding him farewell. On Friday evening they were locked up for the night at the usual hour—about half-past six o'clock. Here their thoughts were disturbed by the brutal merriment of a mob which was gathering outside the prison gates to gloat upon the legal murder of the morrow.

The scene outside the jail on the terrible Saturday morning is thus described by Mr. Sullivan: "Between them [the mob] and the massive prison walls rose piles of heavy barricading, and the intervening space was black with a dense body of men, all of whom faced the gloomy building beyond, and each of whom carried a special constable's baton in his hand. The long railway bridge running close by was occupied by a detachment of infantry, and from the parapet of the frowning walls the muzzle of cannon trained on the space below might be dimly discerned in the darkness. But the crowd paid little attention to these extraordinary appearances; their eyes were riveted on the black projection which jutted from the prison wall, and which, shrouded in dark drapery, loomed with ghastly significance through the haze. Rising above the scaffold, which replaced a portion of the prison wall, the outlines of a gibbet were descried; and from the cross-beam hung three ropes, terminating in nooses, just perceptible above the upper edge of the curtain which extended thence to the ground. The grim excrescence seemed to possess a horrible fascination for the multitude. Those in position to see it best stirred not from their post, but faced the fatal cross-tree, the motionless ropes, the empty platform, with an untiring, an insatiable gaze, that seemed pregnant with some terrible meaning; while the mob behind them raved, struggled, pushed, and fought; and the haggard hundreds of gaunt, diseased, stricken wretches, that vainly contended with the strange types of ruffianism for a place, loaded the air with their blasphemies and imprecations."

The fatal hour strikes. A line of warders is formed in the gaol court. The sentries on duty cease their march; magistrates and reporters stand aside, and a dead silence prevails for a few moments. At three minutes past eight o'clock the solemn voice of a minister repeating the litany of the Roman Catholic Church is heard, and the head of the procession becomes visible through the fog. The three men march to the scaffold accompanied by a priest of the Roman Catholic Church, Canon Cantwell. The fatal nooze was first placed over Allen's head. O'Brien is placed by him: the two heroes bend over, and, capped and pinioned as they are, affectionately kiss each other. Larkin is now

brought out and led directly to his place. The sight of his two brother martyrs capped and pinioned, with the fatal cord around their necks, seemed to unman the poor fellow utterly. O'Brien, firm and unshrinking to the last, turned to him and murmured a few words of encouragement. Calcraft disappears; the three men stand a moment before the multitude; then the bolts are pulled back, the trap falls, and three corpses swing below the scaffold.

The law has triumphed! The gentlemen of England have avenged themselves upon the rebels who despised their "law-'n'-order." But to-day in Ireland the verses that tell of their gallant death have become a song of triumph and victory, and it is the memory of the Fenians of Manchester that upholds the Irish peasant against the utmost force of his oppressors.

Now a few words in conclusion. The whole Nationalist party in Ireland, moderates and Fenians, look upon Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien as martyrs who were cruelly and basely murdered by the English Government. Every year the Irish people commemorate the murder of these brave young men. Yet a certain Irish Nationalist accuses the revolutionary Socialists in England of "unmanly whining" when we remember the murder of our comrades in Chicago, and tells us for comfort that they were justly executed. We reply that they had done nothing which the brave Irishmen at Manchester had not already done. O but the Chicago Anarchists believed in physical force! So did the Fenians at Manchester: not only did they believe in it, but they acted up to their belief. The Anarchists were present [?] when a bomb was thrown that killed a policeman. Allen and his companions were likewise present when a shot was fired that killed a policeman. Both bands of heroes were condemned to death by a lying press, a packed jury, and a butcherly judge. Why does not the law-'n'-order loving editor of the *Star* say that the Manchester Fenians were justly hung for these very excellent reasons? Be logical, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and say at once that if one body of revolutionists deserved death, then so did the other. But we revolutionists declare that both bands of heroes will be remembered by future generations when certain popular editors and their papers have sunk into the well-merited obscurity—that awaits the shams who during their brief lifetime impose upon the credulous and unthinking. Let respectable editors rejoice in their "largest circulation" and monetary prosperity. A day will come when people will remember what they now forget, and will forget what they now remember; and in those days the names of the Chicago and Manchester martyrs will be on the lips of thousands who will know nothing of the people who now insult the dead. May we learn to imitate these heroes, and if our turn comes, to die as proudly and defiantly. We cannot have higher or nobler examples of courage and fortitude. May we be worthy of them.

D. J. NICOLL.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

ARE we nearing another 1873—a year which was specially remarkable for its industrial, commercial, and financial panic—is a question which even capitalistic papers are beginning to ask themselves. They feel that it is no longer safe to pursue an ostrich policy, and they are beginning, as one paper puts it, "to advise business-men everywhere to prudently take in sail and go slow for a while. There are squalls ahead." And well may they sound the bugle-call of alarm! The country has, if competent authorities can be relied upon, hardly ever been more dangerously near a most momentous crisis than just at present. All the long-indulged-in talk about abnormal prosperity, booms everywhere and for everybody, Yankee enterprise, well fed and clad workers, and sound investments, did not and could not explain away the facts staring everybody in the face. First of all, the coal-trade is in a very miserable state. The winter has up to now (the end of January) been mild indeed, unusually mild, and as a consequence the demand for coal has not been half so strong as in years gone by. It is said by people well able to judge that there is at present as much anthracite coal ready for consumption as the country needs for the next twelve months. A great many mines have shut down, and more than 20,000 workmen in that branch of industry are without employment. Of the men still at work most are working half or three-quarter time. The iron and steel works are not much more prosperous. Competition has been very strong among them: there are a good many more works of this kind than are necessary for the satisfaction of the demand of this article. Railway building is just now not very much in favour with the monied class, and this also adds to the discomfort of the iron and steel works. How many workers in this industry are forced to be idle it is exceedingly difficult to ascertain, but their number cannot be small. The woollen industry, which of late has been very sickly, has had little or indeed no chance to improve during the last twelve months, and even a high, almost prohibitory, import tax did not nor could mend matters very much. The workmen in this trade are reported to have little if any work to do. The railroads, owing to the very short crops, have been doing a comparatively small business, and the low prices paid by the grain speculators for wheat have still more, if such were possible, pauperised the farmers of the western States. The farmers of old States are migrating to new homesteads in the territories, trusting to be able to find more favourable conditions. The Indian territory has not as yet been opened up for settlement to the whites, but the settlers are already pouring in by the thousands, and the soldiers find it impossible to keep them out. There is hardly a single industry or trade which may claim to be in a flourishing condition. And last but not least, the sudden change of system from a highly competitive mode of production and distribution to the concentration and consolidation of capital, has unsettled everything. The workers, thrown upon the pavement through the shutting down of some establishment or other by the order of a trust, find it exceedingly difficult to obtain employment elsewhere, and capital itself has hardly had time to get used to the new order of things. Nearly every day we hear of the formation of some trust or other, and of the simultaneous closing down of numerous factories and works. The capitalists suffer little through this revolution in matters economic; they take care they are not "left," and as usual the workers

alone have to bear all the burden. All over the country strikes, lock-outs, shut-downs, reduction of wages, and miserable failures of the boycott are reported. The Monongahela, Pa., miners resolved a few days ago to stand out against a reduction in wages of about 15 per cent.; in the Connellsville, Pa., region, fourteen thousand coke-workers, in mid-winter, are considering the advisability of striking to prevent being still further reduced below the "standard of miserable existence" rate; in Brooklyn, N. Y., 800 carmen are on strike, a dispute between capital and labour which has already caused the loss of a life, of a "scab"; in New York city 2,000 carpet-workers, 2,300 Cuba cigarmakers, 2,000 feather-curlers, have been compelled to strike; and so on, *ad infinitum*, throughout the length and breadth of the entire country. Well may the capitalists and their hirelings, the press-slaves, look gloomy. However, they need fear nothing. They can well afford a panic, a stagnation of trade, a temporary cessation of the modern cesspool called commerce. Their means permit them to do so; and if perhaps the workers become rebellious, a thing which is much to be doubted, then the capitalists have only to command the police, the militia, or the Pinkertons and suchlike to shoot a few of the "lazy," the "unwashed," the "unkempt," and the order will be obeyed without murmur. And what are the workers doing? As they are wont—sleeping, trusting to-morrow will take care of itself.

Till it is too late, till they are thrown by thousands into the streets to starve, or at best to beg and to steal. When the waves of misery are getting more powerful in their turn, and more destitution has knocked out of them the last remnants of energy, perhaps then, and only then, they may think of preparing themselves to take some action. Then, when it is too late, when they have lost the golden opportunity to take hold of all the things they have created, and to work them for the good of the community at large and not for the benefit of a class, then perhaps they may induce and persuade themselves to believe that after all the Socialist Cassandra was right. Instead of considering all this today, of preparing for the inevitable fight, they talk, talk, talk, ignoring the harsh march of stern economic evolution—of introducing the eight hour's labour day. Think of it, ye evil powers that be in hell and elsewhere, and smile, for *your work* will be done. And when it is too late, despair, a spirit of hate, of revenge, will take possession of the workers. Vandal-like they will go and smash, smash whatever is to be smashed. For reason has left them. But when the smashing is done, what next? The intelligence will be missing to do the building-up, and once again the slave will sneak back to his workshop, glad once more to feel the master's whip. And such will be the end of the panic of 1889—

The Chicago *Times* is continuing the battle against the corrupt Chicago police gang. Many of your readers will be puzzled at this. They will ask themselves undoubtedly: How does it come to happen that a capitalistic paper; above all a newspaper, undertakes a crusade against the corruption of officials? It has yet to be recorded that a capitalistic paper, especially in America, ever did anything in the interest of public morality, or for the sake of protecting persecuted innocence and standing up for the right. Neither is this the case with the Chicago *Times*. Ostensibly, and if we were to believe its self-laudation, this paper is the most moral and the best public spirited in existence. However, there is an "inner history" for its present conduct. Way back in the year 1886, Carter Harrison was mayor of the good city of Chicago; no man could be more popular, more liked for his liberalism, real demagogism, than Carter. And such is the case with him to-day. Under his administration happened the Haymarket affair, and respectability charged him through his liberalism with having been one of the "constructive" causes of this encounter between police and people. "Clear the rascal out!" became the watchword of the rich and the well-to-do of the Citizen's Association. And cleared out he was, and John Roche the present mayor came in on the "Saviour of Society" ticket. Since then Carter has travelled round the world; he is back now in Chicago, desirous to take anew in his hands the political whip: In a few weeks the election for mayor will come off. Carter wants himself or one of his henchmen to be returned with a sweeping majority. The rottenness of the "Saviour of Society" administration—Roche, Bonfield, Schaack—has only to be shown up to effect this. Hence the attacks of the *Times*. So in the present onslaught of the editor of the *Times*, who is gifted with a keen sense for detecting a good thing on the police, the "fine Italian hand" of Carter Harrison may be discerned guiding the fight strategically.

The Central Labour Union of New York has endorsed the plan of the American Federation of the Trade and Labour Unions calling for demonstrations in favour of the eight hours' day. Mass meetings will be held in New York City on July 4th and September 2nd, 1889, and February 22nd, 1890.

Newark, N.J., January 29, 1889.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

SKILLED AND UNSKILLED LABOUR.—At Newcastle, on Saturday, the United Tyne District Labourers' Association was formed. The object of the association is to advance the interests of the unskilled labourers of all classes, and if possible to improve their position. On the Tyne and Wear there are 25,000 unskilled labourers employed in the shipyards alone.

EDUCATION AND STARVATION.—At Dalston Police-court on Friday week, February 8th, before Mr. Bros, between seventy and eighty summonses were heard, taken out by the School Board for London against persons who had not sent their children to school. Most of the people were miserably poor, and some had had to journey in the cold and wet from the extreme east of Bethnal Green. One woman, who looked defiantly round the court, said to Mr. Stone, School Board prosecutor, "I think I'll speak to this gentleman (indicating the magistrate). I can't speak to the School Board gentlemen." Mr. Bros: You must behave yourself. Defendant: Yes, sir; but he has summoned me for the big gal as minds the baby, and she is a deal o' good to me when I goes to work. Mr. Bros: How old is this girl? Defendant: Twelve next birthday as ever is when it comes. The officer: The child is only just eleven. Defendant: I don't tell lies. I was never brought up to it. Mr. Bros: Have you a husband? Defendant: Yes, and he and I, if we works hard in the busy season, can't earn more than 25s. a week, and out of that we 'as to keep ourselves and five children and pay 7s. 6d. rent. Mr. Bros: I think you ought to stop at home and mind the children. Defendant: And then I should have to let 'em starve. We always 'as to pay the rent of the house, 12s., whether the lodger pays or not; and 'as we works for the landlord he always stops it. Why, last time I had to take the boots off the young uns' feet to pay what you fined me. Mr. Bros: I'll give you another chance, and adjourn the case for a month. On leaving the court the woman glared at the School Board officer, saying, "If I had my way I would choke you."

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

ITALY.

At last the Italian unemployed have imitated their brethren on this side of the Channel by revolting against the shameful system which forbids the makers of wealth to earn, even while working, their bare livelihood. The bread riot that took place in Rome on Friday week, is identical with that which London witnessed on February 8th, 1886. The hungry unemployed, tired of waiting for work from their rulers, with one accord rose up, marching through the eternal city, smashed shop-windows, stopped tram-cars, carriages, and defied and resisted the so-called representatives of law and order, shouting loudly ever and anon "Long life to the Social Revolution!" When some of the well-to-do classes dropped from their balconies a handful of coppers, the "mob" furiously resented the well-meaning conduct with indignation, crying, "Down with the bourgeoisie! We want work and not charity!" In Gregoriana Street, where the Premier has a private house, the excited crowd shouted, "Down with Crispi! Down with the Government! Death to those that will not give us work! Down with the capital! Up with the barricades!" At Montecitorio they stoned the House of Commons building, and they gave vent to their passion, "Up with the Social Revolution! Down with the Camarra! Down with speculators! Hither and thither, or work or barricades! Viva the '89!" The leader of this great riot is merely a blacksmith, almost unknown, who had the good sense to remind his fellow-workers on the previous day that at the meeting held in Rome, September 30th, 1888, in Piazza, Dantez voted a resolution promising that on the very day that hunger should knock at the door of their slums, they would go and take the bread where there is also the luxuries (Great cheers, and Bravo Guocchetti! Long live Guocchetti!) We ought to take the necessities of life where we can find them! The day afterwards, when the deputation came back from the Under-Secretary of State, telling them to wait two days, our comrade Guocchetti sung out upon a chair, Enough of waiting! we are hungry! and the people shouted, Long life to the social revolution! Ninety-seven were arrested, including Guocchetti. Many of the rioters were brought to the hospital with their limbs broken. But nevertheless the riot was not a total failure, as we read in the capitalist dailies that they have looted many shops and wounded seventeen policemen (*questurini*) and soldiers. P. V.

BIBLIOGRAPHY.

'A Biographical Dictionary of Freethinkers of all Ages and Nations.' By J. M. Wheeler. London: Progressive Publishing Company, 1889.

It has been truly asserted by John Stuart Mill that "the world would be astonished if it knew how great a proportion of its brightest ornaments, of those most distinguished even in popular estimation for wisdom and virtue, are complete sceptics in religion," and Mr. Wheeler intends to show us, in a handy little Dictionary, "how many of the world's worthiest men and women have been freethinkers."

This design, and its complete realisation, fully deserves to be encouraged not only by those who in matters of religion are freethinkers, but even by all those who in the various fields of human activity are working for the future against the past, for enlightenment and progress against darkness and reaction. Socialists in particular should avail themselves of the opportunity of securing the valuable references gathered by the author. Socialism is not only an economic theory pure and simple, as we are often told; as a true science of society, it embraces all the various manifestations of the social body, in matters of economics, politics, and religion alike. Thus in our opinion Mr. Wheeler has not only made a contribution to the cause of freethought and towards the history of "the good old cause," as he terms it, but he has rendered good service also to the cause of the emancipation of mankind at large. His book therefore deserves to meet with a full share of favour from all parts.

The biographies—or rather biographical notes, for it was impossible considering the small size of the book, to give a full view of any of the lives dealt with—are generally sufficient and in most cases accurate enough to be used in first instance, as preliminary references for further research in special works. We have carefully looked through the first series (Abelardus to Bauer), the only one yet published, and from this instalment we may expect to have soon at our disposal a fairly good contribution to special bio-bibliography. But why does Andreux deserve a place in Mr. Wheeler's nomenclature? Because he is a freethinker? He is not; he is only a renegade. He was at the Anti-Concil at Naples in 1869. Yes, but there he did reactionary work, vehemently opposing the introduction of materialistic views in school teaching. In 1880 he executed the decree against the religious congregations of Paris. Yes, but he was compelled so to do, and did it most reluctantly. I am sorry to find that contemptible name among such a number of well-deserving writers and thinkers. Why has J.-J. Altmeyer, late professor at the University of Brussels, been omitted? He has propagated the "good old cause" in Belgium for nearly forty years, at the cost of many a sacrifice. And Count d'Alton-Shee, the French Socialist, who was "neither Catholic nor Christian," as he put it, and at whose secular funeral Gambetta made one of his best speeches—why does he not appear, as he deserves to? M. Victor Arnould is said to have written a 'History of the Church, and a little work on the 'Philosophy of Liberalism.' That is certainly not enough. His 'History' is but an introduction to his 'Tableau de l'histoire sociale de l'Eglise' that appeared in the *Revue de Philosophie Positive* of Littré and Wyrouboff and that is continued now in the *Société Nouvelle*. Moreover, M. Arnould has been from 1868 to 1873 chief editor of *La Liberté*, wherein many a battle for freethought has been fought. Besides 'La filosofia e la ricerca positiva,' Mr. Wheeler might have told us that Angiulli has written 'Questioni di filosofia contemporanea' and 'La pedagogia, lo stato, e la famiglia,' which are, from a philosophical point of view, two capital works. He ought also to have mentioned 'Les Harangues de l'Exil' of Bancel, which contain splendid pages, from a freethinker's point of view, about Voltaire, Rousseau, Montaigne, Pascal, Bossuet, and others.

Mr. Wheeler knows Plato's reflection that "though it be the merit of a good huntsman to find game in a wide wood, it is no discredit if he does not find it all," and he has anyhow found enough to make a good and useful work, that was much needed, and for the completion of which we are anxiously waiting.

VICTOR DAVE.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 23, 1889.

17	Sun.	1600. Giordano Bruno burnt at Rome. 1794. Trial of Charles Sinclair for sedition. 1856. Heinrich Heine died. 1866. <i>Habeas Corpus</i> suspended in Ireland, about 250 suspects immediately arrested. 1880. Explosion of about 100 lbs. dynamite at Winter Palace, St. Petersburg; attempted by Kholturine, a cabinet-maker, an agent of the Executive Committee. 1880. A spy, Larkoff, killed in St. Petersburg by order of the Executive Committee. 1885. Revolt of political prisoners at Irkutsk; 9 soldiers and 30 exiles killed and wounded.
18	Mon.	1793. Trial of J. T. Callender, W. Berry, and J. Robertson for seditious libel. 1857. Unemployed meetings in Smithfield. 1879. Joseph Raynor Stephens died.
19	Tues.	1473. Copernicus born. 1619. Vanini burnt for heresy. 1820. Cato Street Conspiracy formed. 1858. "Conspiracy to Murder" Bill thrown out by House of Commons. 1861. Russian serfs freed. 1878. Myschkin hung.
20	Wed.	1694. Voltaire born. 1831. Poles defeat Russians at Grohow. 1855. Joseph Hume died. 1887. Congress of Belgian Co-operative Societies at Ghent.
21	Thur.	1667. Baruch Spinoza died. 1799. Trial of Rev. G. Wakefield for writing and John Cuthell for publishing a seditious libel. 1803. Colonel Despard and six others hanged for high treason. 1819. Carl Daniel Adolf Douai born. 1879. Prince Demetrius Kropotkin, Governor of Kharkoff, killed by revolutionists for cruel treatment of political prisoners. 1882. Trial of 20 for conspiracy to revolt: Soukhanoff (a naval officer) shot; 18 others to mines, many for life. 1886. Socialist demonstration in Hyde Park; 75,000 present. 1887. Great unemployed demonstration in Dublin.
22	Fri.	1787. First Convocation of Notables (France) began to sit. 1796. Trial of Thomas Kennedy for high treason; of Andrew Glennan and 12 others for conspiracy. 1811. Trial of John and Leigh Hunt for seditious libel. 1831. Miners' riots in Cornwall; at Helston to prevent shipment of corn, and at Blazey in defence of their "combination." 1855. Bread riots in London. 1864. Riot between Fenians and their opponents at the Rotunda, Dublin. 1875. Charles Lyell died.
23	Sat.	1716. Earls Derwentwater and Kenmare beheaded for rebellion. 1823. Trial of "Bottle Conspiritors," Dublin, for alleged attempt on the Lord Lieutenant. 1842. Edward von Hartmann born. 1848. French Revolution begins. 1870. Anson Burlingame died. 1882. Marie Ferré died. 1885. Fenian Congress at Paris.

François Haeck.—Born at Zoersel, in the province of Antwerp, 1818; died at Brussels, February 3, 1889. His parents being very poor, young Haeck was compelled to leave school at an early age and become apprentice to a printer at Brussels. But he was desirous of learning, and attended as much as he could the evening classes in the capital. Particularly fond of mathematics and natural science, he soon attracted the attention of his teachers, and got on so wonderfully well that after a few years he was able to leave the printer's shop and to be himself a professor of mathematics. He soon afterwards published a book on infinitesimal calculation which is considered by specialists as a work of high value and merit. The study of advanced mathematics led him to the study of astronomy, physics, chemistry, and besides he became acquainted with matters financial, commercial, and industrial—so much so that he took to the study of political and social economy. He then became an adept of the Fourierist social doctrines, and to his last hour remained faithful to the economical conceptions of his youth. The Fourierist pure and simple, of course, was by and by transformed into a Socialist "guarantist," as the French word has it—i.e., that he was more and more favourable to such institutions as are able to guarantee, either by private initiative or by the power of association or by legislative interference, a better situation for the working-classes generally. Led forward by these principles, he became successively a member of the *Union démocratique*, of the Socialist party of the province Brabant, of the Reform League, and lately of the Socialist Workingmen's party. "The programme of that party," so he said once to his friend De Paepé, "is entirely in my own *desiderata*, and therefore I am amidst you; but my views are far ahead of yours, and I am always, as good old Fourier, for integral association, attractive labour, and free and complete development of all human faculties." He was also among the originators of the Belgian freethinkers' movement. In the last years of his life he devoted all his energy and all his financial means towards the solution of the dreadful question of alcoholism, and he has found that solution, not in teetotalism or any other bogus and philanthropic remedy, but in the scientific purification of strong liquors and in the absolute prevention of delivering any other drinks than those which have undergone that chemical purification. Comrade De Paepé, as a scientist, asserts that Haeck's invention would have sufficed to enrich him, and yet he only worked and overworked himself to fall step by step into the most unbearable misery. So often it is the fate of great and generous men. Anyhow, the time is wellnigh approaching when Haeck's service to the cause of humanity will be recognised. De Paepé says that he will be ranged among the greatest benefactors of mankind, for he will have discovered the only remedy to that appalling evil of alcoholism, more dreadful even than the *peste* of the middle ages. At any rate, the proletariat will surely have a kind remembrance for the humble and learned man who loved them and worked for them all his life through.—V. D.

NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS.—The miners of Northumberland are demanding an advance of 10 per cent. in wages, 15 per cent. being asked by some lodges. A few months ago the men received an advance of 5 per cent. The employers have now proposed a sliding scale; but there is a strong disposition on the part of the men to reject it. The ballot papers examined in Newcastle on Saturday showed the voice of the county to be in favour of simply demanding a 10 per cent. advance.

LANCASHIRE COTTON TRADE.—A crisis has occurred in the trade. The Employers' Association having been informed by the North-east Lancashire card and blowing room operatives that they repudiate the Blackburn standard list of prices, serious complications are expected. In some sheds notices have already been given in. At Brierfield one shed, with 200 looms, is already stopped; another, with 300 looms, is working out; and another is partially stopped. The agitation to prohibit steaming in sheds is progressing, and the total signatures will not fall far short of 250,000. A meeting of Lancashire Members will consider the question early next Session.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON 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.

Annual Conference.—The Annual Conference will be held on Whit-Sunday, June 9th. Place of meeting and other particulars will be duly announced.

London Members' Meeting.—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, March 4, 1889, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock sharp.

Branch Subscriptions Paid.—1888:—Clerkenwell, to December. 1889:—Leicester, to January. Mitcham and North London, to February.

Notice to Branch Secretaries.—Please remit to Central Office your Branch Capitation fees as soon as possible. A list of Branches in arrears will appear.

Commune Celebration.—At this year's celebration, the choir will sing the "Marseillaise," "When the People have their own again," and "All for the Cause." All willing to take part are invited to practise along with the Hammersmith choir, which meets every Thursday at 7.30, prompt.

Children's Party.—A Children's Party will be held at 13, Farringdon Road, on March 12th. Subscriptions, etc., can be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Groser, 19, Rigault Road, Fulham. The Committee will meet at 13, Farringdon Road, on Tuesday, Feb. 19th, at 7.30 p.m. All members of the Committee are asked to attend.

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.

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE.—Propaganda Committee meets on Tuesday, February 19th, at 8.30 p.m. Important business; all members who are interested in the propaganda are asked to attend. Leaflet on "Commune" by Sparling and Dave will be read.
D. J. NICOLL.

REPORTS.

LONDON OUTDOOR PROPAGANDA.—At Leman Street, Cores and Turner addressed a short meeting here on Sunday morning. At Clerkenwell Green on Sunday evening, a good meeting was held by Mainwaring, Cores, Hicks, and Parker. Some comrades also assisted at the great Anti-Coercion Demonstration at Hyde Park last Sunday.

HAMMERSMITH.—Good meeting at Latimer Road on Sunday morning, in spite of snow; speakers were Dean and Maughan, and Crouch (S.D.F.); choir assisted. At night, the hall was fairly full to hear Belfort Bax lecture on "The Marxian Theory of Value." This branch has now been for a long time in fine condition and working well, between 30 and 40 members attending the business meetings. Several open-air meetings have been regularly kept up throughout the winter. As the weather improves new stations will be taken up, and we are preparing for a strong propaganda.

ABERDEEN.—At indoor meeting on 4th, Leatham read lecture on "Revolution by Reform," Slater in chair. Stormy discussion at close. Outdoor work rendered impossible by wind and snow.—J. L.

EDINBURGH.—On Wednesday 6th, J. Gilray read essay on Matthew Arnold's "Social Ideals" to Old Greyfriars Literary Society. The subject was, of course, dealt with from a Socialist standpoint. There was a good attendance, and an animated discussion, in which comrade Milliet took part.

GLASGOW.—On Saturday evening, we held a meeting on Jail Square, Pollock and Glasier being the speakers; owing to the cold weather the meeting was not large. On Sunday, at 5, Pollock and Joe Burgoyne addressed a fair meeting at Paisley Road. At 7 o'clock William Morris gave a lecture on the "Society of the Future," in the Albion Hall. There were some 600 or 700 present—a large audience considering the cold weather and the unfavourable situation of the hall. The lecture, which was listened to with great attention and frequently applauded, obviously made a deep impression on the audience. Quite a number of questions were put to Morris at the close, which he answered with his characteristic vigour and aptness of illustration. A resolution in favour of Socialism was carried with only one dissentient. Some seven quires of *Commonweal* were sold and a considerable amount of literature. Financially the meeting was a success. A gathering of members took place in our Rooms at midday to meet Morris and discuss propaganda matters. The gathering was not so large as it ought to have been. No special intimation was sent to members, and in future members must depend for branch intimations upon announcements in the *Weal*. On Tuesday Morris addressed the students of the School of Art on "Arts and Crafts."

NORWICH.—Kitz, who was sent here last week by the Council, reports that a good meeting took place in the Market Place at 3 p.m. on Sunday; a crowd of about 1,000 stood in the midst of a severe snowstorm for over an hour, and paid close attention to the speeches; 11s. collected for Mowbray fund. Fair audience in Gordon Hall at night despite the terribly inclement evening. The audience was of the right sort, critical and attentive. Songs and readings wound up an enjoyable evening. Comrade Kitz has received most encouraging reports of Yarmouth, a sturdy movement going on there; and as to Norwich they are pulling together well, and are likely to soon attain once more the position they had temporarily lost.

YARMOUTH.—Two successful meetings here, Sunday 10th, on the Priory Plain, in the morning at 11 a.m., and in the afternoon at 3 p.m. Mowbray gave a stirring address at the morning meeting, Reynolds in the chair. In the afternoon Ruffald in the chair, Reynolds gave a short address. Several new members have joined branch. Last Sunday night Reynolds was appointed secretary, and Ruffald treasurer.—C. R.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

- Clerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. (½-minute from Farringdon Station, 1 minute from Holborn Viaduct). Members who cannot attend are requested to send in their subscriptions due, with card, to branch, if they can do so without inconvenience to themselves, or otherwise communicate with secretary. Committee meeting every Sunday at 7.30. Lecture on Sunday February 17, at 8.30, Brookes, "The French Revolution of '89." Sun. 24, Mrs. Schack, "How Women can Help the Socialist Movement." Sun. March 3, H. Davis, "Objections to Socialism Answered."
- East London.**—26 Cawley Road, Victoria Park. Members and friends desiring to join this branch should at once send their names to the secretary, H. Davis, 97 Boston Street, Hackney Road.
- Fulham.**—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Committee meetings on Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock sharp. All members are earnestly requested to attend. Sunday February 17, at 8 p.m., S. Bullock, "Adulteration."
- Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday Feb 17, at 8 p.m., A Lecture. Wednesday 20, John Burns (S.D.F.), "Socialism from a Workman's Standpoint." Thursday 21st, at 7.30, Choir practice. Friday 22nd, at 8 p.m., French Class; at 9 sharp, Weekly Business Meeting; after business, a discussion on some point of interest in the propaganda.

- Hoxton.**—12 Basing Place, Kingsland Road. Business meetings held every Friday evening at 9 o'clock.
- Mitcham.**—3 Clare Villas, Merton Road. Meets every Sunday, at 11 a.m.
- North London.**—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Rd. Meets every Friday evening at 8 o'clock. Friday February 22, Nicoll will read Kropotkin's "Spirit of Revolt."
- Walworth and Camberwell.**—Committee meeting every Monday, at 7.30 p.m., at 3 Datchelor Place, Church Street, Camberwell Green.
- Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.**—International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road.
- Wimbledon and Merton.**—All those desirous of helping in and around Wimbledon and Merton, should communicate with F. Kitz, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road.

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.
- Braeford.**—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivegate. Meets Tuesdays at 8.
- Carnoustie** (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meets every Wednesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. Samuel Wilson, Secretary.
- Dundee** (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.
- Dublin.**—Dublin Socialist Club, 16 Dawson Street. All persons desirous of joining are requested to communicate with A. Coulon at above address.
- 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, secretary.
- Gallatown and Dysart** (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatown Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn Street.
- 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.
- Kilmarnock.**—Secretary, H. M'Gill, 22 Gilmour Street. Branch meets on every alternate Tuesday.
- Leeds.**—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Road and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m.
- Leicester.**—Hosiery Union Offices, 11a Millstone Lane. Fridays at 8 p.m.
- Norwich.**—Gordon Hall, Duke Street.
- Oxford.**—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m.
- Walsall.**—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.
- West Calder** (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.
- Yarmouth.**—Business meetings every Monday at 8 p.m. See below for open-air propaganda. C. Reynolds, Row 45, George Street, Secretary.

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.)

SUNDAY 17.

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 11.30..... | Latimer Road Station | Hammersmith Branch. |
| 11.30..... | Regent's Park | Mainwaring. |
| 11.30..... | Walham Green, opposite Station | The Branch. |
| 3.30..... | Hyde Park | Parker and Nicoll. |
| 3.30..... | Victoria Park | Mrs. Schack and Turner. |
| 7.30..... | Clerkenwell Green | Parker. |
| 7.30..... | Weltje Road, Ravenscourt Park | Hammersmith Branch. |

TUESDAY 19.

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| 8.30..... | Fulham—back of Walham Green Church | The Branch. |
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EAST END.

SUNDAY 17.

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| 11 | Leman Street, Shadwell..... | Hicks and Turner. |
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PROVINCES.

- Aberdeen.**—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7.30 p.m.
- Glasgow.**—Sunday: Glasgow Green at 2 p.m.; Paisley Road at 5.30.
- Leeds.**—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.
- Norwich.**—Sunday: Market Place, at 3.
- Yarmouth.**—Priory Plain, at 3 every Sunday.

NORTH HACKNEY RADICAL CLUB, 83 Church Street, Stoke Newington.—Sunday February 17, at 8.30, Mr. Henry Kershaw, "Manhood."

INTERNATIONAL W.M.'S CLUB, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road.—A GRAND MASQUERADE will take place on Saturday February 16, in aid of the revolutionary propaganda. Tickets 6d. each.

THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—The Committee will meet at 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields, on Saturday February 15, at 7.30 p.m., to enroll members and receive subscriptions.

LEICESTER.—A course of lectures on "Socialism, its Aims and Principles" is being delivered in Leicester Secular Hall. The seventh and concluding lecture will be delivered on Sunday March 3rd by Hubert Bland—"The Outlook."

ARBEITER-BUND GLEICHHEIT, 38 Charles Square, Brunswick Place, City Road.—This Club has started work, and will be pleased to receive visits from friends or enroll new members.—H. Schwarzenberg, Sec.

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.

SOUTHWARK AND LAMBETH S.D.F., New Nelson Assembly Rooms, 24 Lower Marsh, Lambeth.—Sunday February 17, at 8 p.m., H. W. Hobart, "Deferred, not Defeated." Tuesday 19th, 8 p.m., Sydney Olivier, B.A. (Fabian Society), "English Socialism in Theory and Practice."

IPSWICH LABOUR LEAGUE.—Pioneer Club, Theatre Yard, Tackett Street.—The members of the above League, representing all shades of political opinion, do vigorously and indignantly protest against the inhuman and brutal treatment by the Tory Government of the Irish people, especially in regard to the disgraceful and senseless indignities heaped on its representatives that has now culminated in the patriot and undaunted foe Mr. O'Brien, M.P.; and we likewise heartily sympathise with all men despotically imprisoned in fighting for justice and freedom of speech in England.—J. Reid.

SOCIALIST LEAGUE LITERATURE.

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