

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE match-girls have gained a victory over the blameless firm of Bryant and May. When one sees how small the gains to the girls are, how small their demands were, one is struck aghast at the miserable cheese-parings by which great fortunes are made. Truly, it well becomes Messrs. Bryant and May to characterise one of the grievances of the girls as "trivial"! It is on these very trivialities, we repeat, that the splendour of the lives of these capitalists is built; and perhaps if such people ever trouble themselves to think, they may reflect on the curious fact that each "trivial" atom of the huge mass of wealth which they monopolise and waste has been a matter by no means trivial to the atom of the industrial machine, the worker, who has had to keep his whole soul on the stretch in order, if possible, to compass a very "trivial" addition to his income.

The daily press, of course, goes on buttering Messrs. Bryant and May for their generosity and the like, although their letter to the *Daily News* of July 19th is sulky and ill-conditioned in tone, and contains the kind of covert threats which employers are apt to use to those whom they employ; the "Well, have it your own way then, and see what will happen," which we so commonly hear; their innuendo against the "agitators," who first took up the case of the girls at their own risk, and worked with such untiring zeal at it till they at last got the London Trades' Council to step in, is just worthy of the whole shabby affair.

In short, it quite sickens one to have to call such a result of hard work for the girls and of courage on the part of the girls themselves, a victory; and yet it is one, for after all Messrs. Bryant and May's letter is the utterance of people taking a beating badly.

A desperate storm in a tea-cup has been going on. Mr. Balfour brought in certain Bann Drainage Bills, in plain terms a job for the advantage of Irish landlords; the Irish members seeing that this was going to be carried, whatever they might do, walked out of the House, as they ought to have done on more important occasions. Mr. Conybeare having been snuffed out by the closure, wrote a letter to the *Star* reflecting on the fairness of the Speaker, and by so doing committed a Parliamentary crime, although the substance of the letter was obviously true. The next day the House enjoyed itself by fixing on this Parliamentary crime, and so gaining the pleasure of a personal attack on Mr. Conybeare, who was suspended for a month, or till the end of the Session, if that comes to an end before the month. We do not hear that Mr. Conybeare has taken to his bed in consequence.

Neither, to say the truth, is the country likely to be much the poorer in any way for this "waste" of a night in personalities. If the House of Commons had not wasted it in this way they would have wasted it in another.

Mr. Vaughan made short work of the summonses against the police for assaulting Mr. Borgia in Trafalgar Square. None, I suppose, expected any other issue of the attempt to bring Warren's lambs to book by means of law: for indeed such acts of arbitrary and irrational violence are the very foundation of law. Besides, let us look at it from the point of view of Law'n-Order. The police are told to do a thing; keep Trafalgar Square clear of meetings, let us say. They must do it at once or not at all: if, then, they are the stronger, can they stop to argue about it? They would be beaten if they did. Very well, then, they must break the head of any citizen whose head is handy for breaking, and then take the responsibility afterwards. But if our magistrates and judges were to make them bear the consequences of that responsibility, "a policeman's life would not be a happy one" indeed. And where would Law'n-Order get its policemen then? The necessary deduction from all which is, that whatever a policeman does to a citizen with any pretext of legality must be supported by the whole power of the law—or at any rate is so supported. This is a very old story, and there is no help for it but getting rid of the law which makes the policeman, who in his turn makes the law.

The stories of dynamite plots from Chicago, with their contradictions and vaguenesses, and criminals turned informers, and the rest of it, have every appearance of news got up to serve some temporary purpose: we have had plenty of such "discoveries" of late. It used to be thought by honest middle-class people that such infamies were used only by absolutist governments. But it seems countries in possession of middle-class political freedom have to tar themselves with the same stick. Or after all must we not call the government of Illinois absolutist also? At least both it, and for that matter the government of England also, will be practically absolutist whenever their fears or necessities lead them into temptation.

We publish this week a paper by our comrade Bax on Africa, which is worth very serious consideration. Even those of us who are most sincere in their professions of internationalism are too apt to limit our scope of vision to civilised countries, forgetting that barbarous ones are at any rate of the kind of importance that the lamb is to the wolf. Several questions occur to us relative to this question of Africa as a possible source of new life for dying capitalism which we should like to see dealt with. *E.g.*, Whether the nourishment to be afforded to capitalism by the Dark Continent is as great as our comrade seems to think; whether the accelerated pace which the impulse of huge new markets would certainly give to competitive commerce would not go far to neutralise the advantages to capitalism of "opening up" Africa—whether at least it would not make the break-up more complete when it came. Or again, if Africa is falling into the grasp of capitalism grown conscious of its necessities for new markets, is there anything which can prevent it from becoming the new nourishment for capitalism?

And that leads us to the practical moral of the question; that it is not our business merely to wait on circumstance; but to do our best to push forward the movement towards Socialism, which is at least as much part of the essence of the epoch as the necessities of capitalism are. Whatever is gained in convincing people that Socialism is right always, and inevitable at last, and that capitalism in spite of all its present power is merely a noxious obstruction between the world and happiness, will not be lost again, though it may be obscured for a time, even if a new period sets in of prosperity by leaps and bounds. We commend our comrade Bax's subject, and its consequences to the consideration of all our readers. W. M.

Absolutely the latest way of getting a cheap tour round the world. The *Pall Mall* reports an interview with Sir Frederick Young, K.C.M.G., Vice-President of the Royal Colonial Institute, etc., etc. The main item is the cool proposal to send a Royal Commission to take evidence on the spot, of the leading politicians in all the great self-governing Colonies on the question of Imperial Federation. "The evidence thus taken would be afterwards presented to Parliament in the usual way." "Yaas," and naturally treated in the usual way—severely let alone. "It could scarcely fail to gratify the Colonies themselves—that an important and distinguished body, acting under Her Majesty's Commission, should be sent out to them to invite their opinions, and to consult them, as it were, at their own doors." Oh, the dear little ducky Colonists, they shall have a bran new roving Royal Commission to gratify them, to invite their opinions and gammon them to endure another few generations of Governor-Generals.

Perhaps a file of the *Sydney Bulletin*, *Australian Radical*, and *Adelaide Commonwealth* would do some of these humbugging Federationists good; such a course of reading would assuredly undeceive them as to any hope of foisting many more highly paid aristocrats on to the shoulders of Colonial labour. But what a way for swells to get a holiday on the cheap!

The expense of such a Commission roving in Imperial style all over the world would be immense, and yet if only the selection could be made wide enough one could almost be glad to have to find a motto for such a job: "They left their country for their country's good," and as epitaph, "And sank never to rise again."

It having been decided by the wise judges of this land that there is no Act specially authorising the use of Trafalgar Square, and that therefore to use it is unlawful, a person by the name of Stuart, who happens to be an M.P., has hastened to bring in a bill to duly authorise Free Speech and use. As there is no Act which specially authorises such action, Mr. ———, M.P., has brought in a Bill which shall make it lawful "on giving three day's notice" for a man to wipe his own nose. As there is no Act specially made and provided, Mr. ———, M.P., has given notice that he will on April 1st move for permission to specially allow Mrs. Caudle to deliver certain lectures under special provocation, provided the Home Secretary and the Secretary for the War Department, and I Charles Warren, have been duly notified in order to take measures to prevent any breach of the peace. As there is no Act which specially permits a chap to kiss his Sunday best girl, Colonel Hughes Hallett and Lord Hartington have introduced a Bill which shall permit such action under stringent regulations set forth in a long schedule. Quite a number of similar Acts are being prepared to meet the crises. "They have rights who dare maintain them; we are traitors to our sires."

"A Bill for the sale of all the property belonging to the Orleans and Bonaparte families will be introduced into the Chamber by M. Félix Pyat. It proposes that the money derived from the sale shall be spent in the foundation of an asylum for the aged poor." Bravo, Pyat! Come over and do the same for the Guelph-ap-Brown family. Just fancy making a summer picnic home for the million of Windsor Castle; a convalescent home at Osborne. We could use the whole of these now disused palaces to good purpose, and may yet.

"Bolt and bar the palace door;
While the mass of men are poor
Naked truth grows more and more
Uncontrolled."

T. S.

THE REVOLT OF GHENT.

(Continued from p. 227.)

UNDER the sore discouragement caused by these defeats, the rich men began to murmur and look towards submission as the only end. Peter du Bois was their only leader left, and I suppose, judging from Froissart's story, that he was not a man of much initiative as we say now-a-days; anyhow, he looked round for support in the present straits, and says Froissart: "He remembered him of a man the which was not greatly taken heed of in the town of Ghent; he was a wise man, but his wisdom was not known, nor was he not taken heed of till the same day." This was Phillip, the son of the great James van Artevelde.

Froissart gives us a little piece of drama, in which one sees and hears the rough sturdy captain coming to the man of ambition and genius, and drawing him into action: ". . . Then Peter du Bois in an evening came to this Philip, who was abiding in his mother's house, and lived honestly on their rents; and Peter du Bois began to reason with him, and began to open the matter, wherefore he was come to him, and said thus: 'Philip, if ye will take good heed to my words, and believe my counsel, I will make you the greatest man in all the country of Flanders.' 'How can that be, sir?' said Philip. 'I shall show you,' said Peter, 'ye shall have the governing and ministrations of all them in the town of Ghent, for we be now in great necessity to have a sovereign captain of good name, and of good renown, and so by this means your father, James van Artevelde, shall rise again in this town by the remembrance of you; for every man saith, that syth his days, the country of Flanders hath not been so loved, honoured, nor feared, as it was while he lived, and I shall lightly set you in his stead, if ye list yourself; and when ye be in that authority, then ye shall govern yourself by my counsel, till ye have full understanding of every case, the which ye shall soon learn.' Then this Philip, who was at man's state, and naturally desired to be advanced, honoured, and to have more than he had, answered and said, 'Peter du Bois, ye offer me a great thing, and I believe you; and if I were in the state that ye speak of, I swear to you by my faith that I should do nothing without your counsel.' Then Peter answered and said, 'How say you? Can ye bear yourself high and be cruel among the commons, and specially in such things as we shall have to do; a man is worth nothing without he be feared, doubted, and some time renowned with cruelty. Thus must the Flemings be governed; a man must set no more by the life of men, nor have no more pity thereof, than of the lives of swallows or larks, the which be taken in season to eat.' 'By my faith,' said Philip, 'all this can I do right well.' 'That is well said,' quoth Peter, 'and I shall make you so, that ye shall be sovereign above all other.' And so therewith he took leave of him and departed."

The upshot is that Peter proposes him to the leaders and municipality, and he is made captain. "There he was taken up amongst them and brought into the market-place, and there they make assurance to him, both mayors, aldermen, and masters of every craft in Ghent."

Let us consider this the end of an act again, and draw up the curtain once more on the new leader facing defeat in the field, and discouragement and treachery within the gates.

The Earl laid siege to the town once more, but soon raised it again; nor could he fairly blockade the town, as Froissart explains to us, "so that Brabant, Holland, and Zealand make them no war." So the Earl put the screw on the towns and lords of those countries, and tried to

force them to stop the supplies to Ghent. The Liegeois gave him flat denial, but his kinsman, Duke Aubert of Brabant, did his best to aid him; "though," says Froissart, "they of Holland would not leave to aid them for any commandment that Duke Aubert might make." However, the supplies were much shortened, and Ghent began to be pinched by famine. Herewith, the malcontent rich men managed to get a parley with the outsiders. "In the same season the sage men and wise counsellors of Haynault of Brabant and of Liege set a day of council to be holden at Harlebeke beside Courtray; and they of Ghent sent thither a twelve of the most notablest men of the town; and there they showed how generally the most part of the town, except such ribaundes and unthrifty people who desired nothing save evil and noise, all the other gladly they said would have rest and peace whatsoever came thereof . . . and the matters were there so well debated, that upon certain articles of peace the Ghenois returned to their town. And all such of Ghent as desired rest and peace drew to the houses of two rich men of Ghent who had been at this treaty; the one called Sir Guisebert Grutte and the other Sir Simon Bette, demanding of them tidings; and they discovered the matter too soon to some of their friends, saying, 'Good neighbours, we shall have so good peace, and it please God that such as loveth peace and rest shall have it, and some of them that be evil disposed in the town of Ghent to be corrected and punished.'

This was a regular plot you see; but says Froissart, "If there be he that doth, there is he who talketh;" and Peter du Bois got hold of news of this plot before it was quite ripe. The next morning the traitors attended at the council of the "mayor and aldermen and rich men of the town" to give their report, which was, in short, that the Earl would make peace on the condition of the surrender of two hundred men named by him. "And he is so free and so noble that it is no doubt but that he will have mercy on them."

What kind of a grin lit up the face of Peter du Bois at these last words we may well imagine. Says Froissart, "With those words Peter du Bois stepped forth and said, 'Guisebert Grutte, how durst you be so bold to make such agreement as to send two hundred of our men of Ghent into the town of our enemy in great rebuke and shame to all the town of Ghent; it were better Ghent were turned upside down than they of Ghent should have such reproach, as to make war and end it so shamefully. We that have heard you may well know that ye shall be none of the two hundred prisoners, nor also Simon Bette. Ye have chosen for yourself, now then we will choose for ourselves. On forth Philip van Artevelde, set hands on these false traitors that would betray and dishonour the town of Ghent!' Therewith Peter du Bois drew out his dagger and came to Guisebert Grutte and struck him in the belly, and so he fell down dead. And Philip van Artevelde drew out his dagger, and he strake Simon Bette and slew him in likewise; and then they cried, 'Treason! Treason!' And they that were slain had of their men above and beneath, for they were men of great lineage and the richest men of the town; but they gat themselves out of the town to save themselves, and there was no more but these two slain."

Thus the plot of the respectables was nipped in the bud; but the famine in Ghent went from bad to worse. The blockade now being fairly established, and the skirmishing turned into mere garrison-holding. The Earl laid waste the countries that still victualled Ghent, and things seemed drawing to an end. "It was great pity to see and to hear the poor people, both men, women, and children; yea, such as were right notable fell into this danger."

Philip van Artevelde "caused the garners of the Abbeys to be opened, and of rich men, and set a reasonable price on the corn, whereby the town was greatly comforted."

About Lent time, 12,000 men, apparently little organised, made a foraging expedition as far as the gates of Brussels, which were shut against them, but they were allowed to buy victuals there. They wandered from town to town, not offering to enter the gates, but living on the goodwill of the country and collecting victuals; everywhere meeting with goodwill, especially from the Liegeois, and so came back to Ghent after a piteous journey with some 600 waggon loads of victuals, which was received with extravagant joy, small as the help was.

Now took place some goings and comings between the Ghenois and the Duchess of Brabant, who took it upon her to try to get peace from the Earl. A council was held at Tournay, attended by delegates from the towns of Brabant and Haynault, and twelve men from Ghent with Van Artevelde at their head. The Duke of Brabant also sent his council there, and it seems clear that the intention of the go-betweens was friendly to Ghent, while the Ghenmen, now reduced to the last extremity, were prepared to accept almost any terms; but the Earl refusing to meet the council, simply sent on a message announcing that the only terms he would take were surrender at discretion. Froissart tells us that the friends of Ghent urged Philip van Artevelde to take even these terms, and that he answered that the people would not take them, but that if they would, he would not stand in the way.

And now imagine if you can the return of the envoys to the hopeless city, once sovereign and prosperous, and now encircled by its enemies and at its last gasp; or rather let us for a while let Froissart tell us the story in his own words of the despair, the heroism, and the temporary triumph of Ghent.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be continued.)

Poverty often deprives a man of all spirit and virtue. It is hard for an empty bag to stand upright.—Franklin.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

The "independent revolutionary Socialists" of Paris have issued a circular addressed to all existing revolutionary committees, Socialist groups of all creeds, syndicates and co-operative bodies of working men, inviting them to take part in a Congress (the date of which is not yet fixed) where the following questions are to be discussed: 1. Inefficiency of economical reforms as promised by mere politicians; 2. Capitalistic expropriation, socialisation of all means of production, organisation of consumption, delegation of functions in society; 3. Means of propaganda and of revolutionary action; 4. International relations between the workers both in time of peace and in time of war. All Socialist bodies desiring to meet for the above purpose are requested to communicate with comrade E. Odin, corresponding secretary, 21 Faubourg St. Denis, Paris.

A new bi-monthly Anarchist organ has come to light at Paris, entitled *L'esprit de Révolte* (the Spirit of Revolt), with Alain Gouzien, Léon Schiroky, Emile Roland, E. Villaret, and Paul Paillette as chief contributors. The paper is illustrated by Raphaël Coster. It is well worth reading, and we wish it good success.

Six hundred weavers are at strike at Amiens, because their employers have decided to shorten their starvation wages by a reduction of 20 per cent. These poor weavers work twelve hours a-day for 2s., and their "masters" think these miserable earnings too luxurious for them. The secretary of the Strike Committee has issued an appeal to all his colleagues in the trade, and hopes that some support will come forward. His address is: E. Delécaut, 31 rue du Don, Amiens.

GERMANY.

It is said that Tessenlof is about to be Minister of Justice of the German Empire. "Justice" will have there a nice fellow as minister! That Tessenlof is one of the most reactionary men in Bismark's land, one of those who have brought about the most scandalous cases of high treason in the so-called "High Court" of Leipzig. In every Socialist he sees a personal enemy. That nomination will be Bismark's revenge for the enforced resignation of Puttkamer, the former minister of all those who are "not gentlemen."

A few days ago forty-one persons, among them three women, were arrested at Berlin for having pasted on the walls of the city a leaflet dealing with matters altogether unpleasant to the now reigning crank who calls himself William the Second, King of Prussia and German Emperor. Since his accession to the "throne" of his ancestors, that individual already has caused more Socialists to be imprisoned than had been the case during the previous three months of his father's reign. But he is completely Bismark's tool, and Bismark wants Socialists to know that he is always "there." How long still? All over Germany arrests are made on a wholesale scale, and it would be impossible if not even monotonous, to chronicle them all. On the whole, it doesn't matter very much, because all these arrests and trials and imprisonments will not prevent the Social revolution, there as elsewhere, from ripening and bursting out one fine day, over the very heads of all these scoundrels.

BELGIUM.

The Socialist papers have commenced a campaign for the freeing of comrade Jahn, the young Anarchist who made such a brilliant speech at his trial some six or seven months ago. He was sentenced to two years and a half imprisonment by the Court of Assizes at Mons (Hainault). After the amnesty that has been granted to Schmidt, Falleur, Wagener, Rutters, and the other comrades convicted for the miners' strikes and riots, it would only be fair that young Jahn should be set free, and we hope that our Belgian comrades will take no rest until they have succeeded in their efforts.

Last week Jean Houzeau, one of the greatest astronomers and naturalists of the nineteenth century, died at Brussels, and was buried, according to his own last will, like a proletarian, "in the common grave of the poor." Houzeau not only was an illustrious scientist, whose opinions were taken into consideration by those who stand or have stood in the forefront of scientific investigations in our time—we need only name Darwin, who has been in constant correspondence with him—but he was also an atheist and a Socialist, and in that capacity, not less than in his scientific researches and discoveries, he has done a considerable deal of very useful work for the benefit of mankind at large. Of course, like all those who dare to be independent and true, he had to suffer for his opinions. In the year 1848 he was dismissed from his position at the Observatory of Brussels by the liberal government of Frere-Orban, because he associated himself with those who at that time propagated through Belgium the democratic ideas that spread from France throughout Europe. He was obliged to leave his country and spend the largest part of his life in America, until in 1876, after the death of the illustrious Quetelet, the government finally was obliged to call him back and to offer him the scientific succession of the learned astronomer and sociologist. The Belgian Socialists will ever bear in remembrance the honoured memory of Jean Houzeau, who has given to them and to us all the best of his heart and of his intelligence.

HOLLAND.

We are glad to hear that the first edition of volume I. of the posthumous works of our much regretted friend H. Gerhard, one of the founders of the International Working-men's Association in Holland, is already completely exhausted, and we hope that a second edition will soon be ready for sale. The second volume is now issued, and will ere long be followed by the third concluding part.

Our Dutch comrades have commenced the publication of an International Working-men's Library. The first number of this collection is entitled, "Some Chapters of Stuart Mill's Works."

ROUMANIA.

The compositors of Bucharest are on strike, and only two daily papers are in a position to be issued. The strikers ask for a reduction of the work-day to nine hours, an augmentation of 10d. a-day on their wages (they now earn from 2s. 10d. to 3s. 4d.), suppression of piecework, and a reasonable limitation of the number of apprentices. Up to the present moment a great sense of solidarity is shown by the workers generally, and they entertain the best hopes to come to a victorious end. It would only be well and fair for the compositors of other countries to help their brethren of Bucharest, for the compositors and printers of that city, some time ago, have done their utmost to relieve their French colleagues on strike. The London society of that

trade also have here a good opportunity of showing that they are animated with a keen spirit of brotherhood towards their Roumanian colleagues, who are struggling under the most difficult circumstances.

SWITZERLAND.

At Aarau a Conference of delegates of the Swiss Socialist party has been held, with the view of forming a large body of all the Helvetic Socialists. Zürich, Basle, Berne, Winterthur, and Solothurn were represented, and it was decided to convene, during the month of October, a general Congress of all the workers' organisations throughout Switzerland. This first move is a good answer to the decision of the Federal Council at Berne, which has decided to follow Bismark's advice as to the formation of a political police, the mere existence of which is a shame for "free republican Helvetia."

V. D.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 4, 1888.

29	Sun.	1794. Robespierre guillotined. 1833. W. Wilberforce died. 1840. Ovation at Manchester to the Glasgow cotton spinners on their return from transportation. 1848. Ballingarry. 1860. Garibaldi entered Messina. 1877. John Frost died. 1880. Traitor Goldenberg killed himself in St. Petersburg fortress.
30	Mon.	1784. Diderot died. 1879. Gorski, Bilchanski, and Hobst hanged at Kieff.
31	Tues.	1877. Strike of masons at Law Courts, London.
1	Wed.	1834. Abolition of Negro slavery in British colonies. 1842. Strike of Scotch colliers and iron-workers.
2	Thur.	1823. Carnot died. 1839. Trial of Vincent, Edwards, Townshend, and Dickenson for sedition. 1857. Eugène Sue died. 1882. W. Mertens sentenced for libel. 1884. Daly, Egan, and McDonnell sentenced for treason felony.
3	Fri.	1820. Cartwright and others tried for sedition at Warwick. 1859. Builders' meeting in Hyde Park. 1868. C. G. Halpine died.
4	Sat.	1789. National Assembly abolishes feudal privileges. 1792. P. B. Shelley born. 1817. Trial of Roger O'Connor. 1842. "Alarming disturbances" break out in manufacturing districts. 1883. Execution of Carey.

Death of William Wilberforce.—William Wilberforce, one of the prime agitators for the abolition of chattel slavery, was the son of a merchant of Hull, and was born in that place August 24, 1759. He was educated at the Free School of Pocklington, and thence he went to St. John's, Cambridge, graduating B.A. 1781 and M.A. 1788. With William Pitt and Isaac Milner on quitting college he made a Continental tour, and at general election 1780 was elected almost unanimously M.P. for Hull; at general election 1784 he was returned also for county of York. At Clarkson's solicitation he took up the question of the abolition of chattel slavery, and his first motion was carried without a division, but by 1791 the forces of vested interest had organised and he was badly treated. In 1792 he fared better, and in 1807 a Bill was passed for total abolition of slave trading by British merchants, but this, like most of our class legislation, took another quarter of a century to make of real effect. For in 1833 the traders in human flesh and blood were able—aided by William Ewart Gladstone—to extort £20,000,000 to abolish chattel slavery. Like all who attack vested interest in any form, Wilberforce was for years assailed with all sorts of slander, libel, and abuse, and certainly some of the most wonderful exhibitions of the crookedness of the human mind can be found in the various speeches, pamphlets, and other defences of the trade in Negro slaves.—T. S.

Denis Diderot.—Born at Langres, in the month of October 1713, the son of a cutler. His father first wished to make a priest of him, and send him to the Jesuits to be educated. But he very soon felt dissatisfied with their teachings and was allowed to go to Paris, to the College d'Harcourt, where he made extremely rapid progress. At the end of his studies he tried his fortune in a solicitor's office; remained there two years but then had enough of it. His father at last became angry with him and asked him to finally decide as to what he was going to do. He replied that he would not be an advocate, always bothering himself with other men's business; that he did not feel inclined for surgery, not wishing to kill anybody; and so on. But what was it he would be, he was asked. "Well," said Diderot, "I will be nothing, nothing at all. I like studying, I am satisfied, I am happy, and I ask for nothing else." And Denis Diderot, who wished to be "nothing at all," became the most powerful genius, the most strongly constituted philosopher, thinker, critic, and artist of the eighteenth century. In this short notice we do not intend to relate the various incidents of his life, which by the way is pretty well known to everyone. We only wish to state that Diderot not only had the prescience of the political revolution which was about to come, but that he also foresaw the social revolution; and we think that Babeuf was absolutely right when, in his "Manifesto of the Equals," he spoke of him as the forerunner of Socialism. And in fact one needs only to read the magnificent introduction of the 'Encyclopédie' of Diderot—the most splendid monument of literary France in the eighteenth century—to become at once convinced that the man who has written that eloquent glorification of arts and trades and manual work, must have been a Socialist. The complete works of Diderot were published for the first time in 1798 by his friend Naigeon, and form fifteen volumes large 8vo. The edition that up to the present time has been considered the best was published in 1821 by Brière, in twenty-two volumes 8vo. But I daresay that now we have the definitive edition in that of Jules Assézat, which consists of twenty volumes 8vo, published by Garnier at Paris (1878-84).—V. D.

Labour is the only thing which protectionists wish to buy in the cheapest market; and they are all opposed to the protection which trades' unions propose to give American wage-workers. This is a point which should rattle every political protectionist. It is not a free trade argument, it is simply truth.—Omaha Truth.

Last Saturday, Mr. John Morley, addressing the miners of Morpeth, told them in the following words why he is not a Socialist: "I fancy you have had among you men whose motives I do not impugn at all, whose sincerity I do not impeach at all, and who call themselves Socialists. A friend of mine said the other day that we are all Socialists now. Well, gentlemen, I am not. I am one of those who believe that it is not well to call upon the State to do any of those things which men can do for themselves.—Why, Mr. Morley, I am afraid with such statements, if you are not a Socialist, you may certainly call yourself an Anarchist, for you think about it exactly as they do.—R.



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.

COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED.—Too late—Bristol and others. Will be used—S. R. (Liverpool); T. S.; H. S. S. Crowded out—Letter from America. Under consideration—J. S. (Birmingham).

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday July 25.

ENGLAND	Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Menaggio-Lecco, Il Nuovo Larlo
Bristol Mercury	Milwaukee—National Reformer	Torino, Nuovo Gazzetta Operaia
Justice	Providence (R.I.)—The People	SPAIN
Labor Tribune	St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole	El Productor
London—Freie Presse	Coast Seamen's Journal	Madrid—El Socialista
Norwich—Daylight	FRANCE	Cadiz—El Socialismo
Ploughshare	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	PORTUGAL
Railway Review	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Worker's Friend	Le Coup de Feu	Porto—A Revolucao Social
NEW SOUTH WALES	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	GERMANY
Hamilton—Radical	HOLLAND	Berlin—Volks Tribune
INDIA	Hague—Recht voor Allen	AUSTRIA
Bankipore—Behar Herald	BRUXELLES	Arbeiterstimme
Madras—People's Friend	Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil	Wien—Gleichheit
UNITED STATES	Ghent—Vooruit	BOHEMIA
New York—Der Sozialist	Liege—L'Avenir	Jassy—Municipal
Freiheit	Antwerp—De Werker	DENMARK
Truthseeker	SWITZERLAND	Social-Demokraten
Jewish Volkszeitung	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat	SWEDEN
Alarm	ITALY	Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
Boston—Woman's Journal	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio	Malmö—Arbeter
Chicago—Knights of Labor	Rome—L'Emancipazione	NORWAY
Chicago—Labor Enquirer	Marsala—La Nuova Eta	Kristiania—Social-Democraten
Chicago (Ill)—Vorbote	Cremona—Il Democratico	

AFRICA.

WE are witnessing to-day a striking phenomenon in the history of the middle-class world—to wit, the struggle among the European nations over the partition of Africa. It seems strange that the great continent lying immediately south of Europe, so much nearer the home of civilisation than America, not to speak of Australia and other regions of the Antipodes, should, up till our own time, have remained not merely in the undisputed possession of its aboriginal inhabitants, save for one or two trifling exceptions, but should have been to a great extent unexplored. Whatever the causes why civilisation has until recently neglected the greater part of the "dark continent" in favour of the "new world," of remote parts of Asia and the Southern seas, civilisation seems determined to make up for it now by extending its blessings under every variety of national flag over the whole of those benighted regions. England has been for the last ten years steadily working up from the south, absorbing territory after territory; Germany has within a year or two seized the enormous region of the Cameroons (so-called) on the East coast; Portugal, hard by, seeks to establish claims hitherto vague, and for the most part merely nominal. If we carry our eye further North we come to Zanzibar, where several Powers are struggling for supremacy. Further north still, in Abyssinia and on the Red Sea coast, Italy is openly preparing to make annexations; while in the Northern Soudan and Egypt, the future lies visibly between the hands of England and France. That Tripoli will one of these days be united to the French dependency of Algiers there is little doubt, always provided that the Italian Government does not forestall such a move. Morocco, which is also at present independent, is being jealously eyed by half-a-dozen vulture-States, the balance of chances being probably in favour of Spain. The Northern half of the West Coast is for the most part absorbed by settlements of various powers, England largely preponderating, while Portugal occupies most of the coastline between the equator and the tropic of Capricorn. To the north of the latter the new Congo State opens out into the interior, a "vague potentiality" (as Carlyle might have expressed it), a hideous cancer, at present merely embryonic and sluggish, but liable to become virulent and throw out at any moment ramifications which may eat the heart out of Central Africa.

Should any one unversed in the matter take up the map of Africa after reading the above statements, he may experience a feeling of anti-climax—as though I had been exaggerating the state of affairs—when he surveys the great white mass representing the bulk of an enormous continent comprising millions of square miles, as yet untrudged

by the European. Let him reflect, however, on the rapidity with which capitalism advances—let him think of the convergence from all sides of the coast upon the interior, of expeditions of all kinds and sizes, and he will begin to realise that the "civilising" of Africa is by no means a very remote contingency. Given a Trans-Continental railway from the Congo to Zanzibar, and the end of Barbaric Africa is only a question of a few years. This railway it is true is not talked of yet, but one into the Congo territory is, and if unhappily Mr. Stanley and his expedition should ever come safely to hand, there is little doubt that it will be begun before long, and from this to the Zanzibar Railway spoken of and to the complete reduction of Central Africa under the sway of modern capitalistic exploitation is a very measurable distance indeed.

Few people probably realise what the opening up of Africa means. It means this: untold mineral, vegetable, and animal wealth placed at the disposal of the modern commercial system; a new world of markets; limitless cheap labour; practically boundless territories for emigration; etc., etc. Russia has just completed the conditions of the opening up of Central Asia. But Central Asia is a poor region, sparsely populated, inhospitable and worthless, compared to Central Africa (understanding by this term the whole of the interior of the African continent).

The problem presents itself, What influence will the new territories now beginning to be tapped—first and foremost among which stands that new world in itself, Africa—have on the course of economic development? This is undoubtedly one of the crucial questions in all speculations as to the immediate future of the human race. It is all very well to talk about the modern system of production and distribution breaking down by its own weight. This would be true enough if it could not gather strength from anywhere, but unfortunately it can do so, and its votaries are actively preparing the conditions by which, as far as may be, it shall do so. It is hardly going too far to say that the hope of the present commercial system lies in Africa. There are parts of Asia, extensive territories in some cases, parts of America, and islands in the southern seas, all of which may and probably will be, sucked in; but the mainstay of capitalistic hopes is Africa. I do not wish to be pessimistic or to dash the hopes of enthusiasts, still less to dogmatise in matters economic, when I confess the dread possibility does present itself to me occasionally of the capitalistic world taking a new lease of life out of the exploitation of Africa. How long or how short that lease may be, if it obtains at all, none can say. We know the Social Revolution is written in history in terms which are hidden in no cryptogram. But the time when the change shall come is not within the bounds of human science to foresee. This is that secret which the day shall reveal when it comes, and which no genius can make known beforehand. We must beware of confounding the logical with the real sequence of things. Logically the principle of Individualism has reached its extreme limits in the nineteenth century—is played out, in fact. The next definite stage in human evolution must be the beginning of Socialism. But it is quite conceivable, to say the least, that the present stage should be prolonged in a slightly changed form even for another century by means such as those indicated in the present article. E. BELFORD BAX.

NOTES.

"We believe it to be possible," says the *Spectator*, "that if another Armada approached the English shores, it would find the English people in a very different attitude—some of them, perhaps, disposed to argue that by refusing Home Rule to Ireland we had justified the attack, and sympathizing with the Irish in the prospect of our defeat; others willing but quite unready to resist, and full of subtle objections to every scheme of resistance presented to them; some too religious to submit to military discipline; some too cautious to profit by it; and the whole nation unprepared to exhibit that singular unanimity of national feeling, and that readiness to find, and willingness to follow, national leaders, which characterized the English people—in spite of its bitter religious animosities—in the time of Elizabeth."

Patriotically indignant, the *Pall Mall* falls foul of this "extraordinary confession of unfaith" and says that there "could hardly be a more melancholy illustration of the intellectual and moral deterioration that follow abandonment to pessimism than this most scandalous blasphemy against the English of to-day."

My comment upon which takes the form of a question or two the *Pall Mall* might answer—if it could. How much the unemployed, the sweeter's victims, or the Irish peasant-exiles in England, could be expected to care for their birthright as British citizens? How far would Londoners be better off under Warren than under Krüger? Or the country at large under Balfour than Bismark? Whether it matters to the broken heads and bitten hands of Trafalgar Square, that those who did the damage wore a policeman's helmet and not a pickel-haube?

From the *Times* report of the inquest on brave John Mandeville I take these extracts of his wife's evidence:—"He told her that some of the Tang (county Wexford) prisoners gave him a rope, which he tightened round his waist, and as he suffered more and more from hunger he tightened the rope. . . . He also said that his head wandered from hunger, and that he prayed to God that he might die rather than go mad. . . . To describe how he suffered from hunger, on one occasion

he told her that a warder, not a friendly warder, who must have been eating his meal outside the door, opened it and threw him in a scrap of meat just as he himself would to Rover, his dog. (Sensation in Court). He said he was never so delighted and never ate food with such pleasure before."

While the inquiry was proceeding everybody was startled by the suicide of the jail doctor, under whose care the murdered man had been. He was over-wrought by the haunting consciousness of all that was to be revealed. Not many days before his death he had been closeted with Balfour; was it, as is more than hinted, the cold-blooded cynicism with which the latter left his tool to bear all the obloquy, that made the more sensitive subordinate fear death less than the witness-box?

Remembering Balfour's notorious words to Wilfred Blunt, and seeing the whole course of his conduct in other cases than Mandeville's, can the conviction be resisted that Mandeville was done to death as part of a system? and that though Balfour be above and beyond the reach of the "law," he is named in all honest men's hearts a sneaking assassin who skulks behind subordinates and kills within the law?

S.

JONES' BOY.

"Who is that?"
 "A candidate, my son."
 "Why does he talk of the 'wrongs of labour' and the 'horny-handed sons of toil'?"
 "He is after the working-class vote."
 "Will he get it?"
 "Very likely."
 "Is he a Socialist?"
 "He was once."
 "Why isn't he now?"
 "The people are ignorant."
 "Why don't he teach them?"
 "They are not intelligent enough."
 "And—"
 "And he is going to Parliament to make them so."
 "How?"
 "By talking down to their understanding."
 "But I don't see—"
 "Nor I!"

S.

THREE INQUESTS.

JAMES MARSHALL, sixty-three, committed suicide by drowning himself, rather than endure the hospitality of the St. Pancras "Guardians" of the Poor. A terse-speaking person has said somewhere that "the poor in a lump is bad." Their badness is seen in the malignant perversity displayed in this case. Here is a man who has the bad taste to be both poor and old, and then casts a slur upon the Poor Law as administered in St. Pancras by asserting that he was half-starved and ill-treated. Now every one knows that the parish in question has a world-wide fame for its lavish, nay, profuse workhouse dietary. The antipathy of the poor to the "House"—healthy sentiment—and to this one in particular, is due to the fear that they will be killed with kindness. The many deaths that take place within the walls of what some cantankerous individuals call the new Bastille are due in fact to over-feeding and their enfeebling luxurious surroundings. The brutal scepticism which would doubt this, and attribute base motives to a body of humane tradesmen who are anxious to promote longevity among their charges, is the work of outside agitators.

What said the doctor in this case—and who would insinuate that a parish doctor would tell aught but the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help him—but never mind, let us on. He said that the deceased had plenty of food and no cause of complaint, but was rather eccentric. Of course he was, otherwise how would he sooner sleep in a cab and then finish his existence in the cold waters of the canal rather than have plenty of food and "no cause of complaint"—the perverse old pauper! It is lamentable to think that men in charge of the poor should be put to the inconvenience and unpleasantness of such enquiries. The "Crown's Quest" law should be amended, and no person having the effrontery to die poor should, under any circumstances whatever, be allowed to be a source of further trouble to their superiors. It is only in deference to a sickly sentimentality affected by a section of the public that these useless formalities are gone through. For instance, a prisoner dies in gaol and an enquiry is held; with what result? It is shown on the sworn testimony of the prison doctor—and here I ask again, in this case, who dares insinuate that prison doctors do not tell the truth?—well, in short, that the deceased had wine, beef-tea, eggs, etc., etc. This is strengthened by the testimony of prison warders, a class of men like our police, highly respectable and incapable of telling falsehoods. Some of the jury so far forgot their duty to society as to remark that deceased looked emaciated, when they might know as tradesmen having dealings with the poor that their ingrained perversity would cause them to look thin, and even obstinately die in that condition in order to posthumously spite their betters.

In pleasant contrast to this conduct on the part of some juries is the courtesy displayed by a coroner towards the employers of a boy who foolishly lost his only property—viz., his life—while working at a steam drill. The jury, with a lack of consideration for the bereaved employers which is extremely regrettable, suggested that the machinery was improperly guarded, and that the deceased was too young for the work assigned him. A lad of thirteen too young to help build up his benevolent employer's fortunes by saving expense—preposterous! The jury are in my opinion all liable to prosecution for acting "in restraint of trade" by seeking to hamper capital by needless restrictions and precautions. After all, boys of thirteen are plentiful and cheap enough. The coroner publicly thanked the employers for their condensation in coming forward to give evidence in so small a matter, and his courtesy and urbanity under such trying circumstances are evidence that amid the social chaos brought about by wicked agitators there are still gentlemen to be found who, when settling such minor details as the death of a working lad, can yet exchange civilities with their equals.

F. K.

THE SONG OF THE POOR.

(Also published as "The Cry of the Russian Serf to the Czar.")

ERNEST JONES.

Labour, labour, labour! Toil, toil, toil!
 With the wearing of the bone and drowning of the mind.
 Sink, like shrivelled parchment, in the flesh-devouring soil!
 And pass away unheeded like the waving of the wind.

Be the living record of a tyrant's bloody fame;
 Form the trodden pathway for a conqueror's career;
 Give your breath, ye millions, to elevate his name,
 And die—when ye have shouted it till centuries shall hear!

"By right divine we rule ye—God made ye but for us!"
 Thus cry the lords of nations to the slaves whom they subdue.
 Unclasp God's book of nature; its writings read not thus.
 Hear, trampers on the many! Hear, benders to the few!

God gave us hearts of ardour, God gave us noble forms,
 And God has formed around us his paradise of light:
 Has he bade us sow the sunshine, and only reap the storm?
 Created us in glory, to pass away in night?

No! say the sunny heavens, that smile on all alike;
 The waves that bear up navies yet hold them in their thrall.
 No! shouts the dreadful thunder, that teaches us to strike
 The proud, for one usurping what the Godhead meant for all.

No! No! we cry, united by our suffering's mighty length.
 Ye—ye have ruled for ages,—now we will rule as well;
 No! No! we cry triumphant in our right's resistless strength,
 We—we will share your heaven or ye shall share our hell!

ANTI-SWEATING DEMONSTRATION IN HYDE PARK.

The most remarkable demonstration since the commencement of the Socialist movement in England was held last Sunday afternoon in this park. The meeting was convened by the S.D.F., who invited the co-operation of the Socialist League, and other labour organizations. Processions with bands and banners were organised from all parts of London, contingents starting from north, east, south, and west. The daily press, as usual, differ considerably as to the numbers present, but probably 50,000 would be a very moderate estimate indeed. One feature in the proceedings was very encouraging, viz., the large number of our foreign comrades who took part in the procession and meeting, and also a large number of the match girls of Bryant and May's, whose strike was successful last week. No. 6 platform was allotted to the League, and shortly before half-past four the five vans which were to serve as platforms for the other meetings, and an omnibus which was to be our rostrum, were placed in position. Punctually at 4.30 it was seen that the processions were entering the park from both sides. The weather was very fine, the bright sun showing up the banners to perfection. All over the vast space the revolutionary emblem was visible. At the other five platforms the principal speakers were Comrades Hyndman, Burns, Williams, Ward, Bateman, Culwick, G. B. Shaw, Herbert Burrows, Amy Hicks, and Mrs. Besant, while at ours W. Morris, F. Kitz, H. H. Sparling, J. Tochetti, and W. B. Parker (chairman) spoke. The resolution passed at the other meetings was very similar to ours at the beginning and end, but in the middle of it palliatives were asked for in the shape of an eight hours' bill, inspection of workshops, State control, etc. Our resolution was as follows:—

"That this meeting, while protesting against the extortion practised under what is known as the Sweating System, points out that this is a necessary result of production for profit, and must continue until that is put an end to; and it therefore calls upon all workers to combine in order to bring about the Social Revolution, which will place the means of production and exchange in the hands of the producers."

The proceedings were opened by the singing of the "Starving Poor of Old England," the enormous crowd joining in the chorus. After our resolution had been unanimously carried, Comrade Rackow, and Mrs. Schack proposed and seconded a resolution setting forth the position of our foreign comrades, which runs thus:—

"We foreign working men in London, taking part in the Anti-Sweating Demonstration in Hyde Park on Sunday July 22, 1888, energetically protest against the sweating system carried on by the capitalists in London and elsewhere, as it is only bare robbery committed by the capitalist class upon the working class. We further protest against the wickedness of some reactionary political parties, who accuse the foreign working men in London of being the cause of this abominable system, because we are not the cause, but the victims of this robbery, as well as the workmen of English nationality. We further declare that this sweating system is only one of those natural consequences of modern production, which is based upon private ownership in land and in the other means of production, and which must necessarily result in robbery, luxury and debauchery on one side, and oppression, pauperism and starvation on the other. We sincerely believe that there is no other remedy to overthrow this wicked system, but to replace it by Socialistic production, based upon common property of the people in land, machinery, and all other means necessary for production, and for this purpose it is our earnest and honest desire to make common cause with our English brethren. In concluding we feel it our duty to declare that we do not believe in trades unionism as a means to obtain this revolution in the system, but in our opinion the only means to obtain this is the international union of all working men under the Socialistic banner to fight out the modern class struggle between capital and labour."

This was carried with one dissentient only. Cheers for the Social Revolution, and the "Marsellaise" by the band, brought to a close the meeting, the processions re-forming, and passing in thousands through the West End to the different places from whence they had come. The whole tone of the meeting was thoroughly Revolutionary and very hopeful. W. B. P.

STRIKE OF SWITCHMEN.—NEW YORK, July 12.—A strike of switchmen has occurred at Kansas city on the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railway. A locomotive was thrown off the rails at Chicago owing to some obstruction said to have been placed upon the line by Chicago sympathisers. The driver and fireman were injured.

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

WATERFORD TAILORS.—There is a dispute in the tailoring trade at Waterford over the question of piece work. A strike is anticipated.

END OF A STRIKE AT ROWLEY.—The strike of stone-set makers at Rowley terminated on 16th, and the men resumed work, the employers having conceded the terms claimed.

THE CHURCH LANE COLLIERY DISPUTE.—Arrangements have been made between the men and the manager of the Church Lane Colliery, near Barnsley, where the men have been idle three weeks, and work was resumed Thursday (19th) on the terms offered by the owners.

REDUCTION OF CLEVELAND MINERS' WAGES.—The Accountants under the Cleveland Sliding Scale, agreed to by the Mine-owners' and Miners' Associations for the district, have declared a reduction under the scale, based upon the average selling price of Cleveland iron for the past quarter, of 101 per ton, leaving the district tonnage at 9'26. A proportionate reduction is also declared in the wages of mechanics, engine-men, and underground datal-men, and quarry-men.

WOMAN'S WORK.—The fourteenth annual report of the "Women's Protective and Provident League," which devotes itself to the formation of protective and benefit societies among women earning their own livelihood, has been issued, and may be obtained at the office of the League, Industrial Hall, Clark's Buildings, Bloomsbury, from the secretary Miss Clementina Black, price 1d. It shows a good year's work, and a steady increase of a capacity for combination among women.

NO WONDER.—The White Cross Society held their annual meeting on the 19th. Three or four bishops, a dean, a canon, and an earl were on the platform. But none of these went to the heart of the question of prostitution, which they were discussing. It was left to Dr. De Costa, from New York, to say boldly that the starvation wages paid to women were what the society should fight against. His bold, plain statements were received with great applause by the meeting, but the platform looked glum.

MATCHMAKERS' WAGES.—The following analysis of wages paid by Bryant and May the week before the strike, is taken from the strike register:—Under 3s., nine girls; one at 2s. 2d., one at 3s. 4d., one at 2s. 5d., two at 2s. 6d., four at 2s. 10d.; under 4s. 6s girls; under 5s., 102; under 6s., 171; under 7s., 148; under 8s., 69; under 9s., 16; there is one at 9s., one at 10s., one at 11s. 1d., one at 12s. 1d., and one, a booker, at 14s; all these include day and piece workers. The average wages of the women and girls was 5s. 5½d.

RHONDDA VALLEY MINERS.—Upwards of 7,000 miners employed at the Ocean Collieries and the Ylacoeh Colliery, are idle in consequence of a strike of the hauliers of the various pits, who claim an advance in wages of 7½ per cent. The Ocean Collieries Company "voluntarily decided" to grant their employes generally an increase of 5 per cent. soon as they scented danger, but the hauliers, who number about 800, after deliberating for five hours at a mass meeting on Monday (23rd) decided unanimously to refuse the masters' terms, and were backed up by the others.

SOMERSETSHIRE.—Several of the miners who have for so long a time been out of work, have succeeded in obtaining a little temporary employment in getting out the foundation of a new shoe factory at Paulton. Others have done a little hay-making. In this way they hope to be able to get through the summer, and "by the time winter comes perhaps the feeling against them will have sufficiently subsided to enable them to again get work underground." Thus runs the version given in the "reptile press," which, however, leaves the moral to be understood—will it be so?

GOOD GIRLS.—Three quiet young girls were employed in under-linen making at a large West-end shop. This shop took a new "cutter," who began to introduce lower prices. A reduction of fourpence in the shilling upon a certain branch of work was announced. The three girls refused to accept it, but offered to do the work at a reduction of twopence in the shilling, and on the refusal of this offer gave up work. One of them found other employment, the other two have been taken back on their own terms. The Society of Women Employed in Shirt, Collar, and Under-linen Making, at its annual meeting on July 11th, unanimously resolved to make these three girls (who were not members of it) free members of the society without the preliminary twelve months' payments which are required in ordinary cases before members are allowed to receive benefits.

A PENNY FOR A DAY'S WORK.—A correspondent of the *Stars* speaks of an old woman upwards of 80 years of age, residing at Stevenage. Her husband is dead, and she has no friends to assist her, and after a life of honest work there is under our beautiful system nothing for her but to keep on as she is doing, or go and be got rid of in the parochial machine-for-slow-murder. When strong enough, and the opportunity arises, she does a little washing, the remuneration for which is small. The majority of her time is occupied in straw plaiting. Commencing early in the day, she works until nine or ten o'clock at night. During that time she generally plaits one "score." The "middlesman" buys up the plait and sells it to the manufacturers of hats and bonnets. The amount paid by him is 1½d. per score yards. Out of that sum the plait-worker pays ½d. for the straws, so that for one long dreary day's toil this poor, feeble old lady receives the appalling sum of 1d. When spoken to upon the matter a few days ago she said, "People say there's the house; but I want to keep out of it as long as I can."

RAILWAY SERVANTS' CONFERENCES.—On Friday and Saturday (20th and 21st), a Conference between the English and Scotch Societies of Amalgamated Railway Servants was held in Leeds Town Hall. Proposals from the executive of the former society for the amalgamation of the two bodies were discussed, but ultimately a resolution was unanimously passed that the Conference, while recognising the advantages to be derived by both societies from amalgamating, regretted that it was at present impracticable, but considered that a good working agreement, if adopted, might eventually lead to such a consummation. The Scotch representatives then submitted a working agreement, which, after certain modifications, was agreed to, subject to confirmation at the annual meetings of both societies.

A meeting of railway servants of all grades was held at Wolverhampton on Sunday (22nd), to consider their wages and hours. No resolution was come to; but the view was freely expressed that each department ought to assist the other, and especially that the higher grades might render greater encouragement and aid to the lower ones, if they cared to put themselves to the trouble. The meeting considered that such help ought to be forthcoming.

DUBLIN.—A new Labour Association has just been started here. A meeting was held on July 19th; at which an organising committee was appointed to arrange a public demonstration.

TRADESMEN IN CORK UNION.—On Thursday, 19th, at the Cork Board of Guardians, the resolution passed a few weeks ago reducing the wages of the tradesmen employed in the Union was rescinded, and the wages restored to the old standard.

THE COTTON TRADE.—The cotton manufacturers of Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Cheshire have evidently taken alarm, says the *Star*, at the bold front shown by the operatives during the recent advance agitation. With a view to capitalist protection, the United Cotton Spinners' Association have appointed a committee to draw up a scheme of amalgamation. Should this be successful, future struggles in the cotton counties will be of an exceptionally severe character, for the workers are showing an increasing desire to sink minor differences in order to form a powerful organisation. The value of combination has recently been manifested to them by the fact that in places such as Crompton where trade unionism is weak the 5 per cent. advance has not been given.

The reelers at Bannermill Works, Aberdeen, have struck work, in consequence of the employers having refused an advance of 5 per cent. The strikers base their demand upon an advance conceded in Lancashire.

MINERS' RIOT IN STAFFORDSHIRE.—At Cannock, on Saturday, nine men and a boy were charged with intimidating certain persons employed by the West Cannock Colliery Company. There is a strike at one of the company's pits against a reduction of 4d. per ton, and a number of rats have taken the place of the strike hands, being escorted to and from the pit by police. This was done on Friday evening, as usual, the blacklegs being hooted by a crowd, which, however, eventually dispersed, and the police then left for the police-station. Sometime afterwards the crowd re-assembled, and paid visits to the houses of several of the blacklegs. Volleys of stones were discharged at windows, which were broken, and in one case the crowd entered one of the houses and ruthlessly broke up all the furniture. Several of the new men being found in this house, they were taken outside by the crowd and hoisted into mid-air until they promised not to work again. The police at length made their appearance and the crowd dispersed, the prisoners being arrested. The accused were remanded. There has been no renewal of the disturbance up to the time of our going to press.

WOMEN CIGARMAKERS.—Last year the agitation in the tobacco trade caused by the action of the Government in connection with the tobacco duties received special notice in the *Commonweal*. It will doubtless be remembered that the female cigarmakers suffered considerably, and consequently greatly assisted the male portion of the trade by their timely co-operation. It is pleasing, therefore, to be able to record that they did not fall into the apathy from which they had been aroused, but set to work and formed a union of their own. "The Female Cigarmakers' Protection Union" was established in November, 1887, with its headquarters in Nottingham. They have just issued their second quarterly balance-sheet, for May 5th, 1888. They have 558 members, contributions are 3d. per week, and they pay an out of work fee of 6s. per week for six weeks. They also pay death money at the rate of 2s. 6d. per quarter up to £2. They paid to those out of work last quarter the sum of £9 16s., and to those on strike £41 14s. This strike is still in progress, against a reduction in prices of work. Their fund last quarter was £31 14s. 6d., and their present fund is £38 0s. 6d. Notwithstanding this rather large strike, they have saved on the quarter £6 15s. 11d. This, however, is no doubt due to the levy of 3d. extra per week which the members who are still in work have paid to support their more unfortunate sisters. The manner in which this union is conducted does them great credit, and one has only to peruse their book of rules and neat little balance-sheet, got out under the direction of their able secretary, Mrs. Briant, to see how well women can work when they make up their minds to do so. The strike which they are now engaged in is, no doubt, a great strain on their slender means, and, taking all things into consideration, I think it will be admitted that they are doing very well; and I am sure they have the sympathy of the male portion of the trade, as well as the good wishes of all those who understand the claims of labour.—H. DAVIS.

AMERICA.

The boot-blacks of Lincoln, Neb., have formed a union.

The stove moulders of Toronto have managed to obtain a Saturday half-holiday.

In Massachusetts, 12,000 children under 14 years are working in the mills and shops, according to report.

Nearly 4,500 girls and women are employed around the Omaha mines, many of them working at night.

According to an estimate in Bradstreet's, the whole number of strikes last year in the United States was 858, involving 340,854 wage-workers.

The Working-men's Assembly of the State of New York intends to have a committee present in Albany during the extra Session of the Legislature. The committee will make war on all bills in favour of contract prison labour.

National District Assembly 126, which is composed of carpet workers, and of which John Morrison is master workman, will hold its annual meeting in New York on July 28. The district has a membership of about ten thousand.

At the National Convention of the Brassworkers held in Pittsburg last week, the initiatory steps were taken toward the formation of a National Trade Assembly. The next Convention will be held in New York on October 13.

All employes of the Milwaukee Road in Dakota were notified on the 30th of June that they had been assessed one-third of their pay for the first six days of the month to help the company pay damages sustained through the "Q" strike.

In Oregon, workmen of a brush and broom factory went on strike against low wages, and their employer contracted the work to convicts. The strikers started a co-operative shop, put a label on their goods, and are now doing a successful business.

Eighteen special agents of the Department of Labour are now engaged collecting statistics regarding employment on railroads in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

The miners employed by the Mineral Mining Company and the Excelsior Coal Company, at Shamokin, Pa., have brought suit against their employers to secure semi-monthly payments, as provided by law. They appealed to Governor Beaver, and he advised them to go to the Courts. The miners throughout Pennsylvania are watching the case, which is being pushed by the Knights of Labour.

THE IRONWORKERS' DISPUTE IN AMERICA.—NEW YORK, July 10.—The Association of Western Ironmasters has been dissolved. Thirty-eight firms, employing about 25,000 hands, having signed the workers' scale of wages, the dispute between masters and men has ended in a victory for the latter.

Mrs. Leonora M. Barry, of the Knights of Labour, who looks after the interests of the women in the order, in her latest report states: "In nearly every large city there are immense shirt factories, where women and children are employed and paid, in some instances, not more than 1s. 3d. or 1s. 8d. per dozen for making white shirts."

Some seven hundred members of the four Brotherhoods of locomotive engineers, firemen, brakemen, and switchmen held a meeting in St. Cloud Minn., on the 9th inst., for the purpose of taking steps looking to an amalgamation of these orders. The sentiment developed was favourable to their union, and a further meeting for this purpose will be held in Minneapolis four weeks hence.

It is reported that there are more men idle in Pittsburg now than there are at work. According to recent calculations there have been more strikes and labour troubles in that city during the past year than in any other three cities in the country of its size and population. It is also reported that the workmen of that city are more thoroughly organised into unions than in any other city in the country.

The strike of Brewers' Union in Cincinnati, Ohio, because a member was discharged by his "employer" for disobedience of rules, was formally declared off on the 7th of July after a continuance of three months. It had caused no inconvenience to the boss brewers after the first few days, and now all the brewers are scab establishments. The workmen lost their jobs and about 150,000 dols. in wages.

The eighth biennial session of the Iron-moulders' Union of North America began on the 11th inst. in St. Louis, Mass. The session will continue for five or six days. The main question to be considered will be the appointment of a committee to confer with the Committee appointed by the Manufacturers' Association at its June meeting in Pittsburgh, on a question of wages to be paid moulders throughout the country.

At Hainesville, N.J., a strike was inaugurated at the Columbian Iron Foundry on the 10th inst., which will probably last some time. Last winter John D. Johnson, owner of the works, owing, he averred, to a decrease in the amount of business done, reduced the wages of his employes 10 per cent., promising to restore it when business grew better. On the 10th a committee waited upon him and asked that they be granted 10 per cent. increase and their wages be paid every week. These demands the proprietor refused to concede, stating the amount of business done in the foundry would not admit it. The committee then withdrew and a general strike was ordered. Ninety men are out of work.

H. F. C.

WARREN'S BLACKGUARDS IN TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

NEVER since Bloody Sunday has more brutality been shown by the Law'n-Order ruffians than that displayed in the Square every Saturday. Pasha Warren appears to have a body of giants specially renowned for all the offensive qualities pertaining to the name of Bloy or Endacott. These youths are retained for special service in Trafalgar Square, and are to be let loose upon all occasions when any considerable collection of people get together in that locality. They are none of them under six feet, and are provided with hob-nail boots and carry the art of kicking to its highest perfection.

The rules for the guidance of this singular bodyguard are said to be as follows:—

I. This corps to be known as "Warren's Blackguards," and to be specially selected from all those policemen renowned throughout the force for false swearing, brutality, and scoundrelism of all kinds.

II. General directions.—The movements of all prominent Radicals, Socialists, and Land Nationalisers to be specially observed, and every attempt made to irritate them into breaking the peace. For instance, every obnoxious individual of this class is to be followed and if possible surrounded by burly constables, who will deafen him with cries of "Move on" on every side, and accentuate those cries by treading on his toes, kicking him on his shins, and punching him in the back. Should he attempt to take the number of any constable, this is to be the signal for a general assault; those in the rear will drive his hat over his eyes, and those in front will knock the note-book and pencil out of his hands. It is possible that he may lose his temper, and hit out wildly; in that case run him in at once for an assault upon the police. (N.B.—Those leaders who occupy a respectable position in society, and whom therefore even an ordinary magistrate may elect to believe, can be rushed out of the Square at top speed by a force of fifty or a hundred policemen, and thrown under a passing cab or wagon, and thus satisfactorily disposed of.)

III. Special attention to be given to paper sellers and boys who sing the "Marseillaise" or cheer the leaders. The ordinary course of kicking and cuffing, which every constable knows so well how to administer, will do for these. An excellent plan is to drive them into the corner of the Square and there surround them by a strong force of police, who will let them go after half murdering them. A good method with paper sellers, who are usually poor people, and whose evidence, therefore, will not be taken by any magistrate, is to snatch their papers from them and tear them up; any remonstrance on their part to be met with immediate arrest.

IV. All constables who distinguish themselves by kicking, cuffing, scratching, and biting in the most effective manner will receive rapid promotion. Skillful perjury is also a high recommendation.

(Signed) I CHARLES WARREN.

Whatever the apparent cause of any riots may be, the real one is always want of happiness.—Tom Paine.

Congressman Farquhar mistakes the sentiments of trade unionists and Knights of Labour when he says they consider the tariff question a labour question or a wage question. Intelligent working-men have got over all that. It matters not how high or how low the tariff duties are, working-men get the worst of it under the present industrial system.—Buffalo Truth.

As there are no men who complain more of the frauds of business than highwaymen, gamblers, and other thieves of that kind, so there are none who so bitterly exclaim against the frauds of gamblers, highwaymen, etc., as usurers, brokers, and other thieves of this kind; whether it is that the one kind of cheating is a discountenance or reflection upon the other, or that money, which is the common mistress of all cheats, makes them regard each other in the light of rivals.—Fielding.

SOCIALISM IN ABERDEEN.

GLASIER'S visit—which had been postponed for a fortnight—came off on Saturday, 30th June. At the usual weekly meeting held in Castle Street, Glasier delivered a rousing address to a large crowd, Leatham presiding. An unusually good impression appeared to be made, and three quires of *Commonweal* were sold.

On the Sunday afternoon another meeting was held at Duthie Park, East Waterside Gate, on a pleasant open promenade by the side of the Dee, with a prospect across the river of a green, steep, wooded bank. An old man had been so pleased with Glasier on the previous night, that he carried a large stool from another part of the town to the meeting-place, where, to our surprise and amusement, he was waiting us with the improvised platform. Glasier and Leatham again addressed the meeting, Glasier's speech being so brilliant as to evoke a hearty cheer at the close. Coming from Aberdonians, with their natural stolidity and their strict Sabbatarianism, this indicates no slight degree of enthusiasm. This meeting lasted about two hours; and although both speakers were in fettle for another open-air meeting, an indoor lecture had been announced for 6.30, and as we were some distance from home we had to hurry off in order to be in time.

At the indoor meeting—which, in consequence of the fineness of the weather, was but thinly attended after all—comrade Glasier delivered an admirable lecture, "The Prophecy of Socialism." A discussion followed, in which two strangers—the ex-President of our local Trades' Council and a well-known local Radical wire puller—took part, expressing their general sympathy with the movement.

The effect of comrade Glasier's visit and speeches has undoubtedly been to give the movement somewhat of a lift.

Comrade Rev. Alex. Webster took Leatham's place one night in Castle Street, dealing very effectively with "Recent Clerical Deliverances on Socialism."

Comrade Leatham has spoken in Castle Street on the last two Saturday evenings, considerable enthusiasm and interest being manifested by his audiences, which are largely composed of the same people week by week. Questions have been asked of the lecturer by persons in the crowd, and some have been sent to him through the post, as well as information regarding local jobs and abuses. The treatment of these questions and items of information gives manifest satisfaction and evokes evident interest.

All meetings are begun and ended with singing, the "Songs of Labour" proving very useful. Copies of the words of some of these have been printed, and are handed out to such of the bystanders as are willing to help in the singing. By this means the branch choir receives very acceptable assistance, and this method might with advantage be adopted by other branches. At our last Saturday night meeting, three vociferous cheers were given for the Social Revolution for the first time.

We do not add much to our membership; but the knowledge of, and sympathy with Socialism, are steadily growing. With the approach of the winter, when indoor meetings will be better attended, our numbers are likely to be substantially increased. Altogether the outlook is cheering.

J. L.

MONEY SPENT ON SCIENCE AND ART.—It appears from a return issued the other day that from 1859 to 1888 there has been spent on Burlington House £288,055; on the British Museum, £1,366,259; on the Natural History Museum, £760,771; on the National Gallery, £394,569; on the National Portrait Gallery, £2,236; on Marlborough House, £8,326; on South Kensington, £526,000; on Bethnal Green Museum, £10,455; on the Geological Museum and College of Chemistry, £62,312; Royal Gardens, £56,734; Royal Botanic Gardens, £18,113; Royal Institution, £1,200. These figures may be profitably compared with those of other governmental expenditures.

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.

Executive.—Monday, August 6th, being Bank Holiday, the Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 7th, 1888.

London Members' Meeting.—The next monthly meeting of members will take place on Monday, August 13, 1888, at 13 Farringdon Road, at 9 o'clock.

Socialist League Propaganda.—H. Dann, Is.

Strike Committee.—Collected in Regent's Park, Sunday July 22nd, 4s. 1d. J. LANE, Treasurer.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Langley, 2s.; P. W., 6d.; C. J. F., 2s. 6d.; K. F., 1s.

REPORTS.

MITCHAM AND MERTON.—Sunday week Kitz and Eden made a tour of the neighbourhood with back numbers of *Weal* and other literature. House to house visitation met everywhere with a cordial reception. Monday, 16th inst., successful meeting held on Wimbledon Broadway, in aid of match-girls, addressed by H. Dalchow, Eden, Kitz, Mr. Mercer, City Missionary, Rev. Macdonald, Presbyterian minister. The local Christians cordially co-operated. £2 12s. 4½d. collected. Mr. Macdonald seconded the socialistic resolution, which was passed unanimously. Sunday morning last, good meeting on Fair Green, addressed by Eden, Kitz, and Dalchow.—F. K.

NORTH LONDON.—A good meeting was held at Ossulton Street, on Friday evening, by Nicoll, Parker, Cores, and Cantwell. On Sunday morning Brooks, Cantwell, Mrs. Schack, Parker, and Cores were the speakers in Regent's Park. Several labour songs were sung. 4s. 2d. collected.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday, Glasier and Gilbert held a good meeting on Jail Square, at one o'clock. At five o'clock our usual meeting at Paisley Road was held, when Pollock and Glasier spoke to a very large audience.

NORWICH.—July 28th, a good meeting held St. Catherine's Plain, Friday last, which lasted over three hours. Saturday night Poynts and Darley opened new station at Stump Cross, well attended Sunday morning. Good meetings held at North Walsham and Wymondham by Mowbray, Morley, Adams, and Darley. In afternoon very enthusiastic meeting in Market Place, by Reynolds (Lowestoft) and Mowbray. In evening, in Market Place, Reynolds spoke at some considerable length. Very active preparations are being made by Branch for Demonstration in August, when we hope, weather permitting, to have the largest gathering of people ever held by the Socialists in Norwich.

WALSALL.—Good discussion last Monday, in which Guillemard, Wesley, Sanders, Carless, and others took part. Sanders opened outdoor meeting on the Bridge, on Saturday, followed by Tanner and Haddon (S.D.F., Birmingham), who were well received by large audience. Meetings on Sunday at West Bromwich Road and Daw End, addressed by Guillemard and Carless. Attendance large.—J. T. D.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Acton.—Any information from Secretary Harnett, 7 Redmore Road, Hammersmith.

Olerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E. C.

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Sunday at 8 p.m.

Hackney.—The next meeting of members will be held at 26 Cawley Road, Victoria Park, Sunday July 29, at 4 p.m. Enquiries, communications, etc., to E. Lefevre, Secretary, 28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Rd., Hackney Wick.

Hammersmith.—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday July 29, at 8 p.m., William Morris, "From Chattel to Wage Slavery."

Merton.—Club-house, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, Singlegate.

Mile-end and Bethnal Green.—95 Boston St., Hackney Road.

North London.—The business meetings will be held on Friday evenings at 6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road, after the open-air meeting at Ossulton St. All members are asked to attend at Ossulton Street at 8 o'clock. Secretary, Nelly Parker, 143 Cavendish Buildings, opposite Holborn Town Hall.

Plaistow.—A branch has been formed here and is commencing a vigorous propaganda in this district. All communications to be addressed to A. Barker, 4 Osborne Terrace, Leyton, E.

St. Georges in the East.—A meeting of the members of this branch will be held at 23 Princes Square, on Sunday morning after the meeting at Leman Street. Rochmann, secretary.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—Secretary, J. Leatham, 15 St Nicholas Street. Sunday night meetings, Baker Street Hall, 6.30. 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. H. M. Cluskey, Millar Street, Secy.

Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sec.).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec

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.

Galaashiels (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.

Gallatoun and Dysart (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Rosslyn St.

Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-room open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Discussion every Thursday evening at 8 o'clock. On Sunday evening, at 7 o'clock.

Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Rd. and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m. communications to T. Paylor, 11 Sheldon Street, Holbeck, Leeds.

Leicester.—Hosiery Union, Horsefair St. Fridays at 8.

Lochgally (Scottish Section: Fife).—Secs. (*pro tem.*), John Greig and Hugh Conway, The Square.

Norwich.—Monday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting. Tuesday, at 8, Debate between C. W. Mowbray and Mr. Scarples of this city—subject, "Socialism and Politics"; all seats free. Wednesday, at 8.30, Choir Practice.

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.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

SUNDAY 29.

10.30...Starch GreenHammersmith Branch
11.30...Latimer Road StationThe Branch
11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenNicoll
11.30...Regent's ParkSamuels & Mainwaring
1.30...Walham GreenFulham Branch
3.30...Hyde ParkParker & Nicoll
7 ...Clerkenwell GreenMrs. Schack
7 ...Weltje Road, opposite Ravenscourt Park
.....Hammersmith Branch

Tuesday.

8.30...Fulham—opposite Liberal Club.....Fulham Bh.

Friday.

7.30...Euston Rd.—Ossulton StreetNicoll

EAST END.

SUNDAY 29.

Mile-end Waste ... 11 ...Hicks & Lane.
"Salmon and Ball" ... 11 ...Bethnal Green Bh.
Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Parker.
Gibraltar Walk, Bethnal Green Road 7 ...Cores & Lane.
Well Street, Hackney... 11.45...Cores & Brookes.
Kingsland Green ... 11.30...Davis.
Victoria Park ... 3.15...M'Nwaring, Brooks
Triangle, Hackney Road 8 ...Cores & Brookes.
Stanford Hill ... 7.30...Nicoll & Parker.

TUESDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 8.30...Cores, Lane, Hicks and Charles.

WEDNESDAY.

Broadway, London Fields 8.30...Cores, Charles, & Mainwaring.

THURSDAY.

Packington St., Essex Road 8.30...Kitz, Nicoll, Marsh, and Cores.

FRIDAY.

Philpot St., Commercial Rd. 8.30...Lane, Charles, Cores, M'waring

SATURDAY.

Mile-end Waste ... 8 ...Lane, Mainwaring, Parker & Wess.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 8 p.m.
Glasgow.—Sunday: Jail's Square, at 12.30; Paisley Road Toll, at 5 o'clock.
Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.
Leicester.—Sunday: Russel Square, at 11 a.m.
Ipswich.—Sunday: Near Town Hall, at 11, Charles and Adams. Ship Launch, at 3, Adams & Charles.
Norwich.—Sunday: Market Place, at 3 and 7.30. Wymondham, Sunday. North Walsham, Sunday. St. Faiths, Sunday at 11.30. Crostwick Common, Sunday at 3. Thorpe, Monday at 8 p.m. Yarmouth, opposite Town Hall, Thursday at 7.30. St Catharine's Plain, Friday at 8.30 p.m. Stump Cross, Saturday at 8.15.

HOXTON.—Persons wishing to join this branch, which is in process of formation, should communicate with H. D. Morgan, 22 Nicholas Street, Hoxton.

EAST-END PROPAGANDA.—A meeting of all interested in the Socialist propaganda in the East-end of London will be held at the Berner Street International Club, Commercial Road, E., on Saturday evening at 9.30.

THE LABOUR UNION.—WOOLWICH.—Arsenal Gates (open-air), Sunday July 29, at 6.30, Graham Wallas, M.A. August 5th, George Bernard Shaw. Aug. 12, A. K. Donald.

NORWICH.—On August 12th and 13th a great Socialist Demonstration will be held. Speakers: William Morris, Annie Besant, C. J. Faulkner, Mrs. Schack, S. Mainwaring, W. Ogden (Oxford Branch), Herbert Burrows, C. W. Mowbray, and others.

Regent's Park, Sunday July 29, at 4 o'clock, an International Socialist Meeting will be held, addressed by several German speakers and also by Nicoll and Parker of the Socialist League. All our German speaking or English comrades living in the district are earnestly invited to attend and make this meeting a success.

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 Wilkam Morris. . 2d.
- The Aims of Art. By Wm. Morris. Bijou edition, 3d.; Large paper, 6d.
- The Rights of Labour according to John Ruskin. By Thomas Barclay. . 1d
- The Tables Turned; or, Nupkins Awakened. A Socialist Interlude. By William Morris. In Wrapper . 4d.
- The Manifesto of the Socialist League. Annotated by E. Belfort Bax and William Morris. An exposition of the principles on which the League is founded. . 1d.
- Useful Work v. Useless Toil. By William Morris. . 1d.
- "All for the Cause!" Song. Words by William Morris; Music by E. Belfort Bax. 4to, 4 pp. 6d. per dozen, 4s. 6d
- Mrs. Grundy (Cartoon). By Walter Crane. Fine hand-made large paper. . 6d.

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(AUGUST 6TH, 1888)

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TICKETS can be had at Office of Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road; Autonomie Club, 6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road; Communist Club, 49, Tottenham Street, W.; International Clubs, Berner Street and Princes Square; Detloff, 18 Sun Street, Finsbury.

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