

# THE COMMONWEAL

The Official Journal of the Socialist League.

VOL. 3.—No. 102.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1887.

WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

## NOTES ON NEWS.

THE tremendous mares' nest of the *Times*, big enough for the hatching of a division of cavalry, about the New York Dynamiters, is at first sight only a cause for laughter. One need not suppose that the wonderful and mysterious correspondent mentioned by that voracious journal manufactured the lie himself. He was (if he existed) probably some egregious fool on the hunt for something to please his employers, and glad enough to accept the wildest yarn of a Yankee joker. That is all very funny: but when one remembers that there are men on their trial for suspicion of plotting dynamite this idiotic lie wears another garb, let alone the convenience of pretending to believe anything that may be used as a weapon against the Irish party. However, it may be hoped that this time the story is too preposterous to have much effect.

The war scare is not subsiding—indeed, is rather on the increase; but perhaps, as was said last week, Bismarck's army bill will account for it. It is not easy to believe that the absolutist governments are really inclined to court the dangers of foreign war, with the ever increasing discontent which their armies must leave behind them when they march to the frontier; nor is it easy to see at present anything to force them into war.

But besides his army bill the German dictator has another bill on hand, a bill to make the anti-Socialist law still more stringent; amongst other matters in it is a provision for the International Congress of working men which is being organised for next year: it will be a penal offence involving loss of citizenship to take part in any Socialist congress. Perhaps some of our German friends can tell us what is likely to come of this. Meantime our own government is requested to take note and to learn something new from this passed master in it.

The police are to have a medal for their services in last summer's Jubilee raree-show. Here is a chance for the Government: why don't they strike a medal and present it to the force for their services on November 13th? It would be quite according to precedent: the Treasury honouring the first Commissioner of Police; two such dignified powers as that. In like manner the Pope struck a medal in honour of the French King after the massacre of St. Bartholomew. If the medal is struck (and by the way, King Warren's face should be on the obverse), the poor specials also ought to be decorated with it.

Mr. Justice Stephen's sentence on Harrison, convicted on police evidence of attacking and wounding the police, is the most infamous deed yet done in the infamous chain of injustice and cruelty of the present Tory Terror. The cold and cruel pedant Stephen has at last earned a title to distinction. It is true he is well known to a limited circle as a specimen of legal shoddy yarn, and I believe has enthusiastic admirers of his very commonplace feats in that line; but these fools, who are but few, will die presently and their hero will be forgotten as a pettifogging writer: as a cold and cruel pedant and enemy of truth and reason he may yet be remembered.

Yet if one could forget his existence it would be happier for us: so let us consider one or two things this soulless pedant said as spoken by the chair he sat on, and then say a word about them with less disgrace than if we spoke of him. The *Thing* laid down the doctrine that the "law of England undoubtedly was that if the police or any other authority gave notice that any particular proceeding would not be permitted to take place it was the duty of the parties concerned to obey the notice and then to take any remedy which the law might give them if the notice was illegal." Might I ask the *Thing* what remedy it advises Alfred Linnell to take?

It is well that we know the law, however, and that we understand how far we have drifted from the rough days of our forefathers, who with all their shortcomings never meant this, which simply implies that persons in authority by reason of their authority are free from the responsibilities of citizenship. The hide-bound pedant above-mentioned does us some service in stating this so clearly.

The coercionist rag the *Daily News*, with all the fervour of a new convert, very naturally highly approves of the law-grinder's sentence; which doesn't look well for the attempt which is to be made in Parliament to call attention to these shameful pieces of legal tyranny. Can-

not we turn from such sneaks and try to find an enemy with some spark of generosity in him. Is there not some stout Tory hard-hitter to say, "Stop that, you legal fools! The man held principles that I loathe, and if I had come across him in the row I would have given him one for his knob; but after all he did what I would have done, struck a good stroke or two in a shindy in which he was excited by seeing all sorts of violence going on. Don't be fools and call it a crime: say you have got him and mean to serve him out—though I should let him go since he got out of the scrimmage unhurt." That's what a generous enemy lighted by the light of reason would say. Is there nobody to come forward and say it?

The bourgeois press is very naturally spiteful over the great success of Linnell's funeral, and of course the procession and the spectators are called roughs, rowdies, thieves, and the like. What a lie this is those know best who were eye-witnesses of this great demonstration, and saw the quiet but sympathetic behaviour of the crowd, incalculable as to number. However, let us not trouble as to the lie, for if all that crowd were rowdies and roughs, the *Times* supporters should be shaking in their shoes—as one hopes they may one day have to do with better reason. Meantime the words rowdy, rough, and thief are clearly changing their meaning, and are coming to signify an honest and hard-working man, as opposed to a useless person who lives on other people's labour; for such worthless rags who are our present rulers it is not worth while finding a name. W. M.

Last week, the *Pall Mall* in a spirited rough sketch contrasted the position at the present time of the two Sullivans—one, the bully and bruiser, an honoured equal of the future king of England—the other, poet and patriot, within four walls for having published reports of "suppressed" branches of the National League in his paper. By the idlers 50 guineas are paid readily to see the illegal prize-fight which will gratify their degraded lust, and on which the vigilant police will keep a blind eye steadily—two years' amount of an agricultural labourer's wages given by those who did not produce it to see this brutal exhibition!

Not that boxing is necessarily brutal, or fighting to be condemned. But when it is done for pay it becomes debasing both for those that hire and those that are hired. Informers, policemen, and prizefighters are not only themselves lowered by being the mercenary tools of others, but those others in their turn are injured far more by the vicarious gratification of their blood-lust, than if they themselves "defended law'n'order" or pounded one another in the ring.

The working-men of Prague held a meeting on Sunday, the 11th, when a resolution was passed to the effect that the Czech working-men will show their superior culture by holding aloof from all national squabbles, and by refusing to become the tools of selfish persons who trade on the Home Rule movement in the country. They may not be Socialists, but this looks on the surface as if there were a strong infusion of international feeling among them.

Moscow University has been closed, in consequence of the recent "riotous" conduct of the students, who beat an inspector, and insulted their rector. The papers have been strictly forbidden to mention the occurrence, and are obeying, of course. The fact is, as Prince Bismarck long ago advised, that all the Russian Universities should be abolished; they are institutions incompatible with autocratic rule, and must either be ended by despotism or they will end it.

It was very funny to read of the conference of landlords in Dublin on the 13th, and their declaring that compensation was due them "on various grounds." They decided to await awhile before deciding what form it should take. That men so crassly stupid should exist is rather depressing than amusing, but one cannot help a smile when looking at the colossal impudence of their demand. If they put off the decision as to the form they would have it take for very long, it may be decided sharply for them!

The *Globe* was deeply exercised over the announcement that William Morris, Malcolm Lawson, and Walter Crane had joined in the commemoration of poor Linnell's fate. But it was easy to see from whence the sorrow arose. If only all men of recognised standing would keep aloof from such movements, it would be easier for the *Globe* to sneer them down; even the besotted readers of that "respectable" paper cannot fail to see through its hollow pretences when they are given the lie by so many men whose reputation compels a hearing. S.

## THE RATIONALE OF THE FRENCH REVOLUTION.<sup>1</sup>

Our comrade Laurence Gronlund has made a distinctly valuable contribution to Socialist literature in the publication of this work; though the name of Socialism is hardly once mentioned in it: for the great French Revolution is looked upon from the Socialist standpoint as a link in the chain of events of which the social revolution of the future will be the final consummation. "All historians," says Gronlund, "in the English language at least, have presented the Revolution as a panorama of kaleidoscopic pictures, and thereby made it simply a perplexing and puzzling subject. Such pictures are altogether unprofitable to us in our generation, since they necessarily leave the crisis an incomprehensible, unexplained phenomenon. . . . Mere history or simple story-telling cannot possibly explain it: historic philosophy is indispensable to that."

The historic philosophy which the author brings to bear upon his subject is that of Hegel, which regards all historic phenomena simply as the product of the forces of the past and as the preparation for further developments in the future; in brief, the theory of evolution as applied to history, which, thanks mainly to the lucid and careful expositions of our comrade Bax, is or should be now the common property of all who profess to call themselves Socialists. Where the author differs from most modern evolutionists is at that point where they leave off, while he prefers to go on; in his faith in what he is fond of calling "the Power behind Evolution"—God, if you will; a kind of Providence, which is more concerned with the progress of the race and the development of social conditions than with the adjustment of relations between individuals. Believing that the inevitable outcome of all social struggles will be the new-birth of social happiness, he holds that this is the work of a supreme intelligence. To me this belief seems not only helpful and inspiring, but a logically necessary consequence of the complete evolutionist hypothesis; and as a matter of policy it may well be doubted whether such a theory would not be a far greater help than hindrance to our propaganda, seeing that it runs parallel, though on a far higher level, to our general habits of thought. But whether this belief of the author's, which I resolutely share with him, be true or false, accepted or rejected, can make no difference to the argument of evolution in history, since it is only put forward as an *aberglaube* or additional belief when that argument has been fully accepted.

Having now briefly indicated the points in which not all Socialists are likely to agree with the author, I will try and give a summary of his conception of the French Revolution, with which all Socialists who know upon what ground they are standing will be at one with him.

Looking backward and forward over the whole field of history and the new society which is silently preparing, Gronlund says: "Our race was to be raised to a far higher level than it occupied during the Middle Ages"; and the supremacy of the middle-class was intended to bring about such an increase of production and productivity as to render the transfer of social power into the hands of the entire community not only feasible but imperatively necessary. Far, therefore, from holding with the orthodox historian that the French Revolution was a failure, he calls it a "splendid success"; regarding it as a dramatically forcible assumption by the *bourgeoisie* from the *noblesse* of the social and political power which the English aristocracy, wise enough to agree with their adversary quickly, were content to share. Historically considered, it is parallel with the English revolution of a century and a half earlier. "Besides the essential correspondences," says Gronlund, "between these two periods, there are many curious coincidences. Naseby of 1645 coincides with 'Aug. 10'; Pride's Purge, applauded by Sir Harry [Vane], with what I shall call the suspension of the Girondins, contributed to by Danton. In both revolutions the reigning kings were executed; and by the way, it is almost comical, when we think of the fate of their own royal family, to recall the reproaches and contumely which Frenchmen of the age of Louis XIV. heaped on the English for their 'brutality' and disloyalty in their treatment of Charles and James. Both crises ended in the supremacy of successful selfish soldiers; in both countries this supremacy was followed by a restoration; in one, as in the other, the restored monarch was followed by his brother; and lastly, in one as in the other, this brother was exiled, and gave way to a middle-class king. . . . It is, however, in the region of ideas that the connecting-link between the two revolutions is to be found."

Thus holding to the idea that the French Revolution as a whole was to bring about *bourgeois* supremacy, unrestricted private enterprise, competition, *et hoc genus omne*, the author traces in outline the leading events of that fascinating period, and shows how even with the best intentions and whole decalogues of lofty general principles, men were unable to see or get beyond the establishment of a free commercial system, based upon wages and profits, simply because nothing further was then possible. He makes a sharp distinction between the Revolution and the Counter-Revolution, or the powers working for the needed social change and those of the old régime seeking to re-establish themselves by force. Speaking of the time after the constitution of the National Assembly in June 1789 he says: "The people cried, 'The Revolution is finished; it is the work of the philosophers, and it has not cost a drop of blood.' Our historians have pitied these people for

their near-sightedness. Yet it is the historians that are near-sighted. The people were right. The Revolution was accomplished, and not a blow had been struck, not a particle of violence committed, so far. . . . But what about the violence, the massacres, the terror? Ah, they do not belong to the Revolution; they are, indeed, diametrically opposed to the Revolution, however much historians persist in including them, and in even making the French Revolution principally consist in them." But the freedom gained by the Revolution "benefited only the middle-classes; that is to say, only those who owned raw materials and means of production. But the workers, the poor, the masses who possessed nothing but their labour? They, whether in town or country, were not benefited at all. True, they now became free as to their persons and their actions; as far as the *bourgeoisie* had secured that much of liberty for them it represented the whole people, and raised the masses with itself. But was this done from sympathy with the masses? Not at all. The plutocrats had done it because it was absolutely essential to themselves as a class; because the new mode of industry and agriculture required that workmen and labourers should be able to migrate from places where their labour was not wanted to places where it was. How far the interests of the masses were from the minds of the *bourgeoisie* is shown by the fact that when, during the sitting of Aug. 4, Malonet, moved by an inspiration that should honour his memory, entreated his colleagues to consider the lot of the labouring classes, and establish workshops for those who were out of work, a general murmur arose, and they passed on to other matters."

The immediate object of the Revolution being to place the middle classes in supreme power for the purpose of increasing production, no shortcomings on their part can affect the issue so long as this main object is attained, as it has undoubtedly been. Gronlund, therefore, emphasises without hesitation the unblushing rascality of the French *bourgeoisie*, which he says is without parallel in any other country, and many of the most glaring instances of which have only just come to light. Principal among these he names the nefarious speculations in land, which the people were repeatedly promised and cheated of wholesale, until finally led away by the bait of "glory" so astutely held out before their national vanity by Bonaparte.

It will be seen from the above that the book is by no means a mere biography of Danton; yet all the charm of a biography is present. The author holds with Carlyle that Danton was the Atlas of the Revolution, who supported it on his own shoulders; and while by no means its "maker," was certainly its saviour, on three distinct occasions at least. While speaking of him as "my hero, Danton," and following his career throughout with an affectionate interest, the author insists upon it that he was not a "saint," but simply a "whole man"; and unsparingly points out what he thinks his errors, even when these have been upheld by less discriminating admirers. His great fault is held to have been a "total lack of ambition"; and though his lofty exclamation, "Let my name be accursed, if but the cause be saved!" must ever win him honour, it is possible to conceive that much subsequent failure might have been avoided had Danton been more ambitious than he was. For while it is undoubtedly true that many of the greatest practical exponents of the wants of the people have been slow to perceive when their work was done, Danton was rather one of those rarer spirits who are ready to give place to their inferiors sometimes at critical moments. But "Danton the monster, Danton as nearly all our historians paint him, is purely a creation of the imagination; the cloud of obloquy which has hitherto enshrouded his memory having been successfully dispersed by the efforts of a few French Positivists whose works and authorities have not yet been translated into English."

"The principal lesson," the author says, "which this volume will draw from the French Revolution, in the way of example and warning, are, that Danton was a true instrument in the hands of the Power behind Evolution [or to put it in another way, the man who saw what the time demanded, and did it], and just the kind of leader we in our day should encourage; that on the other hand good intentions alone avail nothing in popular leaders, and that therefore we should with all our might repress our Robespierres, Héberts, and Marats."

Our comrade, as a native of Denmark, may really be congratulated on his mastery of English style, which is distinctly in advance of that of his former work. The book abounds in good passages, and is thoroughly readable throughout. The artistic unity is somewhat destroyed by the insertion of a disquisition on the whole history of the *bourgeoisie* up to the present at the end of the second chapter, "The Middle-Class Régime"; this would have been better at the beginning of the last chapter, "The Present Transition State." But as a whole the method of arrangement is excellent. The volume is clearly and correctly printed, and is supplied with an excellent index. We hope soon to see an English edition.

REGINALD A. BECKETT.

It is a perfectly evident truth that among all the agencies of the advancement of human civilisation the two most effective have been hell and hanging.—*Chicago Times*.

GREAT INCREASE IN METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the first week of the current month was 102,559, of whom 59,099 were indoor and 43,460 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 6,481 over the corresponding week of last year, 8,314 over 1885, and 9,069 over 1884. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 1,208, of whom 1,059 were men, 124 women, and 25 children under sixteen. These figures are exclusive of the patients in the fever and small-pox hospitals, which on the last day of the week numbered 2,732.

<sup>1</sup> 'Ca Ira! or, Danton in the French Revolution': A Study. By Laurence Gronlund. Boston: Lee and Shepard.

## REVENGE.

When the workers have their own again,  
And Labour rules the roast,  
And we've really won the freedom  
Which to-day we only boast,  
How shall we treat our masters  
Who treated us so ill?  
We'll make it pretty warm for them,  
By Jupiter, we will.

In field or pleasant work-room  
Each one shall do his spell,  
And, whether coats or cabbages,  
We'll see he does it well.  
Two hours' good useful work a-day,  
Although it needn't kill,  
Will touch the gentry up a bit,  
By Jupiter, it will.

And when the work is over,  
Quite early in the day,  
Unless they'd rather sit and sulk,  
We'll fetch 'em out to play;  
Of song and sport and laughter  
Each one shall have his fill;  
And won't that be a sweet revenge,  
By Jupiter, it will.

By mirth of hopeful labour,  
And beauty born of mirth,  
We'll gradually educate  
The loafers of the earth  
To see the good of brotherhood  
And industry and skill;  
We'll hail them then our fellow-men,  
By Jupiter, we will.

C. W. BECKETT.

## "BROKEN CISTERNS."

(Continued from p. 402.)

THE common ownership of the means of production, of the land and capital of the country, would at once put a stop to all chance of individuals or classes living by lending these to the working part of the community for an annual payment. Every one would have to take to some sort of work before he could earn anything wherewith to procure his living. This would abolish the worst features we saw arising from bad distribution. No one could become extremely wealthy if he had only his wages to depend upon. On the other hand, if all the tribute which is now paid by the workers for the use of land and capital was put a stop to, the reward of labour would be vastly increased; probably it could be doubled at the first start, and the hours worked much reduced; for it would become the duty of the community, organised for that purpose in local communes federated under some large central direction, to see that work was shared as well as pay. The complaint we hear so much of now, about there not being work enough for all, would soon be met by a reduction of hours. At present the private ownership of the means of production prevents this, for it is to the advantage of private owners to pay wages to as few men as possible and to get as long a day's work for the wage as they can, but if the community owned the means of production it would immediately become apparent that the best way for all would be to share the work and share the product. The people would at once see that they do not want more work, but less, what they would want would be to produce the greatest amount of wealth with the least amount of labour consistent with that labour remaining to some extent pleasurable. The opposition of interest between capital and labour would for ever cease. Wherever the increase of capital could reduce the amount of labour needed to produce a certain quantity of goods it would be to the interest of the workers to save that much capital—a very simple process, and one which would probably be carried on continuously. After all expenses of management, all payments to useful people who are not absolute producers, and all deductions for the maintenance of capital had been made, it would be very easy to deduct a small percentage of the produce to go towards the increase of the stock of capital; the rest would then go to the workers, each according to his share. Gluts and trade crises would be things of the past, their cause would be removed, for the more wealth there was produced the greater would be the wages or share each could consume. Over-production could only happen when all were satisfied, and then they could proclaim a month's holiday in which to consume the surplus stock.

The waste of competition in all its forms would be done away with; there would be no individual employers or merchants to compete; one shop would no more compete against another than one post office does against another now; one factory would not compete against another any more than one Government factory does against another now. All the incentive to competition would be gone; each place would have a fixed quantity to produce and a fixed quality, and its interest would be to produce it as easily and pleasantly as possible, and of as good a quality as possible, so that it might last and their work be lighter in the future. All the waste of competition would be gone; there would be no need to advertise or send an army of travellers or agents all over

the country; these would be set to useful work, and so help to lighten the toil of the rest. All interest in bad work would be gone, the better the work was done the less would have to be done in the future for the same reward; the longer the peoples' clothes and boots lasted the less work it would take to clothe and shoe them; and this would come home to each worker, and it would be apparent to him at every stitch or blow that the better the quality the easier his labour would become in the future. Under the present system it is just the opposite. Every workman knows that the better job he makes of his work the less work there will be in the future; but then under present circumstances less work means less wages; and he must have wages, hence he seeks to make work. And the employer, too, is often influenced in the same way. If he can make ten shillings profit on the best quality of cloth and only five shillings on a poorer quality, it still pays him to sell the poorer quality if the people will wear out three of it to one of the better; the greater number of articles worn out, the greater number of profits; hence the success of the cheap ready-made clothes shops.

Then we come to the question of foreign competition; and here again I think we shall find that the proposal of the Socialists will take away the evils of this branch of the universal warfare which is going on. Many Socialists hold that Socialism will only be possible when all the civilised world become socialised. To me this seems to be one of those cases where a statement is accepted from the weight with which it comes, without examining it. I have seen very few arguments brought forward in defence of it, and for myself am inclined to dispute it. Thus far one must acknowledge the truth of it, that a small country becoming prematurely Socialistic might be liable to invasion by a united army of all other capitalistic countries, and in that way might be crushed. But it is not likely that any country will adopt Socialism until there is at least such a body of opinion in other civilised countries as would render such a united attack impossible. Moreover, a people who had tasted of the real freedom of Socialism would probably defend it in a manner not very easy to subdue. But military invasion apart, I see no reason in the industrial relations of nations to prevent Socialism developing in one nation some considerable time before it does so in others. England is often said to depend entirely upon foreign trade. To some extent, no doubt, this is true; there are many things which we use which we either cannot produce or don't produce enough of, such as corn, tea, sugar, silk, fruits, etc.; but then if the country became Socialistic there would be no real difficulty in persuading the American farmer or the French silk-merchant to sell to our government, nor would he refuse to be paid in the same articles as now because they were made in communal workshops. There is a deal of superstition hanging about our foreign trade; a great deal of it is no use to any one but the merchant who makes a profit out of it. It is very likely that we might, supposing we became a Socialist country before the rest of the world, have to pay a little higher price for the things we needed to buy from abroad than we should if all the other countries were Socialistic too; but that would be a small matter, for we should not then be depending upon a small margin of profit for our existence, but should be depending upon the product. It is this dependence upon a small margin of profit which frightens people about our foreign trade; if that margin goes now through foreign competition the whole comes to a stand and thousands are ruined; but when the goods we buy become our aim, and not the profit on them, it will be a small thing comparatively whether we have to give 3½d. a pound for our sugar instead of 3d., or 40s. a quarter for our corn instead of 35s. True we might have to work a little longer than might otherwise be necessary—say half an hour extra all round—but there is nothing that I can see in that to ruin the chance of a Socialist community.

I think now we have shown that the change of basis proposed by the Socialist would cure the evils of society, would take away the bad distribution and the opposition of interest, would put a stop to industrial crises with all the misery they entail, would do away with all the waste of competition and all the selfishness produced by it—would, in fact, lay the only sort of foundation upon which a society might rise, guided by the principles of freedom, equality, and brotherhood. But our opponent, when unable to answer us on this ground, has one more argument to fall back upon. He says it is all very nice, but it can't be done. How are you going to abolish private ownership in the means of production, and how are you going to organise your society? One thing mainly is needed, that is to get the useful classes to wish that it should be done. Nothing but the definite desire of the workers as a whole can bring it about, nothing else but a clear understanding on their part of the better society which is to be formed can keep reactionary forces in check during the time of partial confusion which must elapse before the new society can be completely organised. All Socialists at present believe that their chief duty is to lay this picture of a better society before the public, that they may get to long for it; and we have faith enough to believe that when a people long for a more just and a happier form of society that the hour will come for its realisation, and will bring with it the right man and the right plan for carrying it out. What that plan will be we do not profess to know, nor can we foresee the details of the society which shall arise upon the new basis, therefore all schemes and all pictures of details are only useful as they may help to show people that there are ways in which it might be done. Of one thing we are convinced, that unless the people see the danger and commence to reorganise society quietly and peaceably, that the economical progress of the present system will inevitably bring things to a deadlock before so very long, and then they will be forced to do violently and in a hurry what would have been better done peaceably and more carefully.

RAYMOND UNWIN.

(To be concluded.)



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

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

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 Commonwealth, 15 Farringdon Road, E.C. Remittances in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

- GRAINGER (Dundee); THOMAS (Ipswich);** and others.—Kindly do not address orders and cash to the Editors, but to H. A. Barker, Manager.
- CARR (Dundee).**—Your report almost invariably reaches us a day after publication and thus has to wait a week. Please see that it is posted in time to reach us by first post on Tuesday.
- S. W.**—Wager of Battle was not abolished until 1819. It had been forgotten for centuries, when a man named Abraham Thornton, in 1817, on trial for alleged murder, demanded a "trial by battle," and on the refusal of the prosecutor was discharged, and this drew attention to the subject.
- BROOK FARM.**—Articles on this interesting experiment may be found in the *Dial* (Boston), 1842: 361; 1844: 351; *Atlantic Monthly*, 1878: 458, 556; *Old and New*, 1871 v. 1: 175, 425; v. 1: 347; 1872: 517; *Overland Monthly*, 1870: 9. See also J. H. Noyes' *History of American Socialisms*; C. Nordhoff's *Communist Societies of the United States*. The lives of Emerson, Marg. Fuller, Hawthorn, Ripley, and Channing, would also give incidental help.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday December 14.

<b>ENGLAND</b> Die Autonomie us Justice London—Freie Presse Labour Tribune Railway Review Worker's Friend	Chicago—Alarm The Open Court Albina (Grog.)—Weekly Courier Buffalo—Arbeiter-Zeitung Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	Brussels—L'Avant-Garde Liege—L'Avant SWITZERLAND Zurich—Sozial Demokrat ITALY G. zetta Operaia Brescia—Lo Sperimentale Marsala—La Nuova Eta SPAIN El Productor PORTUGAL Lisbon—O Protesto Operario GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune AUSTRIA Arbeiterstimme Vienna—Gleichheit HUNGARY Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik ROMANIA Jassy—Lupta
<b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b> Hamilton—Radical	<b>FRANCE</b> Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Le Socialiste La Revolté Lille—Le Travailleur Guise—Le Devoir	
<b>INDIA</b> Bankipore—Behar Herald Madras—People's Friend	<b>HOLLAND</b> Hague—Recht voor Allen Amsterdam—Voorwaarts	
<b>UNITED STATES</b> New York—Der Sozialist Freiheit Truthseeker Volkszeitung Backer Zeitung Boston—Woman's Journal Liberty	<b>BELGIUM</b> Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil Ghent—Vooruit Antwerp—De Werker	

**THE LAND OF GOSCHEN.**

"AND Israel dwelt in the land of Goshen." Throughout the whole of their strange, eventful history the Israelites have shown a marked capacity for settling in the land of Goshen; and there is little wonder that when Moses, in the pursuit of a mirage, led them away across the wilderness, they rather remembered with longing the fertile pastures their forefathers had enjoyed than with sorrow their own hard times.

The Right Honourable George Joachim is almost another Joseph. At the Statistical Society of which he is president, on last Tuesday week, he endeavoured to show his brethren that the land towards which we are tending will be a land flowing with milk and honey for them, the middlemen, and that Socialism in fact means nothing more than a Paradise for the middle-class, where every one will be more or less wealthy—except, of course, the workers. How the new Joseph regards these poor despised Egyptians is evident from his own words: "Despite," he said, "the complaints of bad business and no profits, of want of work, and of irregularity of employment among even those who had work, the great central body of society was strengthening its economic position." Truly the middle-class is the central body of society by virtue of its position. So is the stomach in the human body. Whether it is so by virtue of its importance is a somewhat different matter. But mark the grim hardihood of Mr. Goschen's statement. Wages are bad, employment is precarious and scarce; but no matter. "The great central body is strengthening its economic position." That is, the small fry and the large fry of the middle class are accumulating more wealth every year. This is the "silent kind of Socialism" which Mr. Goschen says is actually in progress. The new land of Goshen is to be peopled by the possessors of moderate fortunes; surplus-value is to be distributed over a larger area; aristocrats and very rich people will no longer exist; large businesses will all be limited liability companies; in short there will be nothing but a bourgeoisie and a prole-

ariat. This will be very nice for the bourgeois, but, as George Stephenson remarked, "very bad for the coo,"—which is, after all, the animal which gives the milk, and in this case the honey too.

Nevertheless Mr. Goschen's figures are interesting to Socialists. Figures are unmanageable beasts; and although a clever financier like Mr. Goschen can marshal them much as he pleases, a quick eye can detect the disingenuousness of their manipulator. Our Joseph of the parti-coloured coat succeeds completely in proving that moderate fortunes are on the increase, but he does not equally well demonstrate that large fortunes are decreasing or that wealth is becoming at all equally distributed. He confesses, indeed, though "with much embroidery of language," that the workers do not participate in the general dividing-up that he believes is going on among the proprietary classes. The amount per head invested in post-office and other savings banks was £20, 15s. in 1875, whereas in 1886 it had decreased to £18, 7s. per head. Mr. Goschen points out that the number of dwelling houses of from £10 to £15 rental has largely increased since 1875, and argues that this is because the working class can afford to live in better houses, though everyone knows that it is because rents have risen enormously since 1875. The savings banks returns show sufficiently well that the workers are not more prosperous.

But is it the case that large fortunes are on the decrease? It is of course quite possible for very large fortunes to diminish in number without the working classes being one penny the better for it. It is only that there are more to share in the plunder. Mr. Goschen gives the following table of estates which paid probate duty in 1885 and 1887, which I have slightly abbreviated:

	In 1885.	In 1887.
Estates not exceeding £1000	45,950	46,903
Between £1000 and £5000	8,782	9,093
"      £5000 and £20,000	3,155	3,272
Above £20,000	1,097	1,181

From which it appears that in every case the number of fortunes which paid probate duty in 1887 was greater than in 1885. It is not at all evident therefore that large fortunes are decreasing, and one is at a loss to know how the great financier could suppose such to be the case with the above table before him, especially when we further learn that the number of fortunes above £20,000 which paid probate duty in 1887 was larger than in 1877.

These legacy returns, however, add further strength to Mr. Goschen's third contention, that moderate fortunes are on the increase. The number of fortunes below £4000 which paid probate duty was in 1877 26,751, but in 1887 it had risen to 46,903. The Income-Tax returns show that under Schedule D the number of incomes between £150 and £1000 rose 19.26 per cent. from 1877 to 1886. The capital of registered companies has risen in the last ten years 92 per cent., or from £307,108,466 to 597,508,692. This is where the money goes. The wealth of the country increases every year, but the workers get poorer. The middleman is everywhere—letting, sub-letting, contracting, sub-contracting—but always fulfilling his function of sweating to the last penny the man who really does the work.

And this is the silent Socialism towards which we are now progressing; this is the land of Goschen, flowing with the milk of dividends and the honey of salaries, where the great central body of society will be so strongly entrenched in its economic position that nothing can overthrow it; this is the promised land! Sir William Harcourt says we are all Socialists now, but probably his idea of Socialism is as great a burlesque of the truth as Mr. Goschen's. For both of them Time will some day have a rude awakening, and Joseph and his brethren will have to seek another land.

W. H. UTLEY.

**A VOICE FROM AMERICA.**

(Continued from page 394.)

**THE LAST LETTERS OF THE PRISONERS.**

A. R. PARSONS wrote to the editor of the *Alarm*, and concluded his letter with the words:

"And now to all I say: Falter not. Lay bare the iniquities of capitalism; expose the slavery of law; proclaim the tyranny of governments; denounce the greed, cruelty, and abominations of the privileged class, who riot and revel on the labour of their wage-slaves. Farewell!"

In a letter to George A. Shilling, a friend, he closed with the words:

"Thus, over a very extensive region of country, among cotton, corn, and sugar plantations, I became somewhat famous as a champion of political liberty. Beloved by the blacks, I was hated and scorned by the whites. I then believed that the coloured people were truly free-men, and that they only needed courage to assert it. But I did not then understand or know that economic dependence—i.e., industrial servitude—made political liberty impossible. I did not know, nor did the blacks, that they had been merely emancipated from chattel to wage servitude. I did not then know that economic freedom must be the basis for political liberty, and that the wage-labour system created classes, antagonisms, and class servitude. And now, as the helots of old, the so-called 'free' blacks, in common with their white brethren, work and die like beasts in the unceasing treadmill of wage slavery."

Lingg, Parsons, Engel, and Fischer wrote to the Governor saying they were innocent of the charge brought against them by State-Attorney Grinnell; they did not desire commutation, but demanded their liberty, being unconscious of having committed a crime.

Schwab, Fielden, and after long persuasion, Spies, signed an appeal for clemency to the Governor of Illinois, R. Oglesby. August Spies two days later wrote to the Governor:

"If a sacrifice of life there must be, will not my life suffice? The State-Attorney of Cook County asked for my life, declaring I am the arch conspirator. He asked originally for no more. Take this, then; take my life. I offer it to you that you may satisfy the fury of a semi-barbaric mob and save those of my comrades."

Lingg wrote to the editor of the *Alarm* on the Sunday before his death, concluding:

"Now with a last and earnest farewell to all friends and comrades, and with final wishes for their prosperity, I close; in view of the certainty that I shall never have the chance of seeing you again, my beloved comrade, with an earnest and hearty wish for your future success in life. Long live Anarchism!"

#### THE SUICIDE OF LINGG.

Tuesday morning the whole population of the United States were startled with the news that four bombs had been found in Lingg's cell. The report said that Engel had tried to commit suicide by taking laudanum; the warder heard him moan and rushed to his cell. Within an hour they brought him again to his senses, miraculous to say. In consequence they searched all the cells, and found the above alleged four bombs. The finding of the bombs was a miserable police plot to make sure of hanging Lingg, whom they hated most. The fact of the matter was a petition to pardon the men circulated in Chicago, and was largely signed by the inhabitants of the city. The police got mad through this action, and declared that the capitalists could do their dirty work in future themselves. Two days later on, Wednesday, the lawyers for the defence tried a new plan. They attempted to get a stay of the execution by having poor Lingg declared an idiot, and they seemed to have a chance of succeeding. This was too much for our brave comrade. He did not mind dying a martyr for the people's cause, he did not mind sacrificing his young life on the altar of freedom, but in full possession of his mental faculties through lawyer's cunning trickery to be declared a lunatic; this was too much for him. He resolved to prevent this insult. The man had an iron nerve, and no heart ever did more sincerely beat for the suffering toiling class than the heart of Louis Lingg, a youth of 22 years. Thursday morning at about nine o'clock, Lingg was observed putting a light to his mouth as if attempting to light a cigar. Soon afterwards a noise was heard similar to the sound produced by the explosion of powder in a stone quarry. The guards who were on guard in front of Lingg's cell instantly rushed to the door grating. They witnessed a horrible spectacle. Lingg was laying on his bed with the blood running out of his wounds, writhing and whirling his arms and legs with frightful contortions. His face was one mass of blood and torn flesh; the upper and lower jaws had been battered and forced apart by the explosion of the deadly missile in his mouth. The base of the mouth was torn out, including a part of the tongue, and allowed the remainder of the tongue to fall back, thus threatening suffocation. The surgeons, however, passed a ligature through the tongue and drew the organ forward so that breathing could be carried on without difficulty. There was a double fracture of the left thumb, caused by a portion of the missile striking it as Lingg lit the fuse of the bomb held between his teeth. How Lingg got the bomb is as yet not known, but it must have been of very small proportions. Very probably it was concealed in a candle. Lingg, poor fellow, remained conscious for several hours, and did not die till 2.50 p.m. At 11 o'clock he was so far sensible in spite of his terrible wounds that he moved his hand as if he wished to write. A reporter placed a pencil in his hand and paper before him, and he wrote quite legibly the words "Head high," meaning his head to be raised. Captain Black, the attorney of the men, came in shortly after. Lingg recognised him, and greeted him with his eyes. At 12 o'clock, the surgeons performed an operation, but in spite of the terrible pains and despite the frequent injections of morphia, he remained conscious throughout the time. He again took the pencil from the hand of one who was holding him, and wrote on a piece of paper, "I cannot breathe lying down. I would rather sit up." At 2.50 our poor, brave, heroic comrade breathed his last.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

(To be concluded).

**THE CAUSES OF WAR.**—The first reason for all wars and for the necessity of national defences, is that the majority of persons, high and low, in all European nations are thieves, and in their hearts greedy of their neighbour's goods, land, and fame. . . . And the guilty Thieves of Europe, the real source of all deadly war in it, are the Capitalists—that is to say, people who live by percentages on the labour of others, instead of by fair wages for their own.—*John Ruskin.*

In what length of time could Society by the utmost industry and frugality accumulate supplies to maintain all succeeding generations free from toil? Obviously, never. Each season brings its share of toil, and each year we consume the bulk of the product. Wonderful as have been the applications of steam and electricity, we have no indication that humanity will ever be exempted from toil. The physical law is inexorable. "By the sweat of thy brow shalt thou eat bread." But a portion of the race now enjoy incomes which exempt them from toil and with every guarantee, so far as our laws and customs can guarantee anything, that such exemption shall continue to the end of time. What are the inevitable conclusions from these two considerations? 1st, Since no man or number of men can produce sufficient supplies to maintain them for all time without further toil, therefore that part of society which enjoys everlasting incomes that require no toil from their recipients for their maintenance, possesses the power of appropriating an amount of wealth that could not by any possibility be the result of its own productive effort. 2nd, All society cannot possibly live for all time without toil; some now possess that power. Therefore some enjoy a privilege from which others by an inexorable physical law must be forever excluded.—'Antagonism of Social Forces' (by W. A. Douglas, B.A.), in the 'Proceedings of the Canadian Institute' for Oct., 1887.

## FUNERAL OF LINNELL.

On Sunday last, 18th inst., the public funeral accorded by the L. L. L. to the first victim of police brutality in connection with the recent Trafalgar Square meetings, was duly held. As Warren who had the man slain would not allow his coffin to pass near the spot on which he fell, and was bent on doing all in his power to mar the impressiveness of the ceremonial, the committee decided on Saturday night upon a different route from that proposed before, and gave notice to Warren of the streets they intended to pass through. The usual large force of police held the Square valiantly against no comers, and patrols and specials were conspicuously present in different parts of the West-end. The body lay at an undertaker's (Mr. Dawes) in Lexington Street (formerly Great Windmill Street) Golden Square, and there the committee, the relatives, pall-bearers, stewards, etc., assembled between one and two o'clock. An open hearse with four horses was used; on top of it was a shield painted black, with large white letters "Killed in Trafalgar Square" on it; behind the shield were three flags, green, yellow, and red, for the Irish, Radicals, and Socialists. A little after two the coffin was placed in the hearse, the pall-bearers being Cunninghame Graham, Mrs. Besant, Mr. Stead, Herbert Burrows, Mr. Smith and William Morris. Two mourning coaches and a wagonette containing the choir followed, a band preceded, playing the "Dead March," and the procession made its way to Wellington Street, Strand, passing on the way, appropriately enough, the butcher-shop of Bow Street. Despite the fact that the committee had kept the route so far a secret, and had asked Warren to do the same, considerable crowds were assembled and showed great sympathy. At Wellington Street an attempt was made by the police to turn to account in breaking up the procession the natural momentary confusion caused by large bodies of men meeting from different directions; here the Radicals and Socialists of South-West London joined the procession and there was also a dense crowd filling the Strand both ways; but the tender care of the E. division was made fruitless by the serious and self-restrained behaviour of the crowd. At Ludgate Circus there fell in some South-East London clubs, the Patriotic and East Finsbury, the Clerkenwell and Bloomsbury branches of the Socialist League, and the Clerkenwell branch of the S. D. F. At several points along the route the line was lengthened by the joining of branches of the Irish National League, S. L., S. D. F., and many Radical Clubs. When Mile-End Road was reached the sight was an imposing one, as the train stretched in an unbroken length for nearly a mile, with a large number of banners, mostly red, and several bands playing slow marches. Enormous masses of people lined the waysides the whole distance from the city to the cemetery and at many places there were lines of police to keep the road clear. These the onlookers usually greeted as the coffin went by with "That's your work!" and similar cries.

Bow Cemetery was reached after half-past four, when it was already dark and rain beginning to fall. Linnell's grave is situated in Square No. 73, close to the entrance on the right as one enters the cemetery. The walls of the grave were ornamented with holly and evergreens, and as much as could be done to render the interment decent and respectable had been accomplished. The coffin, covered with black cloth, was conveyed to within a few yards of the grave. It was covered with wreaths sent by the Radical clubs and Socialist organisations, including one from "the Women of the Bloomsbury Branch of the S.L.," and one from "A Woman of the Clerkenwell Branch of the S.L." By the aid of a lantern, the Rev. Stewart Headlam read the Church of England Burial Service, the rain meanwhile descending rather heavily. When the service was concluded and the coffin lowered into the grave, Mr. Tims, of Battersea (Liberal and Radical Federation), tendered, in the name of the Radical clubs of the metropolis, to the relatives of the deceased their sincere regret at the early death which had overtaken Linnell. He entered his most indignant protest against the scandalous brutality and astounding cruelty of the police. Let them never rest until they had got these men under their own control, instead of allowing them to control the people. It was certain that Englishmen, Scotchmen, Irishmen, and Welshmen would not submit to the conduct of this autocracy. Let Scotland Yard and the Home Office take warning. They were putting in prison the leaders of the people who guided, controlled, and kept them back; but the authorities did not seem to know that, and if they continued in their blind course they must not be surprised if things should be much worse.

William Morris said they all wished to show their condolence with the relatives of the deceased. There lay a man of no particular party—a man who until a week or two ago was perfectly obscure, and probably was only known to a few. Through this strange occurrence—(A Voice: "Murder")—Linnell had become a person to be remembered by them. Their brother lay there—let them remember for all time this man as their brother and their friend. If the police knocked them about and treated them ill it was to a certain extent their own fault, because they had given the management of their own affairs to other classes. Their friend who lay there had had a hard life and met with a hard death; and if society had been differently constituted from what it was, that man's life might have been a delightful, a beautiful one, and a happy one to him. It was their business to try and make this earth a very beautiful and happy place. They were engaged in a most holy war, trying to prevent their rulers—people who did not understand them—making this great town of London nothing more than a prison. He could not help thinking the immense procession in which they had walked that day would have the effect of teaching a great lesson. He begged them to do their best to preserve order in getting back to their homes, because their enemies would be only too glad to throw a blot upon that most successful celebration; and they should begin to-morrow to organise for the purpose of seeing that such things should not happen again.

Mr. Dowling (London organiser of the Irish National League) invited Englishmen to imitate the men of Ireland and organise. Linnell fell in the same cause in Trafalgar Square that they in Ireland had fought for in Mitchelstown. Let them organise their own National League in England, which would soon establish such an influence in the country as would make the ruling classes tremble in their shoes.

Mr. Quelch (Social Democratic Federation) denounced Sir Charles Warren and his orders, and said that it was not the men in uniform who murdered members of the working classes, but the men who paid them. These men they should regard as their enemies.

The Choir then sang "A Death Song" by W. Morris and Malcolm Lawson. The rain, which came down very heavily, had by this time considerably thinned the part of the cemetery where the interment took place, and as soon as the "Death Song" was finished, all present at and about the grave toon their departure, passing readily along the thoroughfare beyond the gates, as there too the rain had dispersed the crowds. It was just upon half-past five when the ceremony was concluded.

# THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

**ROCHDALE WOOLLEN TRADE.**—The Rochdale woollen trade is reported to be in a depressed state. Stocks are heavy, and curtailment of production is increasing. A large number of firms are working short time.

**EDINBURGH JOINERS.**—At a largely attended meeting it was reported that in every case where notice of reduction had been given and the men had resisted the notice had been withdrawn. One or two of the employers were reported as having reduced only a few of their hands, but were busy urging upon other employers the advisability of a reduction all round. A resolution strongly condemning these tactics was unanimously passed. It was further resolved to continue the moral and material support of the trade to any who may yet be threatened.

**SHOP SLAVERY IN DUBLIN.**—Perhaps in no part of the three kingdoms are the unfortunates of what Mr. Stead has called "white slave plantations" so overworked as in Dublin; here the cheap advertising "popular" draperies are open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and on Saturdays till 11 p.m.; till Christmas they will be open an hour or two later. Many are the unfortunate girls who will be slung out to swell the ranks of the unemployed after the employers' annual harvest is over. Every effort is being made by the money-grubbers to secure uniformity in *keeping open* on Boxing Day, thus cheating their drudges out of their hard-earned holiday.

The colliers of Tipton and West Bromwich held a meeting recently, when a resolution was unanimously passed: "That in the opinion of this meeting the working of overtime in the mines is an evil to those who work, an injustice to the unemployed, and a serious prevention to the more equal distribution of the means of life; and this meeting urgently calls upon all miners to use all legitimate means to prevent working overtime in the mines." It was also agreed that the men present should do what they could to raise funds for the Netherseal men, who have been on strike for six months.

**SCOTCH MINERS.**—A mass meeting of miners of Larkhall was held on the 15th, Mr. D. Cunningham in the chair. The day was held as a holiday in the district, and a large company assembled. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Stephen Mason, M.P.; Messrs. John Fergusson, Glasgow; John Wilson, Broxburn; Wm. Small, and others. The resolution passed was as follows: "We, the miners of Larkhall district, express our hearty sympathy with the people of Ireland in their present struggle for legislative freedom, and we further express our heartfelt thanks to Mr. Cunningham, M.P., for the noble stand that he has made in the interests of the working classes of this country; and further, it is our opinion that it is the duty of every free man to stand up for the right of free speech."

**THE IMPORTATION OF RUSSIAN POLES.**—Last week, at a meeting of the Edinburgh Trades Council, a letter was read from the secretary of the Glasgow Trades Council as follows: "Dec. 14.—Dear Sir,—You will have seen from the papers about the importation of Russian Poles by Merry and Cunningham. It was before the Council last night, and as the result explains itself, I send you a cutting from the *Mail*, as also an article from Tuesday's *Mail*. Trusting your Council will move in the matter," etc. It was unanimously agreed to endorse the resolution of the Glasgow Trades Council, asking the other councils to join in urging on the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the Trades Union Congress the necessity of having the matter brought before Parliament at the earliest possible moment.

**PLUMBERS' DISPUTE AT HULL.**—A dispute in the plumbing trade has arisen through the refusal of society men to work with those not members of the society. For some time past a man in the employ of Mr. Wells has been pressed to join the society and has given evasive answers. In consequence it was decided to take action in the matter, and after a final warning to the man, a deputation waited on the employer. Mr. Wells, on being told that all the society men were going to withdraw from his shop, immediately did his best to induce the other masters in the town to join with him in a lock-out of society men. In this he has only partially succeeded, most of the masters preferring good workmen (the Hull Society has all the plumbers belonging to it who are worth having, and the masters know this) to damaging their business by the employment of lads and incompetent men. The consequence is that several masters who had joined in the lock-out have retreated, and it is confidently expected that the dispute will be settled in the men's favour before Christmas.—E. T.

**NORTHAMPTON SHOEMAKERS.**—Dec. 16.—In reply to the resolutions of the manufacturers, a mass meeting of 5000 operatives yesterday morning offered to refer all disputes to arbitration, and this was conveyed to the employers. The Manufacturers' Association replied last night that the resolution of the men could not be accepted as any answer to their conditions. An extemporised meeting on the Market Square was immediately held, and the decision of the manufacturers was received with intense indignation. Some of a deputation of non-unionist workmen who had been appointed to wait on the association for the reply to their request to resume work refused to go to the manufacturers on account of the manner in which the combined deputation of unionist and non-unionist workmen had been received. Subsequently, however, two or three of the deputation went to the manufacturers, and were then told that by agreeing to help the union they had placed themselves beyond the sympathy of the manufacturers. Another outdoor meeting was held to inform the people of this reply, and again great indignation was expressed. Dec. 21.—A long procession, headed by the union banner and accompanied by two bands, paraded the principal streets yesterday afternoon and afterwards went to the Market Square, where a resolution to abide by arbitration was carried.

**THE LONDON UNEMPLOYED.**—At a meeting of the Clerkenwell Vestry on the 15th inst., the clerk read a letter from the Metropolitan Board, in reply to a letter of the Vestry asking the immediate completion of the new spur street between the Angel and Holborn. The Board of Works pointed to the necessity for providing dwellings for the people displaced before completing the street. Mr. Kelly moved: "That a memorial be presented to the Home Secretary, pointing out the delay which has occurred in carrying out the proposed new street, and asking Mr. Matthews to modify the restrictions placed upon the Metropolitan Board of Works with respect to the Housing of the working classes, as such relaxation of the law by the Secretary of State, who is armed with full discretionary powers, would result in the immediate carrying out of a much-needed public improvement, and lead to the employment of a large number of artisans and labourers now out of work." There was no necessity for the new buildings mentioned by the Board of Works, because there were at the end of the September quarter 292 empty houses and nearly 1000 rooms to let in the parish, whilst at the same time there were

large industrial dwellings sanctioned, and shortly to be erected near the Holborn Town Hall and on the site of Coldbath Square. The Home Secretary had now a chance of showing his sympathy with the unemployed, for with one stroke of his pen he could give a great number of the unemployed work.—Mr. Bonney seconded the motion, and it was adopted.

**RAILWAY OVERWORK.**—Other two cases of long hours came to public view this week through the medium of the Board of Trade reports on accidents. The one is the case of the driver of the pilot engine at Plymouth, whose duty it was to back his engine against passenger trains and push them into the station. Great care is required to be exercised in performing this kind of work, as there are two dangers to contend against. The first is to avoid coming into violent collision with the train when setting against it, and the other is the risk of striking the buffer stops with the carriages that are being propelled. For this kind of work the Great Western Railway Company do not consider fourteen and a-half hours a day too much, as that is the number Driver Cleaver—who had the above work entrusted to him—usually worked. The other case of long hours occurred on the Cambrian Railway at a station called Ellesmere on a single line where a train ran off the rails through a pair of points standing partially open. It appears that it was part of the porter's duty to see that the points in question closed, after each train passed through them in an outward direction, but there appears to be some doubt as to whether he did so in this case. Seeing, however, that he had been on duty sixteen hours and a-half at the time when the points should have been examined (he had been nineteen when the accident occurred) there are some grounds for the suggestion that he, feeling somewhat worn out, could not resist the temptation of trusting to luck and saving himself a walk. If he was to blame, surely those who arranged his day's work are more so. It appears that long hours on the North-Eastern Railway are not confined to any particular district of that line, nor to any special class of traffic. According to the letter of a correspondent, passenger trains running to and from Starbeck are worked by men who stand shifts varying from fourteen to sixteen and a-half hours. What has Sir Joseph Pease to say about this state of things?—*Railway Review*.

**LINEN-SPINNERS.**—Linen-spinners are a class of female workers whose condition is very little understood by the outside world, yet there is no class of operatives more deserving of sympathy. To those unacquainted with this industry, it may be necessary to state that in a spinning frame, the roving, in passing from the creel to the spindle, goes through a trough of water heated to almost boiling point by steam. The heat of such a room may be imagined when we take into consideration the number of steam pipes and troughs which it contains. There is a trough for each side of the frame, which extends the whole length of same, and a separate steam pipe for each trough. When these troughs, which are constructed of wood, get out of order, or the water boils over—which it very often does—the water falls on the bands which drive the spindles underneath, and is thrown out with considerable force, so that when the spinner is piecing up she is being continually rained on as it were, and by evening is very often drenched to the skin. Through the excessive heat of the room these people may very frequently be observed lifting their knife up, and with the back of it dashing away the great beads of sweat from their face. In the condition of these workers is fully illustrated the glaring and heartless oppression of the poor, perpetrated by avaricious employers in those departments of labour where no organisation exists for their protection. Here are females confined in a heated and unhealthy room for about 60 hours per week for nine or ten shillings. A superficial glance at their condition is sufficient to convince any person of the necessity of trade societies for the proper protection of the workers against reductions of wages to the very lowest margin of possible existence. No society has ever been established for the protection of the above class of operatives, hence their present deplorable condition. Perhaps this may be accounted for by the fact of them all being females, and not having sufficient confidence in themselves. If this explains the reason, then we say organise on the lines of the cotton operatives. We find that the majority of the weavers and cardroom societies are females, but that their business is principally conducted by men, and we feel confident that there are many young men employed in these linen mills who would be most anxious and willing to assist the weaker sex in any movement that they may inaugurate for the betterment of their condition.—*Cotton Factory Times*.

**BLACKBURN ENGINEERS AND OVERTIME.**—The *Cotton Factory Times* thus scathingly comments on the scandalous behaviour of the Bolton and Blackburn engineers in regard to the question of overtime:—"Next to the settlement of the Bolton engineers' strike, one of the most deplorable events that has happened, from a workman's point of view, is an arrangement which has been come to by the engineers and smiths in Blackburn. The iron trade in that town has been in an unsettled state for some time. At one of the principal firms in the district a settlement was arrived at a week ago, under which the mechanics are to receive an advance of 2s. per week in wages, to commence with the New Year. So far so good, but when we come to examine the price the men are to pay for this advance we are simply disgusted. In order to obtain it the men have agreed to start working overtime at once. What do the engineers mean? At Bolton they agreed to work overtime as part of the terms of settlement, and in Blackburn they have followed suit. Are the unions a fraud and a sham, or what are they? Their leaders march up to the Annual Trades' Congresses and make speeches and propose resolutions in favour of eight hours' movements whilst their members are deliberately agreeing to exceed the present limit. At the last Congress held in Swansea, Mr. Swift, of the Steam Engine Makers, proposed a resolution on the lines indicated, which was supported by Mr. Austin, of the Amalgamated Engineers, and other representatives of the iron trades. In the teeth of this, two disputes have been settled by members of the unions of which the two gentlemen named are general secretaries, in which a special clause has been put in the agreement authorising overtime working. So far as the two gentlemen named are concerned we acquit them of any blame, but what are we to think of the unions that allow it? It is time that working-men spoke out on these matters. The cautioning hypocrisy which speaks one way and acts the reverse deserves exposure. With the exception of repairs the reason given by employers in the iron trade in favour of working overtime would equally apply to every occupation in the kingdom. Let the engineers speak the truth and say plainly that they work overtime because it puts a little money in their pockets. They can talk glibly about the thousands of working-men who are starving for want of work, but the business ends with talking. Their avowed principles and any feeling they profess to have for their fellow-workmen, are sent to the winds in presence of a paltry shilling or two per week. The iron trade representatives assist in instructing Congress to send out manifestoes in favour of reducing the hours of labour and to ascertain whether

workmen are in favour of an eight hours working day. Let us stop this hypocritical tinkering with an important question. Let the organised workmen of the country first make up their minds on the nine hours' question, and then, and then only, will they put themselves in a fair position to go a step further. Amongst organised workmen the iron trades are in this respect the greatest sinners. In Bolton we hoped against hope that rather than allow the hours of labour to be tampered with, the wages question would have been allowed to go to the wall. We were disappointed, but now that the Blackburn ironworkers have followed suit, we can only say that it is time the reformers reformed themselves."

AMERICA.

There will be two representative gatherings of working men at Albany on January 17 and 18. Delegates from various organisations will meet on January 17 to form a State branch of the American Federation of Labour similar to that organised in Connecticut about a year ago; and on January 18 the Working-men's Assembly of the State of New York will hold its annual Convention.

The organised workers of this city will watch the proceedings of these bodies with a great deal of interest, as it is claimed that the Federation is to be organised in opposition to the Working-men's Assembly. The Assembly claims to believe in rewarding friends and punishing enemies of Labour, no matter in which political party they are found, and to have secured some very important legislation in the interest of organised labour. Through its efforts some years ago nearly 200,000 votes were rolled up as a protest against contract convict labour.

Those who favour the State branch of the American Federation of Labour claim that the Working-men's Assembly is gradually being made a political machine, and that the various interests of working men demand that a State branch be formed. One of the peculiar features of the two conventions is that Samuel Gompers, who spoke up for our murdered Chicago friends, is president of both organisations. There may be a lively time among the delegates.

The organised tram-car employes of New York and vicinity have succeeded in getting the local assemblies of car employes in New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Michigan, and Pennsylvania to agree to form a national district of the Knights of Labour.

The new national district will be organised in local sections. Each section will control its own affairs, and the National Executive Board can only interfere in the business of a section when called upon by such section. No strike or tie-up can take place without the consent of three-fourths of the locals in the district. It is the intention of those interested in the new district to push it along until it has all the important cities of the United States under its banner. If this can be accomplished it will be a most powerful body.

Speaking of the serving-women establishments in the United States, a Central Labour Union prominent official said, "they are all beehives of industry and bonanzas for undertakers."

A delegation of union engineers employed in the Lehigh Valley coalmines will try to induce the coal barons to agree to arbitration. If they are not successful in this they propose to strike and allow the mines to be flooded with water.

The seceders from the Knights of Labour have issued a circular which is addressed to the local assemblies of the Knights of Labour, requesting these bodies to co-operate in reorganising the order on an honest and substantial basis. The plan of action is that each assembly shall refuse to pay further tribute to the General Assembly unless an itemised account of the receipts and expenditures of the General Assembly be presented to the local assemblies.

It will be a long time before the Chicago Georgites invite Henry George to that city again. The two recent lectures were not attended by 300 people, and left in consequence a large deficit, and futile efforts were made by the society to raise the necessary amounts. Lawsuits will probably ensue.

The American Federation of Labour will meet on the 13th inst. in Baltimore to shape its policy for the next year.

The strike of 500 miners near Scranton last week has ended satisfactorily. The men returned to work yesterday.

The strike and lock-out of 450 ship-building hands at Buffalo has ended.

About 12,000 men were thrown out of work by the shut-down of all the cigar-factories at Havana, Cuba. The shut-down was precipitated by a demand of the cigar-makers for increased wages.

The threatened strike of 7,400 coal-miners in the Yonghiogeny and Monongabela Valleys has not yet taken place. The men demand an advance in wages and the adoption of arbitration in settling disputes.

Several furnaces at Easton, Pa., have been compelled to shut-down, owing to the scarcity of good coal caused by the Lehigh strike.

LIST OF STRIKES FOR NOVEMBER.

Number of strikers known, November 1 to 25	...	...	...	13,209
Marblehead, Mass.—Shoe-cutters, against reduction	...	...	...	20
Bellefonte, Pa.—Bricklayers, against discharge of one of their number	...	...	...	—
El Paso, Texas—Smelting-works hands, for higher wages, Nov. 28	...	...	...	100
Total known for November	...	...	...	13,329

H. C.

CONTINENTAL NOTES.

GERMANY.

During the month of November, 11,474 Germans have left their native country in order to go to America. Since the beginning of this year, the number of emigrants has been 99,556, whereas the corresponding figures for last year are 78,841. A symptom of increasing prosperity!

The police of Breslau arrested last week three Socialists in an hotel of the suburb Nicolai. They were searched, and a considerable number of proclamations addressed to the soldiers and leaflets to the peasants were found in their possession.

Bismarck has at last found the right way to get rid of the Socialists and of Socialism as well. It appears that he is going to enforce the Anti-Socialist laws by the addition of one single paragraph, but a masterly one; instead of expelling our comrades from town to town, it is contemplated to banish them at once out of the country. The chasing of Socialists from one town into another has not proved successful enough, exiling them from Germany will do better. So, at least, he thinks of it; but our friends are of another opinion altogether; who is right and who is wrong? Besides, the legendary

Reichsgericht, the Supreme German Court of Law, interpret the existing Anti-Socialist laws in a most tyrannical way. Until now it was allowed to be a subscriber to a prohibited paper, say *Freiheit* or *Sozial Democrat*, and as long as the paper remained in the subscriber's possession he was not liable to prosecution. Now the Reichsgericht has decided that the fact of being a subscriber to such a paper amounts to propagating Socialism, because the few marks one has to pay in order to get the paper sent to him is a financial help towards the general fund of Revolution! Lastly, a Socialist had to answer a charge of being a subscriber of a forbidden paper, and he was about to be convicted on that ground, when he had (so at least he thought) a good inspiration. He denied that he was a subscriber, and proved that he received a *free copy*. Well, said the Court, then it is even a more serious charge, only influential persons in the party receiving free copies; you deserve on that account to be convicted much more severely!

The special organ of the shoemaker trade at Gotha, *Das Schuhmacher-Fachblatt*, which never made an attempt of propagating revolutionary doctrines, has nevertheless been prohibited and suppressed by the police there. But the Imperial Revision Committee has found that suppression too ridiculous and too funny indeed, even for Germany, and has decided that the shoemakers may start their trade paper again.

The "authorities" have added two new volumes to their list of prohibited works on Socialism:—1. 'The Record of the last Social Democratic Congress of St. Gall, in Switzerland'; 2. 'The Second Edition of F. Engel's Critical Analysis (and Burial!) of Düring's Works' (Düring's 'Umwälzung der Wissenschaft'). The very best way of soon making new editions necessary.

In Berlin, a number of Socialists have been arrested and their houses searched. Some papers and pamphlets were found, and that will suffice to charge them with the most dreadful crimes: secret conspiracy, attempt to overthrow the existing order, and so forth. Afterwards, a certain number of town councillors, also Socialists, were honoured with a thorough house visitation. As nothing was found they were allowed to go—for the time being.

At Hamburg, the police have seized 6,000 copies of the 'Record of the St. Gall Congress,' and fourteen comrades in consequence thereof were sent to prison. At Stettin, in a few weeks, there will be a new trial for conspiracy.

At Breslau, a new Socialist paper has been started under the title of *Schlesische Nachrichten* (News from Silesia).

At last, one good thing has of late been done in Germany, and I will not overlook it (although I, personally, am not in the least a partisan of the rotten Parliamentarism), namely, the eloquent and powerful speech of August Bebel in the Reichstag. For more than two hours the rulers of that land had a very impressive flogging indeed; Bebel denounced in the most vigorous terms both the home and foreign politics of Bismarck, and he deserves to be congratulated for his courage. I should like to see Bebel's speech translated and spread as widely as possible.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Another sensational trial took place at Vienna on the 10th inst., with the result of four "genuine" Anarchists and one police-spy, who called himself an Anarchist, being sentenced from one to five years' hard labour. In this case, however, the pseudo-Anarchist, who apparently played his game too badly, was sent to prison with his victims. I only notice this new plot, because I am struck with the fact that in Austria for years past, there has been hardly a single "Anarchist" trial without some scoundrel having been mixed up in the matter from the very beginning. This certainly proves first, that most of these things are merely arranged and concocted by the police; and second, that there must be a considerable deal of imprudence in the ways and means of our Austrian comrades. They seem to gather without in the least knowing each other, and are extremely surprised to be arrested without having arrived at any result whatever. The contrary course rather would surprise me. The scoundrel who denounced his comrades in this case is one Anton Schröger, who was in 1884 editor of the *Radical*, at Budapest, and in the pay of Police-councillor Frankel, at Vienna, since 1885.

V. D.

SPAIN.

MADRID.—A very serious agitation is spreading among the workmen in Catalonia, where much suffering exists owing to the depression in trade which has obliged many manufacturers to close their mills. In consequence many thousand operatives have been thrown out of employment, and have enrolled themselves in powerful trades unions, the members of which for the most part are Federal Republicans. About a fortnight ago in the works which are being completed for the approaching Barcelona Exhibition, the workmen and contractors quarrelled about wages. The men struck and began a series of street manifestations of a pacific nature and an active canvass to induce the other classes of workmen to join the strike. Their efforts met with such success that since the 16th inst. matters have taken a serious aspect in Barcelona. Carpenters, masons, locksmiths, have struck, and are expecting to be joined by the bakers and tramway men. They have taken to parading the Boulevards at the busiest hours of the afternoon. 2,000 men last Saturday marched to the official residence of the Governor, and sent a deputation to ask him to mediate between the employers and the men, who are greatly in want of work. The Governor promised to do so, but intimated that he could not tolerate the street manifestations, or the attempts to force other operatives to join the strike. Military and police precautions on a large scale have been taken, and cavalry patrols follow the workmen's processions. *El Emparcial* says that if the strikes spread a state of siege will be proclaimed.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—In consequence of Monday December 26 being Boxing Day, the usual weekly meeting of the Executive will not be held unless business necessitates it. The next meeting of Council will take place on Monday January 2, 1888.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Weekly Subscriptions—W. B., 6d.

Strike Committee.—Collected in Regent's Park, Dec. 19, 3s. 3½d.—J. LANE

For Wives and Families of the Martyred Anarchists.  
Norwich Branch, 4s.; M. A. T., 7s. H. HALLIDAY SPARLING, Treasurer

## REPORTS.

**BLOOMSBURY.**—On Thursday, December 15, at 8.30, T. J. Dalziel lectured, the appointed lecturer not turning up. Fair discussion.—T. J. D.

**CLERKENWELL.**—On Wednesday, no lecture. On Sunday, Dec. 18, G. Bernard Shaw lectured to good audience.—B.

**NORTH LONDON.**—We held our usual meeting in Regent's Park on Sunday morning, Cantwell and Mainwaring spoke, and we collected 3s. 3d. for propaganda.—T. C.

**BIRMINGHAM.**—We have been attending various clubs and putting some little life into their debates. The Tories at Ladywood and the Liberals at Hockley were visited during the week, and were not at all displeased with our view.—A. D.

**GLASGOW.**—No meeting Saturday owing to rain. Sunday, Glasier and Gilbert held good meeting in Jail Square, where *Commonweal* sold well. In evening at Waterloo Rooms, H. H. Champion lectured on "What Socialists want," and was well received.

**HULL.**—But little in the way of direct propaganda has been done of late, our efforts chiefly being made through medium of meetings promoted by Hull Radical Club and other like societies. We expect a visit from Mahon shortly, and have challenged Councillor Maddison, President of Trades' Council, to debate with him, as yet have had no reply. Debate between Mahon and Mr. Wing, of Radical club, has been postponed owing to the latter's many engagements.

**WALSALL.**—Monday, Dec. 12, J. Sketchley (Birmingham), delivered a lecture to branch on "Socialism, what it is and what it is not." Audience gave lecturer hearty reception.—J. T. D.

**DUBLIN.**—At Saturday Club, December 17th, J. Murray, T. C., lectured on "Law and Order" from a bourgeois standpoint. The international aspect of the question was well expounded by Fitzpatrick. H. H. Johnson, B. A., late Parliamentary for Trinity College, also spoke.

**JUNIOR SOCIALISTIC EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY.**—Adjourned meeting Saturday at 64, Charlotte Street; good attendance; T. Wardle in chair. Following rules agreed to:—1. That the age of membership be restricted to thirty-five; 2. That members will be allowed to bring friends to the discussions of the society, who will be permitted to take part in the discussions; 3. That at each meeting the time and place of the following meeting be determined; 4. That discussions be held in the rooms of the members, or elsewhere if necessary; 5. That all necessary expenses be met by an equal levy upon the members; 6. That the mode of discussion be: That members be invited to read a paper on a Socialistic subject, such subject not to exceed twenty minutes in delivery, and to be announced at the previous meeting; 7. In the event of any subject not being debated to the satisfaction of the members present, the right of adjourning the same for further discussion to be vested in a majority of at least three-fourths. Wardle vacated chair (which was taken by H. Fry) and read a paper on "Value." After the usual questioning a spirited discussion took place, in which McGill, Cross, Cooper, Fisher, Fry, Mrs. Gostling (visitor), and Spencer-Howell took part. Next meeting on Jan. 21st next, at No. 12, Fitzroy Street, at 7.30 p.m., when Fisher will read paper on "Socialism and Private Life." Those who are desirous of joining the society will please communicate with W. H. SPENCER-HOWELL, hon. sec., 15, Howland Street, Fitzroy Square, W.

## Scottish Land and Labour League.

**EDINBURGH.**—In Free Tron Hall large meeting was addressed on 5th by Rev. John Glasse, and another on 12th by H. H. Champion. Lecturers listened to with the closest attention and enthusiastically applauded. These meetings conclude first series of our winter week-day lectures. Socialism has made great headway in Edinburgh this year. On the 18th John Smith lectured on "Equality." Mahon has resigned the organisership and has left for Northumberland.

**ARBROATH.**—Champion spoke in public hall here; the audience seemed to agree with all he said. Sale of literature good. At weekly meeting Friday, the secretary resigned as he was leaving the town in search of work.—W. S.

**DUNDEE.**—Saturday week, Dempster, Devlin, and Carr spoke in Green Market. Champion delivered two lectures on Sunday in Buchans Hall. Both audiences expressed their satisfaction, and all hope to hear Champion again.—J. C.

**CARNOUSTIE.**—H. H. Champion delivered a lecture on "Socialism" in the Panmure Hall on Wednesday, comrade Carr (of Dundee) in the chair. There was a good audience, who listened with great attention. We made four new members.

Notice to Branches of the S.L.L.L.

Branches desiring literature apply to D. K. Mackenzie, librarian, 137 Pleasance, Edinburgh. Remittances must be sent with orders.

Now ready. 32 pp., in Wrapper.

## THE TABLES TURNED;

Or, Nupkins Awakened.

A SOCIALIST INTERLUDE

BY WILLIAM MORRIS.

Price Fourpence.

Commonweal Office, 13 Farringdon Rd., London, E.C.

## LECTURE DIARY.

## LONDON.

**Bloomsbury.**—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W., Thursday December 22, at 8.30, Business meeting. Thursday 29th, at 8.30, Social Evening.

**Olerkenwell.**—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. **Fulham.**—Committee meets Wednesday evenings, 8 o'clock, at 4 Werley Avenue, Dawes Rd., Fulham. **Hackney.**—28 Percy Terrace, Victoria Road, Hackney Wick.

**Hammersmith.**—Kelmescott House, Upper Mall, W. No lecture on the 25th.

**Hoxton (L.E.L.).**—C. J. Young, 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road, Secretary. Concert and Draw on January 14. Tickets ready. (See below.)

**Mitcham.**—Corner of Merton Lane and Fountain Place. Club Room open every evening from 7.30 till 11. **Mile-end and Bethnal Green.**—95 Boston St., Hackney Rd. Business Meeting every Thursday at 9 p.m. Debating Class for members after Business Meeting.

## PROVINCES.

**Aberdeen (Scottish Section).**—James Leatham, secy., 15 St. Nicholas Street.

**Arbroath (Scot. Sect.).**—High Street Hall. Meeting Friday evenings. W. Smith, 12 Maule St., secy.

**Birmingham.**—Meetings at Summer Row Coffee House every Saturday evening at 8.

**Bradford.**—Morris's Dining Rooms, 114 City Road. Wednesdays, at 8.

**Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).**—Meeting every Wednesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. H. M'Cluskey, Millar Street, Secy. **Cowdenbeath (Scot. Sec.).**—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., secy. **Dublin.**—Saturday Club, Central Lecture Hall, 12 Westmorland Street. Saturday Dec. 31, at 8 p.m. T. Fitzpatrick, "Socialism: What is it?"

**Dundee (Scot. Sect.).**—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station. Political Economy class, 2 p.m. Lecture at 6.30.

**Edinburgh (Scottish Section).**—4 Park Street. "Das Kapital" class every Thursday at 7.30. Members requested to pay weekly subscriptions on that night. Sunday evening lectures, Trades Hall, High Street. **Galashiels (Scot. Sec.).**—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., secy. **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. Propaganda Committee, Mondays at 8. Shorthand Class, Tuesdays at 8. Music Class, Tuesdays at 9. Discussion Class, Thursdays at 8. Sunday Dec. 25, in Hall, 8 Watson Street, at 7 p.m., A. M'Laren, "Compensation."—Books, magazines, and other library requisites will be thankfully received and acknowledged.

**Hamilton.**—Paton's Hall, Chapel St. Thursday, 7.30.

**Leeds.**—17 Chesham St., Sweet St. Club open every evening. Business meeting Wednesdays at 8 p.m.

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

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

**Norwich.**—Gordon Hall, 5 Duke Street. Free Lectures Sundays at 8.

**Nottingham.**—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridesmill Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.

**Oxford.**—Temperance Hall, 25½ Pembroke Street. Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m.

**Walsall.**—Temperance Hall. Meets every Monday.

**West Calder (Scottish Section).**—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

## OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

## LONDON—Sunday 25.

11.30...Garrett—"Plough Inn".....Kitz  
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and Ball.....Graham  
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St. ....Wade & Pope  
11.30...Kingsland Green .....Parker  
11.30...Merton—Haydons Road.....The Branch  
11.30...Mitcham Fair Green .....The Branch  
11.30...Regent's Park.....Nicoll  
11.30...St. Pancras Arches.....Bartlett  
11.30...Walham Green.....The Branch  
3 ...Hyde Park .....The Branch  
6 ...Stamford Hill .....Cores  
7 ...Clerkenwell Green .....Cooper

## Wednesday.

8 ...Broadway, London Fields.....The Branch

## Thursday.

8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St. ....The Branch

## PROVINCES.

**Dundee.**—Saturday: Greenmarket, at 7.

**Leeds.**—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, 11 a.m.

**Glasgow.**—Jail's Square—Saturday, at 6.

**St. George's Cross.**—Sunday, at 1.30.

**Paisley Road.**—Sunday at 5.

**Hoxton (L.E.L.)**—Concert and Draw on January 14, at 13 Farringdon Road, when, by special arrangement, THE LAMP, by H. A. Barker, will be performed. Tickets now ready.

**SHEFFIELD SOCIALISTS, Commonwealth Café, Scotland Street, Sheffield.**—Discussions or Lectures every Sunday evening at 7 o'clock. Free.

**DUBLIN.**—A Socialist Club, open to all schools of Socialist thought, being in course of formation, any person desirous of joining or otherwise co-operating is requested to communicate with J. O'Gorman, or G. King at 21 St. Ignatius Road.

## North of England Socialist Federation.

## BRANCHES AND SECRETARIES.

**Annitsford.**—F. Rivett, Dudley Colliery.  
**Backworth.**—W. Maddison, C. Pitt.  
**Consett.**—J. Walton, Medonsby Road.  
**Blyth.**—Martin Mack, 4 Back Marlow Street.  
**South Shields.**—F. Dick, 139 Marsden Street, West.  
**North Shields.**—J. T. Harrison, 24 Queen Street.  
**East Holywell.**—J. M'Lean, Top Row, Bates's Cottages.  
**West Holywell.**—F. M'Carroll, West Holywell.  
**Seaton Delaval.**—W. Day, Seaton Delaval.  
**Seghill.**—Wm. Whalley, New Square.  
M. Mack, Gen. Sec., 4 Back Marlow Street, Blyth.

EDITORS OF ALL SOCIALIST PAPERS published in English are urgently asked to send a sample copy to the *Poorvit* Library at Ghent. Postal address to which they should be sent is Edouard Stauteamas, Rue van Wittenbergh 34, Gand, Belgium.

## CHILDREN'S PARTY

BOXING-DAY, DECEMBER 26.

THE PARTY will commence at three o'clock. Tea will be taken at four o'clock. The Committee arranging the Party are Mrs. Lane, Lena Wardle, Mrs. Grove, May Morris, and Joseph Lane. Donations of money to be sent to Mrs. GROVE, treasurer, 15 Offerton Rd., Clapham Common, S.W. Toys, Presents, etc., to be sent to 13 Farringdon Road.

RECEIVED—Mrs. Mainwaring, 1s.; Wm. Morris, 2s. 6d.; Jenny Morris, 5s.; T. Bolas, 2s.; M. Grove, 5s.; S. C. C., £1; J. L. J., 2s.

The Children's Party will be followed by an Entertainment entitled

## THE LAMP: An Extravaganza,

By H. A. BARKER; Scenery, Appointments, etc., by C. BARKER, beginning at 7 o'clock.

Free to Members and Friends.

For further particulars see Programme.

## THE TABLES TURNED.

## ENGAGEMENTS.

December 31st . . . . . CLEVELAND HALL  
January 21 . . . . . HAMMERSMITH BRANCH S.L.

Applications for engagements to be made to the Manager, H. A. Barker.

## IRISH MINSTRELSY.

BEING A SELECTION OF IRISH SONGS, LYRICS, AND BALLADS.

Edited, with Notes and Introduction,

BY H. HALLIDAY SPARLING.

Cloth, cut or uncut, 1s.

"The most interesting and the most comprehensive compendium of national poetic genius yet given to the public."—SPERANZA (Lady Wilde) in *Pall Mall Gazette*.  
"A triumph of consistent editing. Mr. Halliday Sparling has brought to his work a rare sympathy, intelligence, and earnestness."—*Truth*.  
"No less triumphantly successful than difficult of accomplishment."—*Dublin Morning Mail*.

WALTER SCOTT, 24 Warwick Lane, Paternoster Row

## IMPORTANT NOTICE.

**Social Science.** Size of page 15 by 11½. Containing splendid Portraits for framing of the eight Chicago Anarchists, with Biographical Notices. Price 5d., post free 6d.

**The Irish Question.** Third Edition. 32 pages, in Wrapper. Price Threepence. 6 or more copies post free.

**The Workman's Question: WHY HE IS POOR.** 24 pp., in Wrapper. Price Twopence. 6 or more copies post free.

Birmingham: J. Sketchley, 8 Arthur Place Parade.

**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 Aims of Art.** By Wm. Morris. Bijou edition, 3d.; Large paper, 6d.

**Useful Work v. Useless Toil.** By William Morris. 1d.

Printed and Published by WILLIAM MORRIS and JOSEPH LANE at 13 Farringdon Road, London