

THE COMMONWEALTH

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

GLADSTONE-WORSHIP is well on now among the faithful of the Liberal party, and is carried to such lengths that one cannot help thinking that some of the party must have doleful forebodings as to its future when their god takes his departure from the earth. What will be left of Liberalism when this one old man has gone; with his astonishing physical vigour, his belief in himself, his capacity of shutting his eyes to everything that his momentary political position forbids him to see, and his keen delight in playing the political game?

However, at present, there seems little need for us to speculate on what is to happen after him, and one is tempted to think that he may out-live the present political and social system now growing so crazy. May it be so!

His Dover speech will be thought a fine specimen, I suppose, and indeed it was brisk and combative enough from his own point of view, though he announced his intention of fighting after the fashion of the pre-Napoleonic generals and keeping all rules of the game: he boasted of his doing so in the Jingo period and chuckled over the result. Well, his soft fighting was discouraging enough in those days, but after all it was perhaps good enough for the occasion, for the Jingo and Dizzy at their head, never intended to go to war; they only meant bragging—I admit that we didn't know it at the time.

After all this rhetorical oracle of the Liberal Idol, in spite of all its words, was as far removed from any practical and social aspect of things as if it were delivered in another planet: except perhaps when he touched on the Protection v. Free Trade matter, he didn't talk about what people are *thinking* about, but what they are *talking* about, and indeed that is usual with him, and with all popularity hunters: because by the time a thing has become generally talked of the thinkers have got to the next subject.

The Tories have been trying a little "dishing" in Ireland, to see if it may count for a make-weight against their "resolute" Government there; they have reduced the judicial rents in the teeth of Lord Salisbury's declaration that they were to be considered fixed. The result of their experiment is not encouraging at present; the Nationalists do not accept it as a blessing, very naturally, looking at it as at once a blow at the Plan of Campaign and a base plagiarism on it; and the Loyalists also very naturally are in a fury at it, and are pulling themselves together to claim compensation from the British taxpayer, which indeed Lord Salisbury promised them. If he redeems his promise the Tories had best arrange for the fresh varnishing of the opposition benches for their behoof.

This matter is a fresh example of the slippery muddle which our present system of property always makes; it allows a privileged class to rob the people of the means of production, asserting in high words and hard deeds "the rights of property," and then from time to time takes arbitrarily from one group or another of the privileged some small portion of the plunder it has allowed them and encouraged them to acquire; and all the while, whatever it does, insists at least upon this, that there shall always be a class of hewers of wood and drawers of water to be benefitted by this—Socialism as some sanguine people are pleased to call it.

The death of John Frost in Pentonville prison is one of those events which would let in a little light on the public as to the prison system and its administration, if people were really trying to see; but probably as it is there will be little learned by it. An obviously sick man is condemned to 20 months' imprisonment, and when he gets to the prison is treated as if he were not sick but shamming; but at last "shams" so persistently that he is clearly at the point of death, when he is taken to the prison hospital and "treated kindly," but carries on his "shamming" till he dies. No one who knows anything about our prisons can doubt that this kind of thing is common enough; only the victims don't always die in prison.

It speaks volumes for the way in which the prison officials treat the

luckless men who have fallen into their power, that the wife after "trying to see the governor and being told that he was away," in addressing herself to one of the nurses, "*softened her communication* as much as possible, so that matters might not be made worse for her husband." And that the prisoner told her "to make no complaint to the prison authorities lest he should fare worse in consequence." Do smug moral well-to-do persons, who have little more chance of going to prison than they have of being made kings, understand what that means? It is time that they should learn this amongst other pieces of knowledge, in order that they may understand what class-hatred means and what it may lead to.

W. M.

Thos. Ansell, of Deptford, 88 years old, and his wife, who was 77, were very obstinate people who would not go to "the palatial dwelling miscalled a workhouse," because of the inhuman treatment they knew awaited them. Rather than be put asunder after 56 years of love and mutual aid by the red-tape of Bumbledom, they kept on battling against increasing infirmity until they could do no more. Then "the parish" gave them "outdoor relief."

The two poor old people were accorded the princely sum of 3s. 6d. per week, out of which they had to pay 2s. rent and "live" on the balance. Ansell is dead of hunger and cold, and his brave old wife is undergoing at last the torture she avoided so long—the slow death of the workhouse. Such things add a bitter point to Cardinal Manning's attack on the present method of "relief."

Day after day, as we have been reading on the one hand of great feasting by the fortunate, and also of their loudly-vaunted "charity" to their more hapless fellows, so on the other hand have come reports of deaths from hunger, and horrors unspeakable, the fruit of poverty and degradation. At no time is the baleful effect of the present system shown so clearly as at periods like that just past, which custom has decreed a festival-tide. But the time passes by, and the lesson is unlearned, or if learnt is unapplied. How long will it go on?

The attention of all readers is directed to the announcement in another column of the intended publication of the speeches and "trial" of our Chicago comrades. This is a work in which all should help, as it is at once raising them a monument and making good propaganda.

S.

POLICE SPIES EXPOSED.

THERE have always been found by the governments of all countries traitors ready to mingle in the ranks of every revolutionary party, including the Socialist, and by worming themselves into the confidence of the members, obtain their secrets to betray them, or by getting up dynamite plots and things of that kind, to arouse public feeling against the movement. Many other devices are there in the armoury of a tyrant, and in the days of the Third Empire they were carried, as men thought, to the utmost pitch of a devilish perfection. It has been left however for Bismark and his underlings to attain a yet higher (or lower) degree of skill and completeness of plan. Since the coming into effect of the anti-Socialist laws in Germany, 1879, police-spying, or the trade of head-monger and lie-smith, has become a recognised department of governmental work, an institution far more inwound with the existence of the State than even in the corruptest days of Napoleon the Little. Not only does Germany look after folk within her own borders, but provides them with careful friends in every city where Socialists are to be found; thus it is really an *international political secret police* that is maintained and worked from Berlin. Our well-known co-worker, the *Sozialdemokrat* of Zürich, has always been trying to get hold of the secrets of this organisation, and has now and then succeeded in bringing facts to light, that spoiled some single plot, or exposed some spy. Of course it has had to bear the fate of the outspoken, and is often abused among a certain set as an organ of denunciation. Rather should it be praised for the courage with which it follows up a foe of the cause, and the skill with which it cuts open the disguise of a false friend, and shows the reptile underneath. *Der Sozialdemokrat* deserves the thanks of all honest Socialists for its efforts in casting light upon a hideous host of vermin, and so depriving them of their power to betray. In its issue of December 24th is given a list

of names of men who are now in the pay of the police-bureau. We assure our readers of the accuracy of the information.

The names are as follows:—

1. HERM. HEINR. SACHS, formerly lieutenant of the police at Berlin; author and professor. Police-spy in London (8 years in pay).
2. CHARLES THEODORE REUSS, formerly theatrical impresario and concert-singer, now Bismark's political agent on the *Central News* of London and the *Cable News* of New York; contributor to the *Süddeutschen Presse* at Munich and the *Berliner Zeitung* at Berlin. Police-spy in London (2 years and 6 months in pay).
3. KAUFMANN (alias Carl Morff), engineer, now partner in the "City Club." Police-spy in London (7 years in pay).
4. HEINRICH, formerly engineer, now publican at Zurich.
5. KARL SCHRODER, insurance agent at Riesbach-Zurich (7 years standing).
6. CHRISTIAN HAUPT, agent at Geneva (8 years standing).
7. MAX TRAUTNER, formerly Bavarian officer, now journalist in Paris (previously at Brussels. Military and political police-spy (8 years standing).
8. HEINR. OBERWINDER, formerly one of the leaders of the Austrian Socialist movement, now journalist in Paris.
9. H. NONNE, teacher, formerly in London, now in Paris (At Berlin, for the time being).
10. LUDW. SCHWEINHAGEN, at Magdeburg.
11. A. WICHMANN, agent at Altona (8 years in pay).
12. NEUMANN, carpenter at Hamburg.
13. HERM. NEBEL, bookseller at Leipzig.

We need not further warn our readers against these despicable creatures, but may profitably add a word or two on those employed in London. Sachs has been for some time away doing some special political business in the South of France and on the Spanish and Italian frontiers. In London he specially took care of the German Communist Club (First Section); at the time of Most's arrest and conviction here he was a contributor to the *Freiheit*, and took away from the printing-office a lot of copy which had appeared in the paper; all of which duly reached the Berlin police. Reuss, among other things, caused the arrest of several Anarchists at Leipzig, Nürnberg, Augsburg and Berlin; was concerned in several so-called "Anarchist" trials in Vienna; and with the aid of his accomplice, Joseph Peukert, carried out the infamous scheme by which our brave comrade, John Neve, was taken and condemned. In another line of business he has to work the press in order to manufacture "public opinion" in favour of the extradition of political offenders and international repressive laws and treaties. During the late troubles in Trafalgar Square and Hyde Park, he was particularly active in this way. His blood-money is 450 marks a month (£22 10s.). It is interesting to know that he corresponds with his employer, Police-Councillor Krueger, Chief of German Secret Police, directly at Kaiserin Augusta Strasse, 72, Berlin, or indirectly through either M. Fumagalli, Court Jeweller, 138, Leipziger-strasse, Berlin, or M. Hacke, formerly Chief of Police at Frankfurt, now Police Councillor at Berlin, 31, Kulmstrasse. Kauffmann (or Carl Morff), an Austrian "Anarchist", it was who furnished, from means provided him by the police, to Stellmacher and Kammerer the money needed for the notorious attempts at Vienna. After the death of his victims he was expelled from Switzerland. Ordered to London by his master, he has lived here ever since. For a time secretary of the Third Section, he is now partner in the "City Club", a well-known rendezvous of Socialists, both English and German.

We may have to return to this theme again, but have said enough for the present.

EDITORS.

Mr. Winans, the Baltimore millionaire, now holds sporting rights over 230,000 acres in Scotland—a tract of land almost as large as Bedfordshire. This gentleman pays about £25,000 a year for the right to perpetuate solitude, and meantime help is urgently requested to export distressed Highlanders to America.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the third week of last month was 103,968, of whom 59,612 were indoor and 44,356 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 5,576 over the corresponding week of last year, 8,429 over 1885, and 9,458 over 1884. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 1,073, of whom 940 were men, 116 women, and 17 children under sixteen.

A son of old John Brown writes to the *Alarm* and desires to know what Anarchism really is. He concludes his letter with the following words: "Agitate and educate, but let us mind the light. In our zeal for the cause of the oppressed labourer, let us not stumble over and put out the light we have. While we realise the truth that the destruction of the poor is their poverty, let us not forget what is equally and sadly true that the destruction of the rich is their wealth. Twenty-eight years ago my father was judicially murdered at Charlestown, Va., for his devotion to the cause of the oppressed labourers of African descent in America. Now we perceive that emancipation means more than simply freedom of the blacks from the bonds of chattel slavery. May heaven grant to all the people of our beloved country wisdom also to perceive this and to govern themselves accordingly." John Brown, jun., appears to be a true chip of the old block.—C.

FUNERAL OF THE CHICAGO MARTYRS.—At the same time that the workers of London were escorting Linnell to the grave, our five comrades in Chicago were buried. The day was bitterly cold, and the way to the cemetery long and dreary—about 15 miles. In spite of that about 5,000 persons attended the ceremony. Special trains conducted the mourners to Waldheim Cemetery. Speeches were made by Capt. Black, Paul Grottkau, and Albert Currlin, and most enthusiastically applauded. J. R. Buchanan directed the crowd to file past the coffins and take the last look at the faces of the dead. The features of all the five murdered were life-like, the embalming process had been a success, and the counterfeit pink flush of life was on the cheeks; not a trace of decomposition was to be seen. Then the coffins were lowered into the grave. At the bottom of the receptacle is a block of granite, on which rests a bed of cement. Granite blocks are the walls, and the top is formed by two blocks of granite. The grave was made to fit exactly the five coffins. Mrs. Parsons and Miss Spies fainted, and had to be removed. May the silence of our martyred comrades become speedily as powerful as they desired!—C.

LAW AND WAR.

THERE are some, seeing fully the evils of our present mental and physical state and anxious to amend them, who hold that this can be effected by legislation, by the making of better laws. It is urged that this can be done peacefully, and without the dreadful wrench of a revolution. Technically it rests with the law-making class to determine the character of the change. Technically, I say, but scarcely in reality, for their education is too entirely a mere filling of the memory, and crushes the mind under a heap of question-begging phrases. They are only too likely to sit doing nothing, helplessly soothing their conscience with the thought, "the remedy is worse than the disease." I do not think, however, that the dumb millions of France, for example, even in their bungled revolution of 1789, suffered any great shock. It was not the revolution that brought misery upon them, but the anti-revolution of the Consulate and Empire, and the setting up again of the ugly idol of law and legal order.

I doubt still more whether the now existing proletariat of Europe and of the world, would find it a very dreadful wrench to be shifted to a life of decency and freedom, even at the cost of many pitched battles, more tough than Waterloo, more bloody than Eylau or Gravelotte. It seems to me that we bear with much equanimity the bloodshed required to maintain and to extend our present system of law. These battles and the hundreds of others which stain the pages of history, and of the newspapers which we handle daily, are very nearly all fought with this view. Most of them have no result beyond allowing or compelling certain millions to submit to the clipping of one king or emperor, instead of being shorn by another; a few were by way of remonstrance, generally ineffectual, against clipping and shearing in general. John Bright, alluding to all this bloodshed, said in a lecture on Feb. 22, 1887, "he found the English now just as savage on the question of war, and just as barbarous as ever. How many wars had there been during the *Queen's Reign*? There was the war in New Zealand, then the Zulu war; there had been two Afghan wars, for which there had been no particular reason; three Burmese wars, and the Crimean war, the latter costing a million of lives; then the Alexandria bombardment and the Soudan war. All these wars had helped to swell the National Debt, and there had not been one of them which might not have been, with a little trouble, prevented." And the same day at the Friends' Meeting-house, he maintained that "without one single exception all the wars since William III. were absolutely unnecessary, and their only result was an enormous national debt."

In the midst of all this bloodshed, mainly caused by the bickerings of the persons privileged to sit on the thrones of the world, we need not be flurried by the thought of the great struggle which shall put an end to it all, by rooting out the evil from which it all grows, the evil of privilege and privileged classes whether great or small. When this is gone not only will the cause of the great periodic wars be removed, but of that more terrible internecine war which goes on always between classes in the same or different countries, and even between the members of the same family, and is the outward expression of the spirit of privilege and competition, which is the characteristic of an established legal system.

It seems to me that it is our legal system which is the author of our evils. Each one of our multitudinous Acts of Parliament constitutes a small privileged tyranny. The legal mind of course thinks highly of them, and praises the code as a monument of the wisdom of our ancestors, as well as of our own. The code is said to supply a necessary check to the debased and cruel nature of man. The theory is that men, left to themselves, would find their principal amusement in killing their neighbours, but that this heaven-born code keeps him in the path of virtue and honour.

It is an unreal picture. It is difficult to see how institutions founded by men, and expressing the views of the founders, can set up any standard higher than that of the surrounding society. The fulsome praise poured out by the founders, their friends and dependants, on the work of their own hands, may be safely disregarded; and while the rival theories of the "Wisdom of our Ancestors" and the "Progress of the Species" debate their rival claims to the authorship of the legal system, we may without presumption attempt to judge of its value by its results. The most we can look for from any such institution is that it may be, I do not say it is, but may be a convenience, a convenience of the same kind as a house or an omnibus. These are means for serving a number of persons with less trouble and labour, than if they were obliged to supply themselves with separate huts and carts. Now, anyone who should suggest that the shape and size, the fitting and decoration, of houses and omnibuses should be settled by a Board of Directors sitting in a distant town, would be regarded as a silly person. Yet this is what an established legal system claims to do. In its origin the law was for the convenience of men; but like any other permanent institution it becomes entangled in its own arrangements, and sinks down and down, as it first of all creates and then falls under the control of the law-hampered mind. It no doubt works with great regularity, so does a sausage-machine; and our system is like this also, in that it pays little regard to flesh and bones and blood. Society under such influences tends to have all things according to pattern, and the fact that our houses and furniture and all our common surroundings are so drearily uniform, is but one out of many evidences of the decay of all original thought. Originality cannot be fostered, except by being let alone; any system, whether we call it civilisation or law or religion, must fail in the attempt to



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

Communications invited on Social Questions. They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.

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Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday January 4.

ENGLAND	Volkzeitung	BELGIUM
Church Reformer	Boston—Woman's Journal	Seraing (Ourgree)—Le Reveil
Die Autonomie	Liberty	Ghent—Vooruit
Jus	Chicago (Ill.)—Knights of Labor	Antwerp—De Werker
Justice	Chicago—Alarm	Liege—L'Avenir
London—Freie Presse	Vorbote	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Labour Tribune	Chicago—Labor Enquirer	SWITZERLAND
Norwich—Daylight	Hammonton (NJ) Credit Foncier	Liege—Sozial Demokrat
Our Corner	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	ITALY
Personal Rights Journal	N. Haven—Workmen's Advocate	Gazetta Operaia
Railway Review	Paterson (N.J.) Labor Standard	Milan—Il Fascio Operaio
Se-Day	San Francisco (Cal) The People	Rome—L'Emancipazione
Worker's Friend	Coast Seaman's Journal	Marsala—La Nuova Eta
SOUTH AUSTRALIA	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	SPAIN
Melbourne—Liberator	FRANCE	Madrid—El Socialista
New South Wales	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	GERMANY
Hamilton—Radical	Le Socialiste	Berlin—Volk Tribune
INDIA	Lille—Le Travailleur	HUNGARY
Bankipore—Behar Herald	Guise—Le Devoir	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
UNITED STATES	HOLLAND	ROUMANIA
New York—Der Sozialist	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Jassy—Lupta
Freiheit	Amsterdam—Voorwaarts	DENMARK
Truthseeker		Social-Demokraten

WHAT 1887 HAS DONE.

THE year 1887 is come to an end, a year in many respects eventful; what will it be chiefly known by in the future, when it has become mere history? To some it will be the Jubilee year; to some the central year of the great Tory ascendancy; to some, it may be, for a little while, the last of the thoroughly bad years of the depression of trade. Yet again it may be known hereafter as the last year of the European armed truce; and to others it will be remembered as the great year of Coercion. Which will it be? Another question can be our only answer. Is our future to be that of patient slaves bearing their hard lot apathetically, and idle and vacant lords who live by their labour, with no thought but for the follies and toys with which they kill the dragging and unhappy hours of their dull lives? Is the knowledge of the world still to bring us degradation, its wealth misery, its power slavery? If that is to be so let us remember the past year as the year of the Queen's Jubilee, and be mildly satisfied at the thought of the hundreds of thousands of slaves and slave holders who turned out into the streets to witness the symbolic procession of the triumph of Official Dishonesty, and let us note the year as the first of a new epoch of "Resolute Government," the rule of tyrannous fools and pedants over helpless and unthinking cowards. But if, on the other hand, our future is to be the struggle of slaves to free themselves, however intermittent it may be; although that struggle be irresolute and unorganised, at whites timid, at whites rash—as, alas! the rebellion of slaves is but too apt to be,—if REBELLION is to be our future, then we must look back at the past year with hope as one of the noteworthy landmarks on the road of revolution.

Let us briefly review the events of 1887, then, and see whether anything in them points to the conclusion that we shall be driven to forget our hopes, and accept the prospect of the immediate future as one of apathy and despair.

From the "political" point of view the Irish Question has been the only one of the past year; and no doubt there will be many in these last days of 1887 who will both say and think that the Irish are further from reaching their goal than ever; that Resolute Government will keep the excitement under till from sheer weariness and despair people yield, and sit still in sullen discontent, and that the hopes of the Home Rulers, which were brightening in the early part of the year, are now clouded over. This opinion is not without some foundation in reason, and would be amply justified if the only point in the Irish Question were the establishment of an Irish Parliament in Dublin with more or less real authority over the Irish people; but, as has often been pointed out in these columns, the question goes much deeper than that, and necessity will compel either or both of the political parties

to act in a way more or less revolutionary, and to do some things which the Dublin parliament if established would have to do. For the question rests on the livelihood of the Irish peasants, and whether their landlords shall be allowed for ever to squeeze their incomes in the shabbiest possible manner out of the poverty of these poor people, so that shelving the question is impossible; nor is it of any moment to Socialists or sensible people which of the two parties in the game of politics gives way and yields some practical measure of home rule as a step towards the attempt to deal with the question. Between a "dishing" Tory measure and a compromising Gladstonian one there will be little if any difference.

Meanwhile the Tories, in following out their natural course of upholding the shabby landlord tyranny in Ireland, have passed the Coercion Bill usual in dealings with that country. Under ordinary circumstances such a measure would have received little notice in England; but with the present revolutionary feeling that is in the air, its results have been much more telling than the results of such measures are used to be. Although the Gladstonians resisted it feebly enough in Parliament, and no determined protest was made against it except by the Socialists and extreme Radicals, yet the carrying out of its provisions in Ireland itself have as it were raised aloft the sufferings of the poor as a banner for all revolutionary-minded people to rally to. The imprisonment of Irish members and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, and the arrest of Mr. Blunt, merely as a piece of arbitrary high-handedness, and the quashing of the case against the police murderers at Mitchelstown, have forced the dullest to see that Ireland is in rebellion against the Government, not the people, of England; and if anyone goes further to seek the cause for the rebellion, he cannot fail to find out that it is with the Irish landlord, as with the French seigneur before the Revolution, according to Carlyle's epigram: The widow is gathering three nettles for herself and her children, and two out of every three she has to yield up the lord as *rent*. Is it too much to hope that the enquirer who has thus got to the bottom of the Irish question will follow the enquiry up as to the condition of the workman throughout civilisation, and will get to know the meaning of *rent*, *profit*, and *interest*, and the way in which the proprietary class work them? Thus the Irish question will educate many in revolution, and the events of 1887 will certainly help on his education in this direction.

There is another series of events in which the past year has been rich, which must be lumped together as interference with the right of public meeting. In the beginning of the year these events seemed to most people to be of little importance except to the small body of men against whom they were immediately directed—the Socialists, to wit; and they have been for years accustomed to have their meetings attacked by the police on the specious grounds of public convenience. But the special point of all the attacks made on the year had been their obvious malignity and vindictiveness, shown by the sentences on the men who fell into the power of the authorities. The game began with Justice Grantham's sentence on our comrades Henderson and Mowbray at Norwich, in which, as usual in such cases, the judge made himself an advocate for the prosecution. Then came the sentences on the members of the S.D.F. and other men (not Socialists) who got entangled in the police-manufactured riot at the gates of Hyde Park in March. At this the general public kicked somewhat, and the magistrates sentences were impossible to be wholly upheld on appeal. But as the days wound round to the autumn, and it became clear that we were to have the usual unemployed demonstration in greater force than ever, the respectable classes took the alarm, and the police were set on to make the attacks on peaceable citizens who had committed the crime of being poor, which culminated in the shameful day of November 13th, and the still more shameful scenes in the police and law courts which followed it. This time the Socialists found themselves in alliance with the extreme Radicals, as in the affair of Dod Street. But the allies were deserted by everybody else, even by the Irish party (with the single exception, as far as I know, of Michael Davitt), although they are suffering from the same tyranny themselves. In fact this time the affair, as far as it has gone, has been an ominous flash from the smouldering volcano of class war which underlies modern sham-society. This has been so well felt that all respectability promptly sided with the attack on elementary political rights, and outside the definite Socialist organs we have had the whole of the press against us except the *Pall Mall Gazette* and *Reynolds*; while on the other hand no one who witnessed the sympathetic demeanour of the huge crowds that accompanied or looked on at Linnell's funeral procession could venture to deny that the masses in London are on our side.

To turn to the struggle of the workers in the net of capitalistic production. The year began with the abortive strike of the Lanarkshire miners, in which our comrades at Glasgow took a part at once bold and considerate, and thereby did much to forward the work of propaganda. This was followed by the strike of the Northumbrian miners, which again was taken advantage of by Socialists, with most encouraging results. These have been the most typical instances of the direct labour struggle; but the whole year has been full of labour disputes, which is the more remarkable since up to the present time it has been a year of great depression; though just now there seem to be signs of a revival of business in several trades, which, if it turns out to have any endurance, will no doubt be hailed as a token of the stability of our present system of production, and the lasting glory of the British Empire which is not ashamed to live on the ruin of the Celtic peasants, and the desperate misery of the London slum-dwellers.

A broad the American middle-classes have relieved their fear or satisfied their cold and stupid malice by the consummation of their revenge on the revolutionists who had the temerity to be actively on

the workmen's side in a bitter Chicago labour struggle,—nor will they know till the revolution is upon them how dearly their revenge will cost them.

Bismarck has had one or two triumphs: won a huge majority in the spring; carries his army bill easily now; he has reduced the number of Socialist members to five, but has not succeeded in reducing the number of Socialists, which still goes on growing. He is engaged in strengthening the law against the Socialists, as a counter-stroke to the international congress which is to come off this year.

France having disappointed her enemies and the enemies of progress by avoiding a political revolution which could have been but political only, is still busily engaged by means of her bourgeoisie in contributing her share to the embroglio of corruption which must end at last in deadlock and the fateful outbreak and change.

In Russia the universities are closed in order to damp down the revolutionary fire spreading so swiftly among the students, and everything grows more and more unbearable.

And with all this the year has ended as it began with the terror of a great European war, concerning which Lord Salisbury, wishing to make the best of it, could say little more than that he didn't think it would come just yet.

Certainly it must be said that the past year has not been of such a kind as to give confidence to the upholders of the stability of the present system. Democratic ideas tending towards Socialism have been evolved from the Irish struggle, and men's minds have been familiarised thereby with resistance to authority; the precariousness of livelihood under the capitalist has been brought home more and more among the workers, and the preaching of Socialism has inspired them with hope to change all that; the special tyranny of the last two months has embittered the Radicals against the Government, and also shown them how little they can depend on their so-called leaders among the Liberals, and how powerless they are as an affix to the Liberal party; it has shown them that they as working men must be true to their class or be of no account in politics at all; the sentences passed on the so-called rioters, after evidence which one would have expected even a lawyer to reject, have shown the "lower classes" that the boasted equality before the law is a gross sham; that the law is made for the rich man and the master and against the poor man and the worker, and that when the class-war rises to its height, no more mercy will be shown by the "moral" smug British bourgeois than by any tyrant of modern or ancient times; that law and civilisation are no protection for those who may frighten the proprietary classes, and that the strong arm only will help them. All this has been speedy education towards revolution, and will sink deep into the mind of the people. Doubtless the past year has been a landmark on the road to revolution, and the reaction of which the stupid Tories and their allies the pessimistic prigs of "culture" make so much of is but a measure of the advance of the tide of the new social life. "Progress" no longer means a political game in which these high personages could take a part without any danger to their position, or offence to their sensibilities: the "common people" have now to be dealt with as real persons threatening real things, and respectability shrinks back before them, partly in fear, partly in hatred. This explains the recrudescence of Toryism, the apparent victories of reaction. Once again the class-war is becoming obvious to all, and 1887 has done a great deal to make it so.

WILLIAM MORRIS.

LITERARY NOTES.

'Was it a Fair Trial,' by Gen. M. M. Trumbull, is a telling exposure in pamphlet form of the rascally and murderous conduct of the whole trial of the Chicago Anarchists. May be obtained from Lucy E. Parsons, 787 Milwaukee Avenue, Chicago, Ill., at 7d. a copy, 10 for 3s. 6d. post free.

We have not yet seen the 'Letters of David Ricardo to Thomas Robert Malthus, 1810-23' (8vo, 10s. 6d.), published by the Clarendon Press, but these letters cover the whole time of the friendship of two men who for many reasons are interesting to Socialists.

The *Canadian Workman* (Montreal) is a "labour paper." It is the organ of the Knights of Labour, apparently of the orthodox Powderly section. For a journal which sets out to "educate the masses" it should have an editor rather better informed on the general labour movement than the man who now runs it. In a late issue he informs his readers that the S.D.F. "is the only society in existence in England which has a Socialistic platform or anything approaching it," and their programme he styles "utopian."

Articles of interest to Socialists in the January magazines. *Murray's*: "The Royal Irish Constabulary," Col. R. Bruce, C.B. (late Inspector-General of the Force). *Longman's*: "The Unemployed and the 'Donna' in 1887." *Chambers' Journal*: "Why is Wheat so low in Price?" *Fortnightly*: "Chas. Darwin," F. W. H. Myers; "Egypt in 1888," Col. F. Duncan, M.P.; "The Distress in London," Earl Compton and Cardinal Manning. *Contemporary*: "The Workless, the Thriftless, and the Worthless," by the author of "Social Wreckage"; "The Value of the Individual," Vernon Lee. *Time*: "The Moral Aspect of Socialism," Prof. Caird. *National Review*: "The Poor Law and the Church," Rev. Morris Fuller, M.A.

MARGARINE.—Those who remember the outcry made by *Jus* and the party it speaks for against the "Act for the better Prevention of the Fraudulent Sale of Margarine," passed last August, can hardly do better than send one 3d. stamp and a stamped wrapper to Eyre and Spottiswoode (East Harding Street, Fleet Street), and receive in return a copy of the Act. Then it will be seen that it can harm none but the dishonest, as it does not interfere in the least with the sale of margarine, except as *butter*. Margarine may still be sold without let or hindrance, but it must not be palmed off on an unsuspecting public as what it is not. Of course as fraud is recognised by *Jus* and the L.P.D.L. among legitimate means of competition they are naturally sore at the little game being hindered.—S.

EVOLUTION.

All life is progress: that which groweth not
Is dead or dying. He that would retrace
The happy footsteps of our infant race,
Who seeks for man no fairer future lot,
Or scanning o'er the waste one pleasant spot
Deems it indeed man's final dwelling-place,
Essays to close his hand on time and space,
And when the world stands still the world will rot

Fight then beneath this banner, and be bold,
Knowing that Fate, though silent, never sleeps
Though gazing long into the mists of old,
And far into the future's mystic deeps,
For vigil-vision thou mayst but behold
One of its slow gigantic spiral sweeps.

REGINALD A. BECKETT.

SAMUEL FIELDEN.

SAMUEL FIELDEN was born on February 25th, 1847, at Todmorden, Lancashire. His father, Abram Fielden, was a weaver. The Fielden Brothers' mills were the largest in that part of the country, and they contained two thousand looms. His father was a man of more than ordinary intelligence, a person of deep thought, with whom few cared to cross swords in an argument. Samuel says: "I remember that the most intelligent people of our acquaintance instead of going to church on Sunday used to meet at our house to discuss politics, religion, and all subjects pertaining to social and political life. These meetings carried on in the rich Lancashire accent contained a peculiar charm for me, and gave me my first taste for the study of Sociology. I used to wonder how they knew so much. My father was a peculiarly eloquent conversationalist, and the recital of the most ordinary incident from his lips bore the charm of romance. When the ten hour movement was being agitated in England, my father was on the committee of agitation in my native town, and I have heard him tell of sitting on the platform with Earl Shaftesbury, John Fielden, Richard Ostler, and other advocates of that cause. He was an earnest admirer of the principles advocated by Fergus O'Connor. He was also one of the incorporators of the Consumer's Corporation Society in the town of Todmorden, and one of the officers of that society for a long time. He was also one of the share-owners in some co-operative manufacturing establishments of that vicinity. He was one of the prime movers in the Odd Fellow's Benevolent Society. Although my father was a severe man, there seemed to be a sort of freemasonry between him and the children of the neighbourhood. They all loved him dearly. He was a staunch supporter of every measure for the relief of Irish peasantry from the greed of the foreign blood-suckers—the English landlords. My mother died when I was ten years old, and I only remember her as a sweet, patient, little dark-eyed woman with a pleasant face; her maiden name was Alice Jackson; my first great sorrow came with her death. I don't think the world is ever as bright after so great a loss. Although but a child when she died, the lines of Cowper on the death of his mother came home to me, oh, so forcibly at times:

"But while the wings of fancy still are free,
And I can take such mimic views of thee,
Time has but half succeeded in his theft,
Thy self removed, thy power to soothe me left."

"My father died August 28th, 1886. I undoubtedly inherit from my father that hatred of shams and hypocrisy, and from my mother that sympathy that I find it impossible not to feel for every form of suffering, and which has impelled me to try to do something toward alleviating it, and I believe, now, to-day, even with this great shadow hanging over me, that I was fortunate in having such a father and mother. When I think of those who have no higher ideas of human life than to make money, that if my lines had fallen in different places I could do a great deal more. In my early home life was sown the germ of that philosophical character which some people have given me credit for possessing in late years. I received my early education at a small private school. A great deal of my early life was spent in a factory, of which I could write volumes, but limited space will not permit. But I will say this; I think, that if the devil has a particular enemy whom he wishes to unmercifully torture, the best thing for him to do would be to put his soul into the body of a Lancashire factory child and keep him as a child in a factory the rest of his life. I think that would satisfy the love of cruelty of his Satanic Majesty." Samuel Fielden is a fine-looking man, he has a very kind face and laughing eyes, and is spoken of by all of his friends as "the good-natured Fielden." In Fielden's speech at the Haymarket meeting, even as reported by Mr. English, a reporter for the *Chicago Tribune*, not one word can be found which has the least reference to the bomb-throwing, or contained any proposition or suggestion for the use of violence that night or in the immediate future, and Mr. English himself says his instructions from the *Tribune* office were to take only the most incendiary part of his speech. In speaking of the so-called McCormick riots on the afternoon of May 3rd, "Men in their blind rage," was the characterisation by Fielden of the persons who threw stones at McCormick's factory hands. Fielden has ever been an honest, upright, hard-working man. His presence at the Haymarket and his speaking there, resulted simply from the request for speakers sent to the meeting of the American group.

If the bulk of the human race are always to remain as at present, slaves to toil in which they have no interest and therefore feel no interest—drudging from early morning till late at night for bare necessities, and with all the intellectual and moral deficiencies which that implies—without resources either in mind or feelings; untaught, for they cannot be better taught than fed; selfish, for all their thoughts are required for themselves; without interests or sentiments as citizens and members of society, and with a sense of injustice ranking in their minds, equally for what they have not, and for what others have,—I know not what there is which should make a person with any capacity of reason concern himself about the destinies of the human race. . . . But there is no ground for such a view of human affairs. Poverty, like most social evils, exists because men follow their brute instincts, without due consideration.—*Mill's 'Political Economy,' Book 2, Chap. 15.*

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

DUNDEE MILLWORKERS.—Dundee millworkers have resolved, in view of the improvement in trade, to ask the employers to make an early advance on their extremely low wages.

EDINBURGH JOINERS.—The masters are said to be working short-handed in order to keep men on the market, with a view of enforcing a reduction of the rate of wage from 7d. to 6½d. The men are determined to resist and a strike appears inevitable.

BOLTON ENGINEERS.—The arbitrators in the Bolton engineering strike have not been able to agree as to a basis of wages, and the services of Mr. Pope, Q.C., Borough Recorder, have been secured as referee. He is expected to give his decision about the middle of January. The settlement of the Blackburn dispute depends upon this decision. The men are at work pending the result.

LANCASHIRE MINERS.—The leading colliery firms in the Manchester district have decided to advance prices of house coal at the beginning of the year 10d. per ton, and furnace coal and burgy 5d. per ton. At the same time an advance of wages of about 10 per cent. is to be given. It is expected that a similar movement will take place in other colliery districts of Lancashire.

NORTHUMBERLAND MINERS.—The sliding scale in the Northumberland coal trade terminates to-day, and as no arrangement has yet been come to, the men will work on the same terms as regards the rate of wages as they are now doing. The masters have taken no action on the subject of restrictions.

NORTHAMPTON SHOEMAKERS.—As was noticed last week the dispute has at last been settled, both sides having agreed that all reserved questions should be submitted to a court of appeal consisting of a representative of employers and employed, a third to be appointed by those two, the decision of the three to be absolutely final. The operatives, of whom about 15,000 have been locked out, returned to work on Monday at all the factories, with the exception of that of Messrs. Cove and West, where the original dispute broke out. The unionists decline to work with the "accommodators" vulgarly termed "scabs" at this factory, but it is hoped that the difficulty will be arranged by making separate shops. Owing to an accident to one of the furnaces at Hunsbury Hill Factory the works are temporarily closed and 150 men are out of employment. Great distress still exists in the town. Collecting-sheets are at 63 Fleet Street, where London sympathisers may enter contributions.

MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL.—The total number of men now employed is close upon 900. The excavation of the three great docks which are to form the Eastham terminus of the canal in Cheshire, is making rapid progress. Two steam "navvies" are at work—one of them being kept going night and day.

LEVELLING DOWN.—At a meeting of a Scotch Highway Board last week a member called attention to the rate of wages paid to surfacemen on the Berwickshire roads, the wage all over being 18s. a week. He thought the time had come for reducing these, as hinds were not now earning more than from 14s. to 14s. 6d. a week. There were many men going idle, who would be glad to engage as surfacemen at reduced wages. The matter was remitted to the district committee for their consideration.

MANCHESTER AND SALFORD TRADES COUNCIL.—In the course of an address at a meeting of this Council, Mr. H. Fielden gave statistics with reference to the condition of employment in the cotton trade in Lancashire, the ship-building trades, engineering, the building trades, the various iron trades, the Birmingham and Wolverhampton trades, the potteries, and the mining industry. So far as mining was concerned, he estimated that the loss in wages since 1874 had now reached a total sum of 14 millions per year upon this class of work, and taking the whole of the trades of the country, he estimated that the loss of wages through irregular employment, or want of employment, was at least twice as much as all the gain to the working classes from the decreased cost of commodities and the increased purchasing power of their wages.

A LAND DEMONSTRATION—STORNOWAY.—Last week a procession numbering about a thousand crofters and cottars from Portnaguran and several other townships in Lewis marched to the farm of Aignish, situated on the peninsula of Eye, within three miles of Stornoway. This farm is at present occupied by Mr. Albany Newall as a sheep-farm, and capable of maintaining some forty families. The people were accompanied by musicians, and some carried flags. On reaching the boundary of the farm they met Mr. Newall, and the spokesman of the party informed him that they required the farm to provide holdings for the starving cottars and families in the district. They were willing to pay a rent equal to his own. His answers were considered unsatisfactory, and they announced that within fourteen days he must remove his stock. Mr. Newall said he should have force sufficient to prevent this. The people marched through the farm, and afterwards started for Melbost sheep-farm, tenanted by Mr. Thomas Newall, a relative of the Aignish tenant. Hearing that he was absent, they halted and held a meeting, at which resolutions were passed in favour of the land being allotted to the people at a fair rental before any general plan of emigration was accepted by the crofters.

Here, by the way, is the dangerous passage in Cardinal Manning's article to which we briefly referred the other day:—"All men are bound by natural obligations, if they can, to feed the hungry. But it may be said that granting the obligation in the giver does not prove a right in the receiver. To which I answer that the obligation to feed the hungry springs from the natural right of every man to life, and to the food necessary for the sustenance of life. So strict is this natural right that it prevails over all positive laws of property. Necessity has no law, and a starving man has a natural right to his neighbour's bread." Was ever such rank sedition preached before? Many a poor fellow for much less strong statements than that has been locked up or "bound over." Cardinal Manning "ought to have known better," and Mr. Matthews—if he means to deal fairly all round—should lose no time in sending Sir Charles Warren's men to arrest so dangerous and ill-disposed a member of society as this archiepiscopal preacher of practical Christianity.—*Pall Mall Gazette.*

AMERICA.

The colliers throughout the Pennsylvania anthracite region, except the Wyoming Valley, refuse to accept any reduction in their wages, and have left work, 30,000 miners being thus idle. The present supply of coal is said to be short.

The striking flint-glass workers at Pittsburgh have submitted a proposition to the manufacturers withdrawing the demand for an advance in the wages of "gatherers" and conceding the right of the employers to discharge workmen for incompetency and drunkenness. The proposition also suggests that fifty-five hours be considered a week's work in the moulding department, and fifty-eight in the cutting department.

Local Assembly 8298 of Silk-Ribbon Weavers of Hudson County, N.J., has withdrawn from the Knights of Labour, and will be known as the Concordia Lodge of Silk Weavers.

General Secretary Litchman of the Knights of Labour states that the compiled report of membership for October last from the various district assemblies in the order shows a total of 500,982, which is an increase over the report of last July.

The Central Labour Unions of New York and of Chicago have resolved to boycott Milwaukee beer, to assist the brewers in their struggle against the bosses.

T. V. Powderly is announced to be dangerously ill, suffering from hemorrhage.

The brewers are beginning to boycott the States which have voted for the exclusion of liquors made from malt. They began by instructing their brokers not to buy any more barley from Iowa or Kansas.

All the cigar-makers in Havana have resumed work except in one factory. The cabmen of New York are on strike. They notified the proprietors or foremen, and submitted the following agreement, which many of the liverymen speedily, in consideration of the snow, signed: "I hereby agree to take back my men in a body without prejudice, and to pay the wages (14 dollars per week) demanded. I guarantee to keep them at the above wages one year."

A strike of Cincinnati shoemaking hands is expected, involving about 2,000 employés.

Every table-ware glass-works in the Pittsburgh district but one is idle as a result of the late strike.

LIST OF STRIKES FOR DECEMBER.

Number of strikers known to December 8	...	1,153
Pittsburgh, Pa.—Flint-glass (table ware) workers, against rules adopted by Manufacturers' Association, December 9	...	1,400
Washington, Pa.—Labourers (Italian), against discharge of one of their number, December 9	...	35
New York city—Building hands, in consequence of two men being discharged, December 9	...	40
New York city—Painters, for unionism, December 11	...	—
New York city—Pail-makers, against reduction of wages, December 11	...	9
Chattanooga, Tenn.—Lumber-mill hands, against night-work, Dec. 3 rd	...	10
New York city—Waiters, against discharge of head-waiter, Dec. 13	...	25
Pottsville, Pa.—Rolling-mill hands, against new method of working	...	—
Dover, N. H.—Lasters, against reduction, December 12	...	—
Total number of strikers known to December 12	...	2,672

NEW SOUTH WALES.

SYDNEY.—The Australian Socialist League is getting in a good deal of work by way of lectures, discussions, and open-air meetings, and is creating quite a stir. The *Radical* continues its good work, and the *Bulletin*, one of the most powerful papers in the colony, has got as far as Land Nationalisation and is like to go further. Local journals in way-back towns, have taken up the subject, and it is clear that not only has the thin edge of the wedge been introduced here, but some heavy blows given toward driving it in.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

Our French comrades have decided to start a new Anarchist paper, to be published at Paris and written by all who care to do so; in other words, there will be no special editor for it. As *La Révolte* is becoming more and more an international paper, the new organ will be more specially devoted to the interests of the French revolutionists.

During the last few weeks a considerable number of strikes have occurred throughout France. Among the most important we may mention the diggers of the railway from Monton to Sarlat, who struggled against a reduction of wages and won their battle; the ribbon-weavers of Thiberville, who refused to follow certain rules dictated by the masters, and who likewise won their cause; the china-makers of Vierzon, who protest against a reduction of their salaries, and are still out of work; the bakers of Nice, who desire to have the same rate of prices as in the towns of Toulon, Marseille, etc.; the weavers of Rheims, who refuse to accept any lowering of their wages, already at a starvation point; the moulders and other iron-workers at Nouzon, Revin, Laffour, Petite-Commune, etc., in the Ardennes Department, who strike for higher wages; the metal-workers of Vivier-au-Court, who struck because one of their comrades, sent to the congress at Charleville as a delegate of their union, has been, in consequence of his delegation, dismissed by the employers; the glass-blowers at Vierzon, because the same thing happened to their delegate to the congress at Montluçon; the skippers of Mazamet (Tarn Department), who demand an augmentation of salaries and the maintenance of their union; the moulders of St. Michel (Aisne Department), who are still out of work; the weavers of Cholet (Vendée Department), 10,600 in number, and who won a splendid victory after nearly four months' struggling; the miners of Meurchin (Pas-de-Calais Department), who were not so lucky as their comrades of Cholet.

Last week, one of the veterans of European Socialism died at Ville d'Avray, near Paris. Constantin Pecqueur was born in 1801, at Arleux (North Department), and became in the year 1848 member of the Luxembourg Commission of Work, with Louis Blanc, Vidal, Albert, etc. Afterwards he was appointed librarian of the National Assembly, but was obliged to resign, refusing, after the *coup d'état*, to take the oath of allegiance to Napoleon. Pecqueur is not so well known as Saint Simon, Fourier, Considérant, Proudhon, Louis Blanc, Cabet, etc., yet, in the period preceding the revolution of 1848, he was an exceedingly able writer, a sound and profound

thinker, and in many respects his works are superior to those of the above mentioned Socialists, because they are essentially scientific. His writings are based on the principles of economical science and historical evolution, and he is to be considered with Vidal, Rey, Colins, De Potter, sen., as one of the forerunners of modern Collectivism. The modern theorists of scientific Socialism, Rodbertus, Marx, Lassalle, Schaëfle, Tchernyehewski, etc., proceed in their works from the conceptions of Pecqueur. Marx, in his 'Capital,' quotes him several times. His chief works are: 'The interests of commerce, industry, agriculture, and civilisation at large, considered under the influence of the application of machinery, 1838,' 2 vols.; 'New Theory of Political and Social Economy, 1842,' 1 vol. of 900 pages; 'On material ameliorations in connection with the theory of liberty, 1846,' 1 vol. He was also a contributor to the *Globe*, the *Phalanstere*, the *Revue Independante*, the *Revue du Progres*, the *Reforme*, the *Presse*, the *Dictionnaire de la Conversation*, the *Salut du Peuple*, which was founded by himself, etc.

HOLLAND.

Domela Nieuwenhuis and C. Croll have been re-elected editors of *Recht voor Allen*.

A new trade paper, to be published fortnightly, has been issued at Amsterdam—*Algemeen Vokblad* (General Trade-paper)—which intends to discuss the general interests of all Dutch trades unions. It is published by the Trades Council of Amsterdam, and edited by P. P. Koning. A special feature of the paper will be a complete report of the conditions of work in all countries.

Last week the Socialists of Holland held their annual congress at Amsterdam. Two important resolutions were carried: 1, That the branches of women, which up to the present time have been independent of the general organisation, should be put on an equal footing with those of men, and so become regular branches of the Dutch Socialist party; 2, That the system of the referendum should be introduced in all transactions of the party.

ITALY.

On the 20th of last month, the Association of the Republican Youth of Torino has issued the first number of a new weekly, called *Il Ribelle* (The Rebel), written in the line of Giuseppe Mazzini's well-known programme.

I regret to announce that, owing to the denunciation of a scoundrel, the entire edition of the 'Trial of the Chicago Anarchists' has been seized by the police of Torino, not one single copy of the book having escaped.

SWITZERLAND.

NEW FACTORY LAW IN BASEL.—The Great Council of Basel is debating a project of law for the extension of the provisions of the Factory Law to the women and girls employed by milliners and tailors, and also to shop-girls. Many of the latter are unpaid apprentices, or, as they are named in the fatherly language of the German-Swiss *Lehrkinder*, "learning daughters." They do not always get very fatherly or motherly treatment from their employers, but the very reverse; so the State, as standing *in loco parentis* to such young citizens, has righteously determined to interfere for their protection. There are numbers of "Modistinnen" and "Schneiderinnen" who do not like to be called "work-women." They are "young ladies," like a similar class in all other countries, and if they enjoy a more dignified title, they have a less secure protection from the State than the women and girls in factories. Persons in a small way of trade, according to the debates in the Basel Council, appear to be severe exploiters and over-workers of these young ladies. The regulations of the Swiss Federal Factory Law, it seems, do not extend to milliners' shops and mode warehouses, in many of which work sometimes begins at five or six in the morning, and is continued until ten or eleven at night. The new law proposes to put a limit of eleven hours upon the labour wrought in the service of fashion, and to impose early closing on the eyes of Sundays and other festivals. Extra pay is to be given to all women and girls when they are obliged, by the pressing character of the work, to serve in a work-room or shop longer than the normal period. Special protection is given to apprentices and to all girls under eighteen years of age.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

FORTNIGHT ENDING JANUARY 14, 1888.

1	Sun.	1840. Jno. Frost, Chartist, sentenced. 1881. Blanqui died. 1863. Slaves emancipated in the United States.
2	Mon.	1731. Franklin convicted of seditious libel.
3	Tues.	1794. Execution of Grégoire Joseph Chapuis.
4	Wed.	1642. Attempted arrest of the five members by Charles I. 1640. Commons vote that all power rests in the people.
5	Thur.	1757. Damiens' attempt on Louis XV.
6	Fri.	1661. Rising of "Fifth Monarchy men" suppressed.
7	Sat.	1715. Fénelon died at Cambrai.
8	Sun.	1642. Galileo died at Florence.
9	Mon.	1871. Bombardment of Paris.
10	Tues.	1645. Archbishop Laud beheaded. 1840. Penny post introduced.
11	Wed.	1831. Carlile sentenced for publishing <i>Pioneer</i> .
12	Thur.	1840. Chartist rising at Sheffield.
13	Fri.	1790. Monasteries suppressed in France.
14	Sat.	1858. Orsini's attempt upon L. Napoleon. 1887. "Battle of Ham Run" at Norwich.

Frost's Rebellion.—About 10,000 Chartists from the neighbouring mines, armed with pikes, etc., arrived at Newport, Nov. 4, 1839. They divided into two bodies; one, under the command of Mr. Jno. Frost, an ex-magistrate, proceeded down the principal street; the other, headed by his son, took the direction of Stow Hill. They met in front of the Westgate Hotel, where the magistrates were with part of the 45th regiment and some special constables. In the attack upon the hotel the mayor and several others were wounded; among the "mob" about twenty were killed and many wounded. A detachment of the 10th hussars arrived and the streets were cleared. The next day Frost was arrested, with his printer, and other influential Chartists. He and others were tried and sentenced to death in the following January, but the sentence was afterwards commuted to

transportation. On May 3, 1856, they were amnestied, and returned to England in ensuing September. Frost died, aged 96, July 29, 1877.—S.

Blanqui.—In a few weeks will be begun an account of his life and work.
Negro Emancipation in the United States.—On Sept. 22, 1862, President Lincoln issued a proclamation that he proposed on 1st Jan. following to declare all persons held as slaves within any State the people whereof should be in rebellion against the United States, free thenceforward and for ever. The rebellion still continuing, on Jan. 1, 1863, a further proclamation was issued, as "a fit and necessary war measure for suppressing said rebellion," that slaves in all parts of the United States but a few specially excepted places were free. It was not, however, until Dec. 18, 1865, that the abolition of negro-slavery was made part of the United States Constitution by the 13th Amendment.—S.

Grégoire Joseph Chapuis.—Medical man and politician; was born at Verviers, 1761. After the revolution which broke out in 1789 in the bishopric of Liège, Chapuis was appointed registrar of births, deaths, and marriages in his native town. This was at the time a very important and even dangerous position, as this registration had been done until then by clerical and not by lay officers. Reaction set in, and Chapuis had to fly in order to escape the fury of the bishop of Liège. He was detected and sent to prison. After a sham trial he was sentenced to death "for the example of others," as the judgment said. Conveyed in chains to Verviers, his execution took place on the Place des Récollets. The executioner, after having given him seven blows, failed in chopping off his head, and finally was obliged to saw it off. Ever since the memory of Chapuis has been kept in honour by the people of Verviers, who in 1684 erected a statue to him on the Place des Récollets, now called Place du Martyr. On the day of the inauguration of this statue, the Socialists of Verviers, by Pierre Fluse, who made an impressive speech, associated themselves with the official ceremony.—V. D.

The Five Members.—The division between King and Parliament was growing wider, and war (which broke out eight months later) was becoming ever more certain, when Charles, stung by the Grand Remonstrance presented Dec. 1 the previous year, thought by one decisive act to strike terror into his rebellious subjects and restore his authority. With a band of cavaliers and ruffians he went to the House of Commons to arrest Pym, Hampden, Hollis, Haselrig, and Strode, but they had been warned and escaped by the river: in less than a week he himself fled from Whitehall. Seven years after on the same day the Commons voted the Commonwealth, though it was not proclaimed until Charles had been beheaded.—S.

Robert Francois Damiens was born 1715 at Jienlcy. In his youth he was called Robert the Devil. In 1756 he resolved to assassinate Louis XV., and on Jan. 5th next year stabbed him while leaving Trianon. In prison and at his trial he behaved with great coolness. After dreadful tortures he was put to death, March 28, 1757. He gave as his motive that the people were starving while the Court wallowed in luxury. The people accused in turn the Jesuits, the Jansenists, the Dauphin and the Parliament of complicity with Damiens. He however said that he had no accomplice, and critical history has now proved that in reality there was no plot or conspiracy, but that Damiens decided for himself alone the course he took.—V. D.

Fifth Monarchy Men.—A puritan sect who supported Cromwell in the belief that his government was a preparation for the "Fifth Monarchy" which should succeed the Assyrian, Persian, Grecian and Roman, and during which Christ should reign on the earth with his saints for a thousand years. They were republicans, and were strongly communistic; having, indeed, close kinship with the Anabaptists who sought to realise the "Kingdom of God" in Münster a hundred years before. Disappointed at the delay in the arrival of this millennium, they tried to organise a revolt against Cromwell, but the arrest of Feake and Powell, the two most violent, cooled their ardour, and they plotted in secret until after the revival of the monarchy, when, on Jan. 6, 1661, fifty of them, led by a wine-cooper named Venner, tried to take London in the name of "King Jesus." Most of the fifty were killed or taken prisoners, and on Jan. 19 and 21 Venner and ten others were executed for "high treason." From that time the special doctrines of the sect either died out or were merged in the religious millennialism that still exists.—S.

Fénelon, one of the greatest writers of French literature, represents, in the seventeenth century, freedom of thought against Bossuet, who represents, in matters of religion, the old spirit of tradition. He wrote, for the sake of the education of the Duke of Bourgogne, that immortal work, the 'Adventures of Telemachus,' which has been republished a thousand times and translated almost in every tongue. This book, which at that time was regarded as a satire upon Louis XIV. and his government, caused the famous prelate to be banished from the Court, and he was sent to Cambrai, into a sort of exile, where he remained until his death.—V. D.

Penny Post.—A penny post was first set up in London and suburbs by a Mr. Robert Murray, upholsterer, who, in 1683, assigned his interest in the undertaking to a merchant named Docwra; it was however decided by the King's Bench to belong to the Duke of York, as a branch of the general post, and thereupon annexed to the revenue of the Crown. In 1794 it was made a twopenny post. In 1837 Rowland Hill broached his plan for a universal penny post within the United Kingdom. After much opposition it was adopted, 1839, parliamentary franking being at same time abolished. The new plan was carried into effect Jan. 10, 1840, leading to an enormous increase in the correspondence carried and a great growth of revenue. Although not in the least a Socialistic institution, the post-office is a good example of the economy and efficiency that may be realised by organised effort on the part of the community.—S.

Chartist Rising.—This will be dealt with in an article giving a general sketch of the history of Chartism under another date.
'Ham Run'—see under 22nd.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.

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

BRANCH SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID.

Mitcham, Walsall to July 31. Bloomsbury, Leicester, Hoxton (Labour Emancipation League), Hull, Wednesbury, to September 30. Clerkenwell, Hammer-smith, Mile End, Oxford, to December 31.

"COMMONWEAL" PRINTING FUND.

Hammersmith Branch (6 weeks), £3. Oxford Branch (4 weeks to Dec. 29), 8s. C. J. F. (ditto), 8s. K. F. (ditto), 4s. A Medical Student, 5s. Lledwlyb, 6d. W. B. (weekly), 6d.

Children's Party.—Collected by a Friend of the League, 10s. J. A. M., 2s. Tarn, 2s. 6d. Leonard Wells, 1s. A Friend (per May Morris), 2s. W. Jones, 2s. Mrs. Walker, 2s. 6d.—M. GROVE.

Propaganda Fund.—H. S. Salt, £1, 1s. C. Walkden, 5s.

For Wives and Families of the Martyred Anarchists.

C. Walkden, 5s. J. S., 6s. C. B., 1s. Medical Student, 5s. W. H. C., 10s.

REPORTS.

BLOOMSBURY.—Enjoyable social evening last Thursday.—D.
CLEKENWELL.—Business meeting held, after which members and friends spent a pleasant "social" evening.—B.
GLASGOW.—Being the festive season no propaganda work has been undertaken this week. On New Year's Day we held a social meeting in our rooms. After partaking of an excellent tea, prepared by Mrs. Gibson, comrade Muirhead gave an address on "Organisation." Gilray, of Edinburgh, reported on the progress of the movement there. Afterwards, songs and readings were rendered by several members, and altogether we spent a most enjoyable afternoon.—J. A.
SOUTH SUSSEX.—Ordinary meeting on Saturday night at Bexhill-on-Sea, present seven members. Discussion on "Continental Crisis," opened by Hall, to whom communications, Wratten House, Bexhill, should be sent.
WALSALL.—Saturday, Dec. 31st, open-air meeting held on The Bridge, H. Sanders spoke, audience large; questions put at close satisfactorily disposed of.—J. T. D.

DUBLIN.—At Saturday Club, Dec. 31st, T. Fitzpatrick lectured to a large audience on "Socialism, what is it?" He described in eloquent language the horrors of the competitive system, and gave a lucid exposition of the principles of Socialism, and was listened to with great attention for more than an hour. The opposition of a co-operator and a trades' unionist was of the feeblest description, each of them admitting the justice of our Cause but denying its practicality. The veteran Adam O'Toole, of the old International, also made an eloquent plea for Socialism. The debate was adjourned for a week.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

Bloomsbury.—Communist Club, 49 Tottenham Street, Tottenham Court Road, W. Thursday January 5, at 7.30, special business meeting—members urgently requested to attend. 8.30, Walker on the "Unemployed." 12th, Athenaeum Hall, 73 Tottenham Court Road, H. M. Hyndman, at 8.30, "Why the Social Revolution is inevitable."
Clerkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C. Business meeting every Sunday at 7. Sunday Jan. 8, at 8.30, Wm. Morris, "The Political Outlook." Wed. 11, at 8.30, H. H. Sparling, "Health and Wealth." Sunday 15th, at 8.30, Ben. Ellis (Radical delegate to Ireland), "Ireland, and what I saw there."
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. Jan. 8, at 8 p.m. Sidney Webb (Fabian Society), "The Irish National Movement, and its bearing on Socialism." 15th. C. J. Faulkner, "Property, the New Bigotry." Wed., Jan. 13, at 8 p.m., Annie Besant, "The Evolutionary Aspect of Socialism." Saturday 21st, at 8 p.m., Dramatic Interlude, "The Tables Turned." (Tickets, 6d.)
Hoxton (L.E.L.).—C. J. Young, 8 Dunloe Street, Hackney Road, Secretary. Concert and Draw on January 14. Tickets 6d. (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 Road. 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.
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.
Glasgow (Scot. Sec).—J. Duncan, 30 Arthur Pl., sec
Dublin.—Saturday Club, Central Lecture Hall, 12 Westmorland Street. Saturday Jan. 7, at 8 p.m. Adjourned debate on "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.
Gallowishiel (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 6 Victoria St., sec.
Gallatoun and Dyarri (Scottish Section: Fife).—Meet every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Gallatoun Public School. Secretary, A. Paterson, 152 Roslyn St.
Glasgow.—84 John St. Reading-rooms open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Propaganda Committee, Mondays at 8. Shortband Class, Tuesdays at 8. Music Class, Tuesdays at 9. Discussion Class, Thursdays at 8 (Jan. 12, J. Adams, "Political Panaceas"). Sunday 8th, meeting of members in Rooms at 2 p.m.—business, Finance and Organisation. In Hall, 8 Watson Street, at 7 p.m., R. J. Peace of Newcastle, "What Socialists should do."
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.
Nottingham.—Club and Reading Rooms, 1 Tokenhouse Yard, Bridlesmith Gate, open every evening. Lectures and Discussions every Sunday.
Oxford.—Temperance Hall, 254 Pembroke Street. Wednesdays, at 8.30 p.m.
Walsall.—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.
West Calder (Scottish Section).—Sec., Robert Lindsay, West Calder.

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

LONDON—Sunday 8.

- 11 ...Acton GreenHammersmith Branch
11.30...Garrett—"Plough Inn"The Branch
11.30...Hackney—Salmon and BallWardle
11.30...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.J. J. Allman
11.30...Merton—Haydons RoadKitz
11.30...Mitcham Fair GreenThe Branch
11.30...Regent's ParkNicoll
11.30...St. Pancras ArchesBartlett
11.30...Walham GreenThe Branch
3 ...Hyde ParkJ. Allman
6 ...Stamford HillParker

Wednesday.

- 8 ...Broadway, London FieldsGraham

Thursday.

- 8 ...Hoxton Church, Pitfield St.Allman & Pope

PROVINCES.

Leeds.—Sunday: Vicar's Croft, 11 a.m.

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

North of England Socialist Federation.

BRANCHES AND SECRETARIES.

Annisford.—F. Rivett, Dudley Colliery.
Backworth.—W. Maddison, C. Pit.
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.

SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION.—Meeting at Commonwealth Office, 13 Farringdon Road, on Sunday January 8, at 4 p.m.

The Chicago Martyrs.

A COMMITTEE has been appointed by several of the Socialist and revolutionary bodies of London to arrange for the speedy publication of the speeches of the eight prisoners and a full record (from the official copy) of their trial. This work is in progress, but want of funds seriously delays its completion. In order to meet this difficulty the Committee are issuing coupons entitling bearer on payment of 6d. to a copy of the first issue made, and it is hoped that all members and friends of the cause will do their utmost to aid in the commemoration of our brave comrades and at same time in the pushing forward of the cause they served.

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L. E. L.

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THE TABLES TURNED.

ENGAGEMENTS.

January 21. HAMMERSMITH BRANCH S.L.
Applications for engagements to be made to the Manager, H. A. Barker.

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Organised Labour: The Duty of the Trades Unions in Relation to Socialism. By Thomas Blunt (London Society of Compositors). 1d.
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