

THE COMMONWEAL

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WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.

NOTES ON NEWS.

THE usual game is being played with Mr. O'Brien in Clonmel Jail as to prison clothes and the like. I suppose, since he has begun in this fashion, and has once considered himself bound to protest against "degradation," he must go on with it. We have over and over again in these columns expressed the commonsense view that it is the inflictor, rather than the endurer of prison brutalities, who is "degraded" by them; and also that we do not see why there should be classes in prison any more than in the outside world. At the same time, no one can refuse admiration to O'Brien's staunchness; he accepts the rules of the game and is determined to play it out to the end, and if he sticks to it he must win.

Balfour and his mates are certainly piling it on. The sentences on Mr. Sheehy carry the matter on a step further; six months and four, not to run concurrently as I understand, is good measure according to modern views of political criminality. However, Mr. Sheehy and his friends must remember that worse things have been done within the last two years. In America they hang people outright for the same crime as Mr. Sheehy has committed, and the Balfourian revenge for which the Gladstonians very rightly consider so monstrous; and, indeed, we may say of Ireland. "If they do these things in the green tree, what shall they do in the dry?"

The suicide of the Crown Prince of Austria is tragic enough—granted. Granted also that the contrast between his position, so high above the many agonies of ordinary struggling people, and the pain that slew him is dramatic. But not less tragic, surely far more so, is many a death that has taken place in London within the last few months that has had but a few disregarded lines in a daily paper for its epic. Even a day or two ago a poor man was charged before some magistrate with jumping into the Thames—with the crime of being able to bear it no more, since there was no chance for him on any side. I thought the piteous reasons he gave for committing this crime could hardly have been stronger; I am sure his case demanded considerably more pity than that of the late Prince; and, besides the pity, abundance of shame on our part; and between the pity and the shame longer newspaper articles might have been written, perhaps with profit, that have been concocted concerning the late tragedy in high life.

Mr. Goschen, in addressing a big Tory gathering at Stratford, took upon himself the pleasing and easy task of taunting Mr. Morley and Mr. Gladstone for not having done anything towards bettering the condition of the workers in spite of their democratic pretensions. This is a fair taunt coming from a Socialist, and even coming from a Tory cannot be satisfactorily answered by a Liberal; but a Socialist can answer with a clear conscience. "Goschen, two wrongs don't make a right; you have done no more than the others, and you only plume yourself on doing no less because your principles bid you do less—which makes your boasts absurd. You can only get any credit for some little thing you may have been forced into doing, by putting your position in this way: 'I am the enemy of the human race, and yet I have actually done something for the good of the human race.' Goschen, with all your usurer's cleverness, you are a fool!"

By the way, what between Lord Wolseley on conscription, Mr. Goschen on the national defences, and Mr. Stanhope's promise of a rapidly approaching European war, it is pretty clear that we are going to have a pull at the guinea-tree next Session on behalf of the army and navy, and that some glorious jobs will be set on foot. Some of the papers, even the *Jingo Pall Mall*, seemed to think that Mr. Stanhope had been overdoing it. That's quite a mistake; this kind of mustard-plaster should always be laid on with a trowel, and the *Pall Mall* shows by its practice that it understands that well.

The Balfourian banquet at Dublin with its "great laughter," and "shouts of laughter" over a man in prison, may turn out rather more

serious than Mr. Balfour thinks: people are often more moved by the way in which a thing is done than by the thing itself; and I should think that there could be few stomachs strong enough outside the purely party camp to stand this last strong meat (or strong drink perhaps) of Mr. Balfour. As to the man himself what can be said? The refined Cambridge gentleman, the superior person, the representative of culture, turning out such an unmitigated snob! Truly one doesn't want to scratch a middle-class tyrant very deep to find the low ruffian in him.

And after all, this hero, who boasts himself as having courage enough for anything, has funked and bolted, and Mr. O'Brien has had his clothes given back to him. Once again we fail to see that O'Brien has escaped a "degradation"; but, on the other hand, it is pretty clear that Balfour has tumbled into one.

The *Star*, the manager of the London Council election on the Liberal side, has had a roughish shake; but is pretty much quit for the fright, since it has got its "Progressive" list in as Aldermen with the single exception of the Earl of Meath, once Lord Brabazon (who the devil voted for him?)

But when you have looked at the list you won't find very much in it to frighten a Tory. The one distinguished person in it is Mr. Frederick Harrison, he has at least the advantage of not being a politician; but he himself would indignantly repudiate the name of Radical or Democrat, and he has on many occasions attacked Socialism directly. But certainly he is the best man on the list.

I am afraid that the *Star* having got rid of its fear, and having triumphed in this matter of the Aldermen, will not take warning by the incidents of the too obvious tendency of its machine politicians to rat when convenient.

We wish the *Star* well in virtue of some really useful articles it has from time to time; like the notes on our prison system which we quoted lately; or its excellent article on the Boulanger affair, which will clear the mind of many persons of misunderstandings on that point. But we wish it so well that its "unprecedented success" does not make us specially happy. Rather we wish it could understand the advantages of being in a definite and even narrow majority; the honour, the pleasure, the *freedom* of that position. No longer then need we puff Lord Rosebery or even Sir J. Lubbock and Mr. Edis a little; no longer need we have with sinking hearts to put in a daily column of Jeames-ery for the benefit of the democracy, or dangle before the delighted eyes of the dwellers in very small houses in the suburbs visions of the laces and diamonds of Society—h'm, well!—ladies. No longer need we in the same breath curse Warren and bless Bonfield, or look upon O'Brien's cell with horror while we are mildly satisfied with Parsons' gallows. We might be free, though our circulation decreased.

A Radical as a Radical in these days, when Socialism has already been well preached, must be a half-informed and somewhat blundering person; but he need not be an opportunist, or a machine-politician: he may be honestly struggling towards the light, and may have a genuine indignation at the unmerited suffering of the poor, though he has not yet thoroughly learned what causes them and does not know a remedy for them. Such men we may quarrel with at times, but they are not enemies, and they mostly will become our comrades. Let the *Star* be the organ of these men, and it will find a real function to fulfil, and be the intermediary between honest democratic enquirers and those who have been happy enough to learn what the real current of events is. This will be better than collecting a kennel full of curs that they may turn round and snap at its heels on the first opportunity.

Meantime, the fact that a really popular paper must of necessity, in order to sell, be such a very "mixed lot," shows what a prodigious amount of work has to be done, even among those who are beginning to understand their degrading position of dependence on the rich—their masters.

W. M.

THE MANCHESTER MARTYRS.

(Continued from p. 34.)

WHAT the feeling was in England in those bad days, when even moderate reformers like Charles Bradlaugh often delivered themselves of their doctrines at risk of their lives, may be imagined from the vivid description of Mr. T. D. Sullivan, which tells the fatal story in better words than mine. "On Monday, October 28th, the three Irishmen were placed at the bar of the Manchester Assize Court, and formally placed on their trial for wilful murder. With them were arraigned Thomas Maguire, a private belonging to the Royal Marines, who was on furlough at Liverpool at the time of Kelly's liberation, and who was arrested merely because he happened to be an Irishman, and who, although perfectly innocent of the whole transaction, had been sworn against by numerous witnesses as a ringleader in the attack, and Edward O'Meagher Condon (*alias* Shue), a fine-looking Irish-American, a citizen of the State of Ohio, against whom, like his four companions, true bills had been found by the grand jury. It would take too long to describe the paroxysms of excitement, panic, and agitation that raged in the English mind during the period that intervened between the committal of the prisoners and the date at which we have now arrived. Nothing was to be heard of but the Fenians; nothing was talked of but the diabolical plots and murderous designs they were said to be preparing. The Queen was to be shot at; Balmoral was to be burned down; the armouries had been attacked; the barracks were undermined; the gas-works were to be exploded, the bank blown up, the water poisoned. [How like the rumours current in Chicago after the 4th of May!] North, south, east, and west, the English people [it ought to be middle-classes] were in a ferment of anxious alarm. Fenianism was cursed as an unholy thing, to be cut off from society; as an ulcerous sore; to be banned and loathed as pestilent—a foul creation with murder in its glare, and torch of the incendiary burning in its gory hand." Doesn't this read like the *Star* leader on Anarchism? Reaction uses always the same stale old libels to attack an advanced movement. Mr. Sullivan continues: "*Under these circumstances, there was little chance that an unprejudiced jury could be empanelled for the trial of the Irish prisoners.*" The Home Secretary was memorialised on the subject, and the application was renewed before the judges in court, but the efforts to obtain justice were fruitless. The blood of the British lion was up; with bloodshot eyes and bristling mane he stood awaiting his prey, and there was danger in trifling with his rage. Even special commissions were voted slow, and a cry arose for martial-law, lynch-law, or any law that would give the blood of the victim without hindrance or delay. So the appeal for time was spurned; the Government was deaf to all remonstrances; British (!) blood-thirstiness carried the day, and the trial proceeded without interruption."

As you read these lines, it is impossible for anyone to avoid noting the strong resemblance between the so-called fair trial of our Chicago comrades and the hideous burlesque of justice which was performed in the Assize Court at Manchester. The same coarse, stupid, brutal libels shrieked aloud by the mob of the middle-class in the drawing-room, and its humble imitators in the slum; nor were the hireling scribes of the reptile press behindhand in either cases in swelling the roar for blood against these "foreign incendiaries." In both cases all that could be done to hang the men was done, and successfully done, to the eternal disgrace and dishonour of the middle-classes of "free" England and America.

Let us glance briefly at the trial; it is well to be as brief as possible. The judges with their minds made up as to the sentence before they take their seats. The middle-class jury that never requires any evidence to convict revolutionists of crime. They must be criminals or how could they be revolutionists? Who could desire to revolutionise such a lovely and admirable society as ours but criminals? In this view are there not even to be found many middle-class Radicals—aye, and pseudo-Socialists too—who are ready to agree with the hucksters of the till and the counter? The witnesses—well, the less said about the witnesses the better. They were drawn for the most part from four well-matched classes—corner-men, sneak-thieves, prostitutes, and policemen. Those who know the high regard for truth and lofty notions concerning the sanctity of an oath entertained by these good people, may get some idea of the evidence. It is not surprising under these circumstances to hear that it varied strangely. For instance, there was considerable dispute among the witnesses as to who fired the fatal shot. One witness said it was O'Brien, others Condon, others Allen; but before the trial was over it was evident that the prosecution intended to fix it upon Allen. On one point most witnesses seemed agreed; whoever there was any doubt about, there could be none about Maguire. Seven witnesses swore positively that he was very active in the attack, and some even repeated the words he was supposed to have said. The value of this evidence was proved when the Crown admitted, by giving Maguire a "free pardon", his own statement that he was miles away at Liverpool when the attack on the van took place, and that he was totally innocent of any connection with Fenians and Fenianism. Nice evidence this to justify the passing of the death sentence upon five men!

On the evening of Friday November 1st the trials terminated. It was half-past five o'clock when Judge Mellor concluded his charge. The court was crowded with British respectability; the middle class was there in all its force—rich, over-fed, cruel. In their lust for blood, men and women keep their eyes fixed upon the prisoners, to enjoy their agony of suspense as the jury retires to consider their doom; but the

brave men show no sign of fear or faltering; they stand calm and erect in proud defiance.

The jury return after an absence of an hour and twenty minutes. Your verdict, gentlemen? "Guilty." Shouts of applause from the ladies and gentlemen in the court; but the men do not tremble, and their calm proud courage forces reluctant admiration even from the carrion curs around. The applause dies away; but another sound rises on the air: a cry of distress from women stricken to their hearts by the cruel verdict, mourning for son, husband, brother, who are to be butchered in the shambles of the law.

The martyrs are asked by the town-clerk if they have anything to say. Yes, they have; noble, brave words; brave and noble as their deeds. Allen speaks first. He declares his innocence of the death of Brett. The young hero faces his murderers, and hurls at them his burning words of courageous defiance. "I don't say this for the sake of mercy; I want no mercy, I will have no mercy. I'll die as many thousands have died for their beloved land, and in defence of it. I will die proudly and triumphantly in defence of republican principles and the liberty of an oppressed and enslaved nation. . . . I have been condemned to death upon evidence on which an Englishman would not hang a dog, on the evidence of prostitutes, convicted felons, policemen and loafers. . . . As for myself I feel the righteousness of my every act with regard to what I have done in defence of my country. I fear not, I am fearless, fearless of any punishment which can be inflicted upon me; and with that, my lords, I have done."

Michael Larkin spoke next; he looked a shade paler than at the beginning of the trial, but he showed no want of resolution in his firm set face. He spoke coolly and distinctly, and stated that so far from being concerned in the shooting of Brett, he had not even had revolver or pistol in his hand on that day. "I did not go to take life away, but I did go to the rescue of those two noble heroes confined in the van—Kelly and Deasy." In concluding, he declared that he forgave those who had sworn his life away.

O'Brien spoke with even more defiance of judge, jury, and ruling classes than the others. He spiritedly criticised English middle-class hypocrisy, that sympathises, or pretends to, with the oppressed abroad, but crushes down more mercilessly the victims of its tyranny in England and Ireland. This denunciation was too much for the judge, who tried to stifle the last words of this heroic young man. He appealed with a jesuitical assumption of kindness to O'Brien to say no more on such an unpleasant subject. "The only possible effect of your observations will be to tell against you with those who have to consider your sentence." But O'Brien spurned this hypocritical attempt to silence him, and continued his eloquent denunciation of English society. "They [the English middle classes] cannot find words strong enough to express their horror at the cruelties of the king of Dahomey, because he sacrificed 2,000 human beings yearly; but why don't these persons who express such horror at misgovernment of other countries look at their own? Let them look at London and see those that want bread there, while the aristocrats riot in luxuries and crime. Look to Ireland; see the hundreds and thousands of its people in misery and want; see the virtuous, beautiful, and industrious women, who only a few years ago—aye, and yet—are obliged to look at their children dying for want of food. Look at what is called the majesty of the law on one side, and the long deep misery of a noble people on the other. . . . I am not astonished at my conviction. The Government of this country have the power of convicting any person they choose. They appoint the judge; they choose the jury; and by means of what they call patronage, which is the means of corruption, they have the power of making laws to suit their own purposes. I am confident that my blood will rise a hundredfold against the tyrants who think proper to commit such an outrage." O'Brien seems to have been the only one of the prisoners who recognised that there was a social question common to all countries alike, and that the cause of the peoples is the same in every land.

Edward Maguire, who it will be remembered was a loyal Irishman who had no connection with the attack on the van, nor with the Fenian organisation, made a law'n-order speech. Had never been a Fenian, had never seen Col. Kelly; spoke with feeling of "his queen and country"; referred to his services in the army, the high character given him by his commanding officer; and thus almost convinced judge and jury that they had made a mistake, and paved the way for a reprieve.

Condon made a spirited speech, pointing out the unfairness of the trial, the prejudice excited by the newspapers, and also reminded the court that if Jefferson Davis or Garibaldi had been released by similar means, England would have applauded the deed. He concluded his speech by the cry of "God save Ireland!" which was taken up with enthusiasm by his companions in the dock.

This concluded all the speeches. The judges produced their black caps, and passed sentence; the men standing firm and unflinching while these ghouls mumbled out their prearranged doom. The last words of mockery, "May God have mercy on you," had died away, and the heroes turned to leave the dock. Before they left they cast one glance to their weeping friends. The mournful pathos of their farewell rings still in the ears of those who read the account of the trial: "May God be with you, Irishmen and Irishwomen." But it will not do to show weakness before the enemy, and as they leave the court they raise their voices in another shout of defiance, "God save Ireland!" and the black door leading to the condemned cell swallows them up.

D. J. NICOLL.

(To be concluded.)

INTERNATIONAL NOTES.

FRANCE.

Up to the present moment, we know of half-a-dozen International Congresses which will be held at Paris during the course of the present year. We mean, of course, such Congresses in which the Socialists and working classes generally are interested: 1. International Congress of Co-operative Societies, organised by the Federal Council of these bodies; 2. International Congress of the Mutual Relief Societies, organised by the section of Social Economy at the Paris Exhibition; 3. International Congress of Freethinkers, organised by the General Council of the Freethinkers' Society in Belgium and the Socialist Federation of the French Freethinkers, at which the social rôle of Freethought and the question of the emancipation of the proletariat will be discussed; 4. International Congress of Social Economy, convened by our friends of *La Revue Socialiste* and by the Republican Society of Sociology; 5. International Congress of Women, called by the Central Committee of the Society of the Rights of Women; 6. International Working-men's Congress, convened by order of the last Trades' Union Congress, held here at the end of last year. And if matters do not alter, we may have two International Working-men Congresses, instead of one; the first being called together by the Federation of the Socialist workers of France, that is to say by the Possibilists or *Parti ouvrier*, and the second by the organisers of the recent Conferences at Troyes and Bordeaux, the independent working-men's syndicates, the Socialist party of the Marxist school, the Blanquists or social revolutionary party, and others. If it were possible, we would rather see one real general and international Congress, the result of which would most certainly be the reconstruction, on a new scheme, of the old International Working-men's Association; if not, we need hardly say that our sympathies would be with the second Congress, as representing the most advanced section of the Revolutionary Socialist Party, to which the Socialist League has hitherto adhered. We shall soon have another opportunity to call back the attention of our readers to the same subject, which will be of very great importance as to the future development of Socialism throughout the world.

Last Thursday comrade Ossip Zedkine died at Paris, at the age of thirty-six years, having been born at Odessa in 1853. He belonged to a wealthy family, and began very early to disseminate the Socialist ideas among the working classes of his native land. In order to do better propagandist work, he became a carpenter. In 1871 he was obliged to fly and succeeded in reaching Switzerland. He afterwards settled in Germany, at Leipzig, where he worked several years for the cause, until he was arrested in 1881. After his release out of jail, he was expelled from Germany and went to Paris, where he lived ever since. He was a very learned man, knowing nearly all European tongues. For years past he has been a steady contributor to *Le Socialiste*, of Paris, *Social Demokrat*, then at Zurich, *Volks Tribune*, of Berlin, etc., etc. He was buried by his friends of the Social Revolutionary Party of France, and by his comrades of the Russian political colony of Paris.

GERMANY.

The Berlin police have decided not to allow in the future large meetings to be held on Sundays. Comrade Max Schippel, editor of the Berlin *Volks Tribune*, complains in the last issue of his paper of being subjected to the especial care and watch of the police. He is always accompanied, from morn till night, by a couple of detectives who have to take note of all his calls and steps in every direction. Schippel having not asked for "the pleasure of their company," is much annoyed by these importunate co-workers in the cause. At Mayence, more than forty houses were thoroughly searched, but the result was next to nil. At Lorrach, six Socialists have been arrested, whilst smuggling forbidden literature from Switzerland into Germany. At the very same time, a lot of fifty thousand leaflets of the same "forbidden" contents found its way to the "beloved fatherland." It was smuggled through the frontier at the other end of the same place of Lorrach. Good fun that!

At Frankfurt-on-Main, comrade Georg Meier got three months for having belonged to a secret society—of which he was the only member! The judge who sentenced him must have been mad or drunk, or even both together. He will soon advance in the career and become a councillor at the Supreme Court of Leipzig. He is too good for Frankfurt and must get "high treasoners" to judge. How idiotic these Nupkinses are all round!

At Berlin, comrades H. Lau, K. Schubert, A. Kuhn, E. Kann, P. Brunsch, F. Schultz, G. Brodenfeld, W. Langefeldt, and R. Volkman were tried as "secret conspirators," and sentenced to thirty-two months of imprisonment. Not one single private person was called as witness, the charge being merely substantiated by officials of the Irving-Mahlow type.

Although much annoyed by Bismarck's employees, as we said before, comrade Max Schippel has decided to start a Berlin workingmen's library. One pamphlet of thirty-two pages is to be issued every month at the price of twopence. The following will appear in the first series: 1. A socialistic novel; 2. The working women and the question of labour; 3. Trades' Unions and their utility in the workers' movement; 4. Labour legislation and the political parties; 5. The Government's plans of social reform; 6. The French workingmen's movement and their leaders; 7. Regulations and rules concerning the right of assemblage and meetings; 8. The threatening bankruptcy of the large European States. The first pamphlet has just been issued, and the second will be ready by February 23rd.

BELGIUM.

Comrades Laloi and Mignon, two at least of the dangerous plotters against Belgium's security, have been set free. They have been imprisoned for several months, and the Attorney-General has failed to find out a charge on which to prosecute them. Why, then, are Defuisseaux and Maroille still in jail? They have done exactly the same thing as their happier friends, viz., nothing at all.

A new weekly paper has been started by the Socialists at Liege under the title of *L'Emancipation*. It is to be written on the same lines as the other organs of the Belgian *Parti ouvrier*.

Last week our comrade Louis Courgeon, died at Brussels at the early age of fifty-one years. He was a Freethinker and a Socialist of indomitable energy, and his death will be strongly regretted by the Belgian Socialists, whom he always helped in their struggles by word and deed. Courgeon served in the ranks of the soldiers of the Commune, having been the chief of a battalion which fought very bravely to the end. Ever since the days of proscription in 1871, he lived at Brussels, and had succeeded in making a new home in his adopted country. He will be long remembered by all those who have known him personally, and who are aware of the good

services he rendered to the cause of Revolutionary Socialism and of Freethought.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY.

Comrades Kreutzer and Nemetz, both editors of the *Bücker Zeitung*, have been arrested at Vienna at the time they were reporting to their fellow workers the results of the Hainfeldt Congress of the Austrian Socialist Party. Comrade Eisenhuber met with the same fate. V. D.

ITALY.

The demonstrations of the unemployed are on the increase. At Brescella the workers of the building trade, after a procession through the town, which was headed by a man carrying as a banner a long pole with a loaf of bread on the end of it, had the usual promises from the Mayor. In the small province of Ferrara more than seven thousand men are out of work. Some sham relief work has been granted by the authorities in consequence of the threatening attitude of the workers. At Faenza, on the 7th and 8th of January, several bakeries were pillaged by the starving and exasperated population. Valiant military and police behaved most brutally in the restoration of law-in-order, even against women and children. Thirty-seven arrests have been made and the municipal counsel has promised work. Also at Parma, on the 15th of January, the soldiery were sent against the riotous starvelings. The town was for two days in a state of siege. Thirteen prisoners were made by the heroes, and some relief work was not started, but promised.

Several strikes are reported. That of the compositors of Milan, the ironworkers of Terni, and the navvies of Cremona.

The Socialist propaganda is actively carried on. We greet as a hopeful sign the reappearance of the valiant newspaper, *Il Fascio Operaio*, at Milano, which is now in its seventh year. From Ancona the publishing of a new Socialist organ, *Il Libero Patto*, is announced.

At Ravenna a meeting of Socialist delegates have decided to take part in the administrative elections. A programme will be shortly forthcoming to that end.

On the other hand the police are not idle. At Messina on the evening of the 18th January, two policemen have been observed to place a bomb on the threshold of the "Fascio Operaio," a Club of working men, who were at the time assembled at a meeting. The bomb exploded with great noise, but without doing much damage, before the two rascals could sink away. They were secured by an excited crowd, disarmed, and dragged to the police station. The story would be incredible, were the place of action not Sicily and the time Carnival.

H. SCH.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 16, 1889.

10	Sun.	1755. Montesquieu died. 1800. Trial of Napper Tandy and Harvey Morris for high treason. 1843. Richard Carlile died. 1874. Jules Michelet died. 1880. Attempted execution of Alexander II.
11	Mon.	1650. Rene Descartes died. 1867. Fenian raid on Chester. 1867. Great Reform meeting in Trafalgar Square. 1878. Kovalski and others arrested in Odessa after the first armed resistance in the Russian movement; for which Kovalski shot, 4 sentenced to five years in fortress. 1876. First No. of <i>Les droits de l'homme</i> , Paris.
12	Tues.	1571. Nicholas Throckmorton died. 1804. Immanuel Kant died. 1809. Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln born. 1844. Daniel and John O'Connell, John Gray, Thomas Steele, Richard Barrett, Rev. Thomas Tierney, Charles Gavan Duffy and T. M. Ray sentenced for conspiracy. 1848. First No. of the <i>United Irishman</i> , Dublin, issued.
13	Wed.	1835. Henry Hunt died. 1867. Fenian rising in Kerry. 1878. Spy Nikonoff executed in Rostov. 1882. Jessie Helfmann died in prison (sentenced to death for taking part in execution of Alexander II., but commuted to mines for life).
14	Thur.	1693. Massacre of Glencoe. 1696. "Assassination plot." 1766. T. R. Malthus born. 1792. <i>Bonnets Rouge</i> began to be in fashion.
15	Fri.	1401. William Sautre, first English martyr, burned. 1564. Galileo born. 1713. Anthony Ashley Cooper, third Earl of Shaftesbury, died. 1747. Jeremy Bentham born. 1839. Hindenlang, De Lorimier, Nicholas, Narbonne, and Daunais, Canadian rebels, hung at Montreal.
16	Sat.	1792. Second part of Paine's 'Rights of Man' published. 1834. Ernst Haeckel born. 1880. L. Hartmann arrested in Paris for taking part in attempt on Czar's train near Moscow, but police prevented by French public from handing him over to Russian Government. 1885. Unemployed demonstration on Thames Embankment, and deputation to Local Government Board.

OUT OF WORK MEMBERS.

Two painters, one general labourer, and a member who makes carriage cushions and tarpaulins. If any of our readers know of anything that will give employment to them, they will be doing a good turn to deserving members (Hammersmith Branch).

One member who would be glad of odd jobs, another in want of situation as bootmaker (Clerkenwell Branch).

The law which will not allow a pheasant's egg to be stolen or destroyed, permits the child to be robbed of the man—to be cheated of the present strength which should feed his growth, develop his frame, and make him a hale healthy being, capable of labour and the enjoyment of rest. Of this (according to the intention of nature) future self, the factory child is swindled in a fraudulent bargain, and the miserable being is unconsciously, unconsentingly, repugnantly, made spendthrift of manhood in infancy.—*Examiner*.



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

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

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

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

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

D. O.—The notorious Dr. John Brennan once translated the saying you quote apropos of Gordon—*De mortuis nihil nisi bonum*—"When scoundrels die, all knaves bemoan 'em."

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Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday February 6.

ENGLAND Church Reformer Justice Labour Elector Labour Tribune London—Frische Presse Norwich—Daylight Postal Service Gazette Railway Review Revolutionary Review Social Demokrat To-Day Worker's Friend	Chicago—Knights of Labor Vorbote Fort Worth (Tex)—South West Milwaukee—National Reformer Fort Angeles—Commonwealth St. Louis (Mo.)—Die Parole S. F.—Coast Seamen's Journal Valley Falls (Kan.)—Fair Play San Francisco—Pacific Union	ITALY Turin—Nuova Gazzetta Operaia Rome—L'Emancipazione Milan—Il Fascio Operaio Cremona—L'Eco del Popolo
NEW SOUTH WALES Hamilton—Radical	FRANCE Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Le Parti Ouvrier (daily) La Revolte	SPAIN Barcelona—El Productor Seville—La Solidaridad Barcelona—Tierra y Libertad Madrid—El Socialista
INDIA Bankipore—Behar Herald	HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen	PORTUGAL Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
UNITED STATES New York—Der Sozialist Frisheit Truthseeker Alarm Workmen's Advocate Boston—Woman's Journal Liberty	BELOJUM Ghent—Vooruit Antwerp—De Werker Llege—L'Avenir	AUSTRIA Wien—Gleichheit
	SWITZERLAND Arbeiterstimme	HUNGARY Arbeiter-Weekend-Chronik
	GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune	DENMARK Social-Demokraten
		SWEDEN Malmo—Arbetet Stockholm, Social-Demokraten
		NORWAY Kristiania—Social-Demokraten
		WEST INDIES Cuba—El Productor

NOTES.

The editor of the *Star* has suddenly discovered that a large contingent of the gentlemen whom he was so loudly recommending a few weeks ago, to the free and independent electors, for the County Council, are "flabby, limp, and commonplace."

Lord Compton is flabby. Just fancy this advanced reformer, this amateur Socialist, who could not be sufficiently cracked up to the electors of Central Finsbury as the *Star's* pet candidate; he's flabby! Here, if the *Star* goes on like this, chucking over its idols in this fashion, it will soon arrive at the abyss of dreadful Anarchism, and the editor will cease to believe in any one but himself.

Not only is Lord Compton flabby, Lord Monkswell limp, and that dear young Radical M.P., and part proprietor of the *Daily Telegraph*, Mr. Lawson, "extra commonplace," but what the Yankees would call "the whole show" is characterised by its "indecision, vacillation, and timidity." O ye gods, and these are our candidates!

To any one who had even examined the portraits, or who knew anything at all concerning the record of these men, this would be no news; but it was surprising to see the editor of the *Star* kicking

his *protéges* downstairs a few days after he had been exalting them to the skies. He has discovered that they are humbugs; there is hope for him. How long will it take him to find out that he, too, is a humbug and a democratic sham?

It might as well be suggested to the County Council that now they have settled such important business as electing their aldermen, that the people of London are most atrociously sweated, starved, and rack-rented, and then perhaps a worshipful council may find some slight leisure to consider even these little matters. Of course, consideration, and not much of that, is all that the people can expect from so high and important a body.

The case of a poor woman whose daughter was brought up before a City Alderman, Mr. Renals, charged with the fearful crime of begging, and who paid 4s. 3d. a-week for the den in which she and her husband and four children were "hovelled and hustled together, each sex like swine," might even raise a passing feeling of commiseration in the breast of middle-class County Councillors. It moved the City Alderman, who said that the rack-rent was "monstrous," and gave her £2 from the poor-box to help her along; but then it is clear that he must be an exception to his class.

Alderman Renals perhaps would find on enquiry that a rent of 4s. 3d. for a single room is not so very exceptional in the London slums, and that the vice, misery, and poverty which such rack-rents, combined with the sweating of rich middle-class firms, engender, is as a rule considered perfectly right and natural by ladies and gentlemen of well-regulated minds. And the people may be sure that a Council which in trifling matters forces even the *Star* to comment upon its indecision, vacillation, and timidity is not the body to alter it.

Nor, alas, is any other body of the usual middle-class kind likely to do so. They have all an invariable knack of behaving in the same manner when questions relating to the poor come up before them. They fear to attack the property of others in the misery of their fellows for fear their own may be thereby endangered; for in their hearts they know they are in the same boat as the biggest scoundrel of a sweater.

What, then, is to be done? Nothing, if the people wait for the middle classes to do it for them. Everything, if the people will but act for themselves. The new County Council is confessed a sham by the author of its being. Would a Plan of Campaign in rack-rented slums of London also prove a sham? If the people could be got to take it up, it would carry terror to the hearts of the boldest of middle classes, and would do more good in a month than voting for representatives like those at present in the County Council will do in a hundred years. That business begins in humbug and ends in humbug, and they are fools who dream that putting a piece of paper in a box can in any way right the wrongs or remedy the griefs of mankind. Courage, dauntless courage, and vigorous action, can alone conquer the forces that range themselves against the masses of the people.

Let those who suffer, consider. It is quite certain that while they suffer in quiet save for an occasional grumble, and pin their faith to some political humbug, as they have done in the past, so long will their misery continue. Let them answer: Have they ever gained anything by their past methods of action or inaction? But let them strike the middle class in their only vulnerable part, their pocket, and even middle-class statesmen may consider that the wrongs of England as well as those of Ireland merit some attention. D. N.

PATRIOTISM IN NORFOLK.—We learn from a local organ that the emigration agent has been having "high times" here of late. It appears that a Mr. George Randall, emigration agent and lecturer for the Government of Queensland, has held no fewer than 700 meetings in different parts of this country during the last eighteen months. But nowhere has he been more successful than in Norfolk, having dispatched 400 farm labourers from that county to Queensland during his eighteen months campaign, and, we are told, an immense number have of late accepted and filled up emigration forms which were distributed at the conclusion of his meetings. "Wherever he went he was met by throngs of well-dressed, stalwart, agricultural labourers, magnificent specimens of humanity, the pick of the country for health and strength, wearing the green leaf in their headgear, the badge of the willing migrant. Mr. Randall says he never met with better specimens of English manhood in all his previous tours in England. Never has he had to reject so few for physical imperfections." We should never forget that "all that glitters is not gold," but especially when the emigration agent is about, and so one would like to hear what some Queensland comrade or friend has to say as to the truth etc. of the following tale, no doubt very "highly-coloured" for the unsophisticated farm labourer: "The wages of a single man at farmwork in Queensland are £40 per annum with board and lodging at the expense of his employer." (?) "A married couple, if the wife cared to make herself useful, can earn from £50 to £70 a year, in addition to food and house accommodation." "It is a common thing for labourers to become farmers for themselves, as 160 acres of land can be obtained at the nominal price of 2s. 6d. per acre, the payment for which might extend over five years." One cannot help suspicious feelings arising when such pictures are painted by interested people. Many others quite as promising as this one have turned out to be nothing better than deliberate frauds on the workers. There is one idea which suggests itself to the mind, and that is, the agricultural labourers need not emigrate to Queensland to get land at 2s. 6d. per acre, but in Norfolk itself they could get land on considerably better terms, *i.e.*, for nothing, if they'd but make up their minds to refuse to pay rent for the use of either land or capital to idle thieves. Our Norwich comrades might take the hint and follow up their good work in the past by a little vigorous Anti-emigration and No Rent agitation in the district.—G. C.

WORKING-MEN, INDEED!

To earn one's livelihood is not necessarily a virtue; it is only a virtue when it is done by free choice. Most working-men would gladly cease to earn their livelihood to-morrow if they could compel anybody else to earn it for them. They are only working-men because they cannot help it; they would become gentlemen fleecers and loafers if they could. Most working-men are heartily ashamed of being working-men, and are ever so much more civil and obliging to their "betters" than to their own class. Observe a group of working-men standing on a pavement; if a gentleman comes along they stand aside and let him get past, but if a working-man comes along they don't notice him, and he has to step off the pavement and get on again. No orthodox British working-man would pass a gentleman lying drunk under a lamp-post without ascertaining if the gentleman had not hurt himself, and at least giving him a lift on his legs; but if the drunk man happened to be a working-man like himself he would pass him by as if he were the emptyings of a street dust-bin.

Working-men as a rule are dunderheads and donkeys so far as their interests as a class are concerned. They don't want to fight for their rights, and they don't know how even supposing they did want. They are afraid to speak, lest their masters hear them; they are afraid to threaten or intimidate lest they break the law. Great heavens! if we Socialists had to lead Irish landlords into the Social Revolution instead of working-men, what a magnificent agitation we would have! How we would make history! How they would intimidate the authorities and defy the law! How they would stick together and fight every inch of the ground! Irish landlords know how to agitate, educate, and organise. They don't turn traitors, and make fools of each other like working-men. They are the best trade unionists in the world; they know their own interests and they make everybody else know. With all their crimes I admire them! I would shake hands with and accept a drink from a tyrant rather than a slave any day. Of course, the Irish landlords will be defeated and utterly ruined—they are in the minority and on the wrong side. Working-men are in the majority and on the right side; they, however, won't run any chance of being defeated for a long time to come unless they look alive. You can't defeat nothing; and the workers as an organised or fighting force are nothing—they don't in fact exist. I hope the Irish landlords (much as I respect them) will be beggared and reduced to the necessity of earning their bread by the sweat of their brows, soon; for they will join, I am sure, the Socialist League to a man, and then we will have an agitation worth speaking about!

Working-men know little, and usually care less, about their own concerns. What they do know they learn from the capitalist press. They won't support labour or Socialist papers. Such papers are not sufficiently interesting or aristocratic for men earning from 15s. to 30s. per week. What the devil do they care about the condition of the Cradley Heath chain-makers, or the match girls, or this strike or that? What interest have they in the condition or doings of common working folk like themselves? No, what they want to know about is whether the Princess Louise of Wales is really going to be married to Lord Fife; whether Mr. Gladstone means to visit the Pope; whether Miss Helen Terry prefers "Robert Elsmere" to "Little Lord Fauntleroy"; or whether Lord Londale intends going to hunt buffaloes on the Rocky Mountains when he comes back from his expedition to the North Pole, or whether he will return home.

If a working-man rises to put a question to a candidate during an election, his fellow working-men greet him with cries of "Does your mother know you are out?" "He's a Tory spy!" "Oh, never mind him, he's wound up; he'll soon run down!" "Awa' hame, man, and wash yer face!" and similar encouraging expressions. If a gentleman stands up to put a question, these same idiots will whisper to each other, "Who is he?" "Has he a big business?" and probably yell out "Order! order! let's hear what the gentleman has to say!"

When an employer of labour grants his men an advance of pay or a reduction of hours, the men carry him shoulder high round the yard and yell and cheer like maniacs; but when the spokesman of a deputation to ask a master for a rise of pay or a reduction of hours is dismissed at the end of the week, his fellow-workmen are afraid to be seen drinking a glass of beer with him. When a master's daughter is getting married, every man in the establishment will come back for several hours every night for a week to decorate the chimney stack and the old rickety roofs with Union Jacks and royal standards—as well as subscribe a shilling or half-a-crown for a present to the bride; while if one of their own number dies leaving a wife and family in destitution, hardly one will volunteer to get up a subscription-sheet in their behalf, and most of them will grudge the price of a sixpenny ticket.

If a master orders a workman to do a certain thing—and, in order that the workman may not think anybody else is referred to, particularises him as a "damned fool"—the workman proceeds to obey with as much alacrity and cheerfulness as though he had been asked to do it by a pretty girl, and was to receive a kiss on his return; while if a labourer asks said workman to do some trifling service for him, the workman politely tells him to "Go to hell out of that!" This may not be poetry; but it is true!

Working-men don't consider their masters as robbers; they believe their masters entitled to all the profit they can get. They believe masters are as necessary in the world as sunshine and rain, or the law of gravitation, and that industry would collapse without them. When they hear Socialists denouncing masters for their tyranny, and saying

masters are not needed, they either grin and walk away, or get angry and threaten to duck the speakers in a horse-pond. They believe masters are intellectually and morally superior creatures to themselves, and they elect them to School Boards, Town Councils, and Parliament.

Of course, all working-men are not so stupid as I have represented above; not by any means. But the great majority decidedly are. I have said these things not because I dislike or despise working-men—I am a working-man myself. I have spoken thus to shame them into braver and manlier behaviour, to rouse the truer and higher instincts which I know they possess. Working-men as fathers, brothers, sons, and friends are right enough. But in relation to their masters and one another in their workshops, and in relation to their own class interests, they are—or, at least, the most of them are—sneaks, flunkeys, cowards, slaves, traitors, and nincompoops! and if they don't know it, they ought to! It isn't my fault anyhow if they don't—heaven help them!

J. BRUCE GLASIER.

WORKMEN, ARISE!

WRITTEN BY E. DYKE, A CABMAN, ABOUT 1863.

(Reprinted by Request.)

AIR—"The Blue Alsatian Mountains."

By the side of a bright river which through a meadow ran
He spent his happy childhood, until the child became a man—
Until the child became a man.

Then tales of distant cities determined him to go
And view the boasted glories, the fruits of thousands' woe.

Chorus—

This opened his eyes with a sad surprise
To see the half-starved workers increase the rich man's prize.

Then he formed a resolution, for he heard the workers' wails,
To increase their joy and knowledge, from their eyes remove the scales—
From their eyes remove the scales.

But those he laboured hard for and those for whom he fought
Strive against each other, and not the foes they ought.

Workmen, arise! your labour you must prize;
You sell it far too cheaply, so your lives are choked with sighs.

His toils and truths were fruitless, so the leisured classes rose
And flung him into prison, where he wears a convict's clothes—
Where he wears a convict's clothes.

And heedless of his anguish, and of the truths he taught,
The workers fight each other, and not the foes they ought.

Working men, arise! obey his stifled cries;
Unite and fight together until each oppressor dies!

CORRESPONDENCE.

"SOCIALISM V. INDIVIDUALISM IN LEICESTER."

SIRS,—I have only just seen the letter from Mr. Barclay in your issue of Jan. 26th. Before he wrote you such a glowing description under the above heading, he should have taken care to inform himself on the facts. Mrs. Fawcett did not lecture here as an Individualist, and indeed probably thinks Individualism quite as bad as Socialism. Mr. Reed kindly came down as a substitute, the lecturer announced being ill. He only knew he was coming two days before, and his lecture was not one of the series on Individualism arranged for. As a fact four were arranged, of which we have had one, so Mr. Barclay is rather early with his song of triumph, besides which he can hardly be said to be unbiassed in his judgment, and his letter does not read like a cool, impartial criticism.

I don't know why Mr. Clarke's lecture should be singled out of the Fabian series, as though that were the only one that the Individualists admired. I am a pronounced Individualist myself, and I may say that I congratulate the Fabian Society on all the lectures, and think they are most fortunate in having such able lecturers to advance their cause. It has been a great pleasure to us to listen to them, none the less a pleasure I hope because we disagreed with them. We believe them to be earnest men, imbued with a horror for the evils of life, and trying to find a remedy for them. My firm hope and belief is that by hammering away with our various theories, we shall gradually evolve a far higher form of society than we have at present.—Yours truly,
SYDNEY A. GIMSON.

19, Upper Tichborne Street, Leicester, February 1, 1889.

It is not so much this literary piracy which exasperates me as the intolerable Anglo-Saxon hypocrisy of the austere Englishmen, who turn up their eyes in holy horror when any mention is made of what they are fond of calling French vices. They would have the world believe that all the evils of their social system are imported from us, and they seem to consider me the incarnation of all that is worst in France. Such Pharisical prudery is sickening. Let those who presume to condemn my writings read Ben Jonson, and Smollett, and Byron, and say whether in the whole range of French literature they can find anything more coarse, and indelicate. If you walk along the Rue de Rivoli you will find vile books in abundance. It is a significant fact that they are written in English. But what is the literary food which they offer their well-trained daughters? They deny them the tainted French novel, and substitute moral, oh, highly moral, English and American newspapers. And what do these unsullied buds of womanhood learn in the same moral sheets? They learn that in England, as elsewhere, woman is woman whatever her rank and station, and that man remains man in spite of titles or pretensions. They are served every morning at the breakfast tables with a detailed account of abominations and depravities, and I would respectfully ask if all this sensational news is any the less hideous because it is truth, because it is the work of the police reporter instead of the literary artist?—*M. Zola.*

THE LABOUR STRUGGLE.

BRITAIN.

The Midland miners, having settled the wage question till the end of June, are using the interval to draft a better scheme of working for the future.

Goods guards and firemen on the Great Western Railway are asking for ten hours and higher wages, and are rather indignant at the way in which they are being treated.

Northumberland colliery proprietors have offered an advance, on the basis of a sliding scale, equivalent to about five per cent. The offer will be laid before the men, who claim 10 per cent.

In Derbyshire, the reactionary candidates for the County Council have so beaten their opponents, that mine-owners and other large employers are plucking up courage to propose reductions.

MINERS' FEDERATION.—At a meeting of representatives of the Miners National Union at Leeds, January 30th, Mr. Burt, M.P., presiding, a resolution was adopted declaring a federation of all mining districts imperatively necessary.

Railwaymen are so pleased and flattered by the "polite recognitions" of the A.S.R.S. which railway companies occasionally make, that one is almost tempted to wish they could meet with an old-fashioned rebuff that would give their backbones a needed stiffening.

LIMERICK—CARTERS' STRIKE.—A strike occurred amongst the carters in Limerick on Saturday 2nd, against a reduction of 2d. per load. The house of one man who went to work at the reduced rate was broken into by the strikers. Five were arrested, and were remanded for a week.

ENGINE-KEEPERS' STRIKE.—The engine men at Newton Colliery, Lanarkshire, came out on strike on Sunday morning, Jan. 27th, for an advance of six per shift—a wage of 4s. per day. The pits have been idle, and the colliers have expressed warm sympathy with the strikers, and refuse to risk their lives in descending the pits with strange engine-men.

SMALL CHAIN TRADE.—There is likely to be a serious dispute at Cradley Heath, the operatives making special and best chains having decided not to continue working at prices specified in the "revised" list, the half-inch chain having been reduced 4d. per cwt. They contend that in the face of a rising market it is unreasonable to expect them to submit to a reduction.

GIRLS IN LONDONDERRY LINEN FACTORIES.—A representative of the factory girls of Londonderry has applied to the secretary of the London Trades Council for information to enable the girls who are mainly engaged in linen manufacture to band themselves together for trade protection and benefit purposes, on the lines upon which Bryant and May's match-girls are organised. A copy of the rules of the Match-girls' Union and other information has been sent them.

GLASGOW TRADES' COUNCIL.—The following motion was carried by a large majority at their meeting on January 30th: "That this Council expresses its warmest sympathy with the pipe-moulders who were convicted at Falkirk a few days ago for merely exercising what we believe to be the right of every worker in the United Kingdom—viz, the right of advising or influencing their fellow-workers not to lend their help to the employers when a dispute existed in connection with their trade."

CARDIFF TRAMWAY CONDUCTORS.—The whole of the conductors on the Cardiff tramways struck on Tuesday. A notice had been given them to pay a deposit of £2 each as security for good behaviour. They demurred, and when the manager put fresh men on the cars for the purpose of being instructed, the conductors struck. There is some excitement in the town over the event. As we go to press (Wednesday, 6th) it is reported the police decline to interfere unless actual assaults take place, but they have ordered all the temporary conductors off the cars, on the ground that they are unlicensed. The traffic is almost entirely at a standstill. Gangs of strikers are parading the streets, but they are quiet and orderly.

CHAINMAKERS' WAGES.—The Wages Board in the South Staffordshire small chain trade have adopted a revised list of prices which conceded an advance of 10 per cent. in workmen's wages, to be paid on and after Monday, Feb. 4th. Mr. Hingle, M.P., who is a large employer, has advised the operatives to refuse work at factories where the masters decline to grant the advance, on the ground that there is no necessity for the people to work at prices at which they are unable to earn a living.—At a meeting on Jan. 30th of employers in the block chain trade in the South Staffordshire and East Worcestershire districts, held at Cradley Heath, it was decided to concede advances in prices from 12 to 25 per cent., the average being 18 per cent. The decision will avert a threatened strike.

LURGAN HEMSTITCHING AND VEINING TRADE.—The public meeting held on Wednesday by the 500 or 600 female operatives, on strike with the express purpose of preparing the way for a settlement, seems to have only widened the breach between employers and employed. On Thursday there was a meeting of delegates from nearly all factories in town; as result, circulars were sent to the different firms requesting them to appoint an arbitrator, who should meet the arbitrator on behalf of the workers—Mr. W. Livingston, T. C.—for the purpose of considering terms of settlement. Only one small firm sent any reply whatever to the circular, and it is stated that many employers have distinctly declared that they will not consent to any arbitration in which Mr. Livingston, T. C., may be engaged. There are, in all, thirteen factories in Lurgan, of which six are now on strike.

ENGINEERS' CONFERENCE IN NEWCASTLE.—A conference of employers in the North-East Coast engineering trade and representatives of the workmen's Grand Council was held on 31st, at County Hotel, Newcastle. The meeting was convened for discussing a demand from the men for an advance of 2s. per week. The circular giving notice of demand was dated January 9th, and the notice expired on February 4th. The number of men affected is between 14,000 and 15,000, including non-unionists, and comprising fitters, turners, pattern-makers, smiths, brass finishers, coppersmiths, planers, and slotters, in the Tyne, Wear, Tees, and Hartlepoons. The meeting lasted between three and four hours. The employers offered to grant an advance of 1s. per week, and another advance of 1s. to take effect in July. The representatives of the men intimated that they had no power to make any such engagement. They would, however, lay the proposition before the men at the various lodges. It is stated that the wages of the workmen generally are about 32s. per week as against 37s. in 1883, and the advance asked for would make their wages to run at 34s. per week.

THE BROKEN SIXPENCE.—In reply to the colliers' demand for a sixpence on their day's wages, some of the East Lothian coal-masters have posted up notices conceding 3d. per day. At a meeting of the colliers in the Bathgate district on Jan. 31st, the chairman said they were led to believe through the press that at a meeting of the masters of Airdrie, Bathgate, and Slamagan, it was agreed that they should get an advance of 10 per cent., but when it came it was only 5 per cent. "They halved the saxeption in twa." A motion was unanimously agreed to that no work should be done until the 10 per cent. be granted.—At a delegates meeting of Lanarkshire miners on Jan. 31st, it was the unanimous opinion that all miners in the county should press for an advance to what would equalise concessions to 1s. per day, as given in several districts. The colliers at Fouldhouse have been conceded 5 per cent., with the promise of another 5 per cent. when the Benhar and Bathgate districts get it. Coal was advanced at Preston-grange Collieries on Jan. 30th 1s. per ton, which makes the product of one day's work of a collier about 4s. more valuable to the master, and the latter has, consequently, philanthropically conceded 6d. a-day advance to the former. These niggardly concessions are an earnest of what the men, if they dared, might do.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE.—The seamen and firemen of the entire fleet of Channel and coasting steamers have struck for an increase. 1,700 men came out in Glasgow and not more than fifty of these are non-union men; by now the number out is nearer 3,000, and the strike is extending every day. The Allan Line had a friendly interview with their men, which ended in a satisfactory arrangement, they having frankly conceded the men's demands—i.e., for seamen and firemen on westward route, 90s. a month, and for southward route £4 for seamen and £4 5s. for firemen a month. The other lines have managed to get a few boats to sail, manned by a scratch crew of "scabs," made up of officers from their other ships which are detained by the strike, some "yachtsmen," clerks, stewards, and one or two mean despicable colliers—probably Orangemen—who are always ready to act as traitors to their class. The captains, mates, pursers, clerks, and stewards will soon tire of doing firemen's work, and the lesson they will get at it will, perhaps, moderate their ideas of the relative worth of the assistance they receive from their sweating fellow workers in earning a livelihood. The strike had increased the numbers on the local roll of the union on Jan. 31st to over three thousand men. The men's demand is for 30s. per week, and it was reported on Thursday that Mr. Burns had offered 30s. in one boat, but Mr. Wilson, the secretary of the union, impressed upon the men that their watchword should be: No vessel should leave belonging to Mr. Burns till the rise was conceded to the whole of them. Although the men pay their share of the police-rates, the police are all on duty fighting and bullying for the masters alone. The lessons of this strike are convincing the men how necessary it is for all classes of workers to be united against their common foe. The workers and employers are two distinct nations, and if when two nations are at war the horsemen, foot-soldiers, and navy of the one were to act independently of each other, disregarding each other's difficulties of position, while all the forces in the opposite camp were united, the result can easily be guessed. The Messrs. Burns have posters advertising for seamen and firemen at 27s. per week, and the union has out counter-posters telling Mr. Burns to keep his 27s. till he is able to pay 30s. The owners are using every effort to break up the union of the men, and are threatening not to take any old hands back when a settlement does come. It has been said that in stopping work without warning, the men made themselves liable to prosecution by the masters. But it seems that in acting as they have done the men have kept within their right, the engagement being terminable on either side without notice. There is no uniform practice in the payment of wages, some firms paying weekly and others fortnightly. The strike is rapidly extending as vessels arrive in port. About 150 quay-labourers have struck to assist the seamen, and a mass meeting was held on Sunday with that object, several members of the Trades Council taking part. On Monday, another mass meeting took place in the Typographical Hall, which included seamen and firemen, to promote an association among the quay labourers, and to mark the public sense of their splendid behaviour in standing firmly alongside their fellow-workers in the struggle against wrong. The boiler scalers employed in the shore gang of the Allan Line, also struck on Monday for an increase. They number about a hundred, and are paid at the rate of 5d. per hour; they demand an advance of 1d. per hour. Many boardmen are parading the streets in the vicinity of the harbour carrying boards, warning passengers against risking their lives in boats "sent to sea under-manned with incompetent crews." "DON'T GO WITH BOATS THAT CARRY SCAB CREWS." So long as the workers confine their attention to the wage-system, so long will they always be placed at a disadvantage. Profits off their labour under the present system must be made for the masters by hook or crook. At present they can only say: "The better things we cannot see, because they are not yet in sight." The other ports at present affected are Greenock, Ardrossan, Belfast, Dundee, Liverpool, and Londonderry. At Liverpool, the Cork Steamship Co. has conceded 4s. 6d. a-week, but the other companies are holding out.

IN THE UNITED STATES.

ARCHBISHOP CORRIGAN of New York is displeased with the members of the Anti-Poverty Society. This society is composed of the followers of the ex-priest Dr. McGlynn. "His grace" has issued a circular which was read last Sunday from all the pulpits belonging to his diocese, in which he declares attendance at meetings of the Anti-Poverty Society a "reserved case"—that is, he practically puts everybody attending a meeting of this society under the ban. He gives for so doing the following explanation:

"In the first place, the successor of St. Peter, addressing and teaching the Universal Church, has affirmed that 'the right of property is sanctioned by the law of nature.' The founder of the Anti-Poverty Society proclaims the opposite. The Holy Father has branded the doctrines of this unhappy leader as 'false and pernicious.' He has stated that 'he will never retract them.' The Holy Father, through his organ, the supreme tribunal of the Holy Office, of which he himself is the President, has declared attendance at these reunions 'an open and public sin.'"

Corrigan appended to the circular McGlynn's declaration of faith. The words which are objectionable to the boss of the Catholic Church in this declaration are:

"I have taught, and I shall continue to teach, in speeches and writings, as long as I live, that land is rightfully the property of the people in common, and that private ownership of land is against natural justice, no matter by what civil or

ecclesiastical laws it may be sanctioned, and I would bring about instantly, if I could, such change of laws all the world over as would confiscate private property in land, without one penny of compensation to the miscalled owners."

It seems that the Catholic authorities are still unable to grasp the questions of the day, but this lack of intelligence after all is from our point of view their best quality.

Bonfield, Schaack, and Co. are cornered closer and closer. The Chicago *Times* during the past week has been accusing the Chicago police force of being implicated in frauds upon private individuals and city. It asserts that requisition allowances were illegally collected and unaccounted for by Bonfield's department; that wholesale opportunities for the perpetration of fraud were taken advantage of by the "force"; and that private policemen while supposed to be on duty have been engaged to build, repair, and decorate houses belonging to Bonfield and Schaack. It also asserts that public moneys have been diverted into "improper" channels—that is, into policemen's pockets. The stolen property found in the possession of Loewenstein was fully identified by the owners; and altogether the outlook is not very brilliant for the blue-coat loafers. The *Times* puts a long series of questions, which accuse Bonfield of various disgraceful proceedings; and Captain Schaack is also subjected to an interrogatory. The only answer the *Times* has received up to date was that a capias was issued on the 18th inst. for the arrest of the proprietor of the *Times* on a charge of criminal libel preferred by Captain Schaack. The court fixed the bail at 4,000 dollars.

The *Times* in its duel is ably seconded by the Chicago *Daily Mail*. It may be interesting to recall to the memories of the readers of the *Commonweal* that it was the Chicago *Mail* which wrote on the 1st of May 1886 in an editorial: "These two fellows, Parsons and Spies, have been at work fomenting disorder for the last ten years. . . . Mark them to-day; keep them in view; hold them personally responsible for any trouble that occurs; make an example of them if trouble does occur." And to-day, after about three years, the *Mail* openly states that the Haymarket massacre was caused through Bonfield's bloodthirstiness. And yet he did at that time nothing but what the *Times*, the *Mail*, and suchlike bid him to do.

Talk about bourgeois gratitude! Pshaw! Such a thing never existed. Gary to-day is a mental and physical wreck, the laughing-stock of the bench in Chicago for his childish fears. Over half of the policemen who made the attack on the peaceable working-men's meeting in Chicago on the 4th of May 1886 have since then been dismissed from the "force" for perpetual drunkenness, insubordination, etc. Bonfield, Schaack, and "Jake" Loewenstein are accused of the vilest crimes by the high priests of bourgeoisdom, the editors of the capitalistic sheets. E. Furthmann, the assistant-prosecuting attorney, has been obliged to leave the city service and he is to-day eking out a miserable livelihood by doing Bonfield's legal dirty work. Half of the jury who returned a verdict of guilty against the Anarchists have been permitted to fail in business; and last but not least, Governor Dick Oglesby, the man who refused to "pardon" our five, is accused of having misappropriated public moneys.

Mr Shumway, a senator in Springfield, Ill., legislature, introduced a few days ago the following resolution:

"Whereas, the auditor's biennial report issued in the year 1886 (in that year Oglesby was already governor of Illinois) shows that the sum of 18,705 dollars over and above the salary allowed by law was expended at the executive mansion for various items including dry goods, toilet soaps, combs, brushes, cards, decorations, chamois-skins, cooking utensils, mirrors, hammocks, washing, table-ware, and many other articles not necessary for the repair of the executive mansion; he it resolved by the senate, the house concurring herein, that a special joint-committee be appointed whose duty it shall be to examine the auditor's report issued in the year 1886 and ascertain whether the said expenditures in said report are all warranted by law." Verily, as Heraklitus of Ephesus had it, all things flow. There is only Ginnell left now: but as comrade Holmes of Chicago says, every dog has his day, and surely Nemesis will reach him too.

Newark, N.J., January 23, 1889.

HENRY F. CHARLES.

"I detest leading men. I've seen enough of these gentry in my time. They are like goats in a young plantation; they do harm everywhere. They stand in the path of a free man, wherever he turns, and I should be glad if we could exterminate them like other noxious animals. The fact is that the strongest man upon earth is he who stands most alone."—*Henrik Ibsen*.

RUSH-LIGHTS.—An extravagant eccentricity of language, which may mean anything or nothing, is the sure characteristic of a certain kind of popularity which distinguishes the sensationalists in politics, journalism, and religion. The first have been called "Tory Democrats," the second "New Journalists," and the third "Ranters." It is characteristic of all three that they are neither practical or permanent factors in their respective departments as public teachers and leaders. The "Tory Democrat" is now an "extinct volcano," the "New Journalist" is fast approaching the same,—although occasionally there still arises a flicker of alarm in that quarter which is generally extinguished like a farthing dip, leaving no trace behind but a smut and a smell,—but the "Ranter" is presently roaring his "gags" from the holy of holies. The righteous people of the Free McCrie-Roxburgh "Circus" in Edinburgh are beginning to be acknowledged in Scotland as the best rearers of "Ranters." They it was who gave John McNeill to London—a man who can even produce "suppressed laughter" at the sacred Sunday services in Spurgeon's Tabernacle. It is reported in the press that they are about to call the Rev. John Robertson, of Stonehaven Free Church, as Mr. McNeill's successor. The former is not behind the latter with pulpit "gags." In speaking at Stonehaven, on January 30th, he perpetrated the following, which is good for the paid officer of a rigid Calvinist organisation:—"The communicants on the Church rolls were an untrained mob. If polling-booths were put at each church door, and the record collected, they would vote for a distillery on the golden streets and lager-beer saloons on the banks of the river of life (laughter)." . . . "They were to take the citadel of the devil with a rush." Now that is surely an honest confession. On its present lines, the Church is more likely to take and possess the citadel of the devil than the citadel of god. This statement also suggests that the sensationalist sermonisers of to-day need some other name than "ranters" to designate them. The preachers of the old doctrines a hundred years ago were called "Old Lights," and those of the new doctrines "New Lights"; but our storming preachers of to-day are sound in doctrine (they have more sound than sense), and they could all fittingly be classified as "Rushlights." This name would also do for the new journalists and politicians.—G. McL.

IN THE STOREHOUSE OF NATURE.

(REPRINTED FROM "KING LABOUR'S SONG-BOOK," 1861.)

In the storehouse of Nature there's wealth for each comer,
I care not how many or few they may be;
When the bare limbs of Winter appeal to the Summer,
She sends them new vestures befitting and free.
There's no miserly thought to chide her for giving,
No partisan prompting to stamp her with blame;
But directing her favours to those who are living,
She trusts in man's justice to keep him from shame.

All the birds in the air, all the fish in the river,
The wealth that lies buried in land and in sea,
Are the bountiful gifts of a bountiful giver,
Who scorns the injustice that robs you and me.
There is not in this wide world a nation so crowded,
That one human being need perish from dearth;
Look around! in the sunshine, when landscapes are clouded,
Aid tell me if Sorrow be king of the earth!
All we get we return, there's no waste in creation,
No miser e'er carried his store to the grave;
When Labour and Hope guide the strength of a nation,
Kind heaven will rain plenty to succour and save.

JOHN BEDFORD LENO.

THE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

OFFICES: 13 FARRINGTON ROAD, E.C.

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

Executive.—At last Council meeting, in answer to invitation from Norwich Branch, it was agreed to send F. Kitz to take part in Mowbray's Farewell Demonstration in Norwich on Feb. 10th.

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

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

Propaganda Fund.—Collected at Regent's Park, 1s.

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

"COMMONWEAL" GUARANTEE FUND.

The following further sums have been received towards this fund:—Nicol, 6d.; Mrs. Schack, 1s.; J. Presburg, 6d.; H. Davis, 6d.; Blundell, 6d.; Rose, 2s.; Seglie, 6d.; R. Turner, 6d.; J. Turner, 6d.; Latham, 6d.; Kitz, 6d.; Deane, 6d.; Sparing, 6d.; M. Morris, 6d.; Samuels, 1s.; Mainwaring, 2s.; J. Presburg, 6d.; B. W., 6d.; Solomons, 6d.; Friedenholz, 1s.; Matlouski, 4d.; Diemsheitz, 3d.; and V. Dave, 2s. 6d.

Guarantors of Provincial Branches are requested to send up their lists at once.

REPORTS.

LONDON MEMBERS' MEETING, Feb. 4th.—The principal subject for consideration was the *Commonweal*. Several valuable suggestions were made by different members present for reducing the cost, so that the paper may be continued in its present form. It was decided that all suggestions be considered and reported on by the Ways and Means Committee.

LONDON OUTDOOR PROPAGANDA.—Good meetings were held last Sunday at Hammersmith, Fulham, and Regent's Park; Hyde Park meeting stopped by weather. Short meeting held at Leman Street. A slight improvement in the sale of *Weal* at all stations.

CLERKENWELL.—No lecture delivered last Sunday, as members attended Mowbray's benefit at Berner Street.—S. P.

EAST LONDON.—There being a general desire among East End members of S.L. for better organisation with a view to more effective propaganda work in this district, a meeting was held on Sunday afternoon last, and it was agreed to unite the several small branches in the district, and to establish one strong branch in their place. H. Davis was elected secretary *pro tem*, W. Diggins treasurer, and G. Cores librarian *pro tem*. We hope shortly to commence some propaganda here. Members and friends are requested to observe notice in another column.

HAMMERSMITH.—Fair meeting at Latimer Road, Sunday morning; speakers, Tarleton, Mordhurst, Bullock, A. J. Smith; choir sang; *Commonweal* sold fairly. Rain prevented Weltje Road meeting in evening. At Kelmescott House (George Bernard Shaw (Fabian) lectured in something like his old style on "National Wealth"; several questions and brisk discussion. £1 donation from T. E. W. has been handed over by vote to funds of Fulham branch.—G. M.

ABERDEEN.—At indoors meeting on 28th January, Hyndman's article, "Revolution or Reform" was read and discussed. No open-air meeting owing to intensely cold and stormy weather.—L.

GLASGOW.—On Sunday, at 2.30, Glasier and Joe Burgoyne addressed a large audience on Jail Square. At five o'clock the same speakers addressed a meeting at Paisley Road, where 2s. 8½d. was collected for Seamen's strike. In the Maxwell Parish Church, at seven o'clock, our comrade Rev. John Glasse, Edinburgh, gave a vigorous and pronounced sermon in favour of Socialism to a crowded congregation.

ISWICH.—A good meeting held here on February 3rd; W. Moore, of Norwich, and C. Reynolds spoke. All *Weals* sold out. Mowbray will speak at Yarmouth next Sunday, at 11 a.m. The branch has secured a temporary room at 48 Row, next Co-operative Stores, and will hold their first meeting to-morrow (Monday night) where Reynolds will lay the principles of Socialism before the members.—G. R.

NORWICH.—Friday last large meeting of members held, important business transacted. The members have resolved to unite and make future propaganda a success. The following officers were appointed: A. T. Sutton re-elected secretary, A. Moore assistant secretary, G. Poyntz treasurer, W. Moore librarian. Sunday afternoon usual open-air meeting held in Market Place only for a short time, as we gave way to some friends taking our stand to hold meeting protesting against imprisonment of O'Brien, at which Mowbray also spoke. In evening Adams lectured in Gordon Hall to good audience on "Progress and Poverty"; meeting opened by singing "No Master"; chair taken by Darley; very interesting lecture, supported by the chairman; Poyntz and Mowbray concluding with a general discussion. Good sale of *Commonweal*, and collections during the day.

LECTURE DIARY.

LONDON.

O'erkenwell.—Hall of the Socialist League, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. (3-minute from Farringdon Station, 1 minute from Holborn Viaduct). Members who cannot attend are requested to send in their subscriptions due, with card, to branch, if they can do so without inconvenience to themselves, or otherwise communicate with secretary. Committee meeting every Sunday at 7.30 p.m. Lecture on Sunday February 10, at 8.30 p.m. Blundell "A Socialist Line of Demarcation." Sun. 17, Brookes, "The French Revolution of '89." Sun. 24, Mrs. Schack, "How Women can Help the Socialist Movement." Sun. March 3, H. Davis, "Objections to Socialism Answered."

East London.—26 Cawley Road, Victoria Park. Next meeting will be held Sunday February 10, at 4.30 p.m. Secretaries of dissolved branches (London Fields, Bethnal Green, and Hackney) please attend. Members and friends desiring to join this branch should at once send their names to the secretary, H. Davis 97 Boston Street, Hackney Road.

Fulham.—8 Effie Road, Walham Green. Committee meetings on Sunday evenings at 7 o'clock sharp. All members are earnestly requested to attend. Sunday February 10, at 8 p.m., R. Catterson Smith, "A Sketch of the French Revolution of 1789" (Carlyle).

Hammermith.—Kelmscott House, Upper Mall, W. Sunday February 10, at 8 p.m., E. Belfort Bax, "The Marxian Theory of Value." Wednesday 13, at 8 p.m., Mrs. Annie Besant (Fabian), "Physical Force."

Hoxton.—12, Basing Place, Kingsland Rd. Business meetings held every Friday evening at 9 o'clock.

Mitcham.—Meets every Sunday, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road, at 11 a.m.

North London.—6 Windmill Street, Tottenham Court Road. Meets every Friday evening at 8 o'clock. Friday February 8, Debate between G. Cores and White (S.D.F.).

Walworth and Camberwell.—Committee meeting every Monday, at 7.30 p.m., at 3 Datchelor Place, Church Street, Camberwell Green.

Whitechapel and St. Georges in the East.—International Club, 40 Berner Street, Commercial Road.

Wimbledon and Merton.—All those desirous of helping in and around Wimbledon and Merton, should communicate with F. Kitz, 3 Clare Villas, Merton Road.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen (Scottish Section).—Secretary, P. Barron, 14 Ann Street. Branch meets in Oddfellows Hall on Monday nights at 8. Choir practice at 46 Marischal Street on Thursday evenings at 8.

Bradford.—Read's Coffee Tavern, Ivegate. Meets Tuesdays at 8.

Carnoustie (Scottish Section: Forfarshire).—Meeting every Wednesday, at 8 p.m., in the Carnoustie Restaurant. Samuel Wilson, Secy.

Dundee (Scot. Sect.).—Meetings every Sunday in the Trades Hall, opposite Tay Bridge Station.

Dublin.—Dublin Socialist Club, 16 Dawson Street. All persons desirous of joining are requested to communicate with A. C. O'Connell at above address.

Edinburgh (Scottish Land and Labour League).—35 George IV. Bridge. Meetings for Discussion, Thursdays at 8 p.m. William Morris will lecture on "Equality" on Wednesday 13th, at 8 p.m. Place of meeting will be announced at Sunday joint-meetings of S.D.F. and S.L.

Galashiels (Scot Sect.).—J. Walker, 184 Glendinning Terrace, 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 Street. Reading-room (Draughts, Chess, etc.) open 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. daily. Weekly meeting of members on Thursday evenings at 8. French Class meets every Sunday at 11.—SPECIAL NOTICE.—William Morris will lecture on "The Society of the Future" in the Albion Hall, on Sunday 10th February, at 7 o'clock. Admission: body of hall, collection at door; gallery, 6d. Gathering of members in rooms on Sunday at 1.30 to meet Wm. Morris.

Kilmarnock.—Secretary, H. McGill, 22 Gilmour St. Branch meets on every alternate Tuesday.

Leeds.—Clarendon Buildings, Victoria Rd. and Front Row. Open every evening. Business meeting Saturdays at 8 p.m.

Leicester.—Hosiery Union Offices, 11a Millstone Lane. Fridays at 8 p.m.

Norwich.—Sunday, at 3 p.m., a great farewell demonstration will be held in the Market Place to Mowbray, who is leaving for London; members of the branch will take part, also Frank Kitz (London). At 8 p.m., in the Gordon Hall, Mowbray will give positively his last address. Monday, at 8 p.m., in the Gordon Hall, addresses will be delivered to the members only; all comrades should attend. Tuesday, at 8.30, Members' Meeting. Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, Gordon Hall open from 8 until 10.30. Saturday, 8 until 10.30, Co-operative Clothing Association.

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

Walsall.—Lecture Room, back of Temperance Hall. Mondays at 8 p.m.

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

Yarmouth.—All desiring to join branch in course of formation here should communicate with C. Reynolds, Row 45, George Street, who is acting as Secretary *pro tem.*

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

OPEN-AIR PROPAGANDA.

(Weather permitting.)

SUNDAY 10.

11.30...Latimer Road Station ...Hammersmith Branch
11.30...Regent's ParkParker
11.30...Walham Green, opp. Station.....The Branch
3.30...Hyde Park.....McCormick
3.30...Victoria ParkHicks
7.30...Broad Street, SohoThe Branch
7.30...Clerkenwell GreenNicoll
7.30...Weltje Rd., Ravenscourt Pk.....Hammersmith

Tuesday.

8.30...Fulham—back of Walham Green Ch. ...Branch

EAST END.

SUNDAY 10.

Leman Street, Shadwell 11 ...Mrs. Schack.

PROVINCES.

Aberdeen.—Saturday: Castle Street, at 7.30 p.m.
Glasgow.—Sunday: Glasgow Green at 2 p.m.; Paisley Road at 5.30.

Leeds.—Sunday: Hunslet Moor, at 11 a.m.; Vicar's Croft, at 7 p.m.

Norwich.—Sunday: Market Place, at 3.

Yarmouth.—Priory Plain, at 3 every Sunday.

NORTH HACKNEY RADICAL CLUB, 83 Church Street, Stoke Newington.—Sunday February 10, at 8.30, Rev. J. Cartmel-Robinson, "The Puritan Rebellion."

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

MONARCH COFFEE HOUSE, Bethnal Green Road.—"Large Families the Sole and Only Cause of Poverty." Dr. C. Drysdale will lecture on the above on Sunday February 10.

THE SOCIALIST CO-OPERATIVE FEDERATION—The Committee will meet at 63 Lincoln's Inn Fields, on Saturday Feb. 8 at 7.30 p.m., to enroll members and receive subscriptions.

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

SOUTH LONDON.—Friends who will help to establish a Branch of the Socialist League in South London will please place themselves in communication with C. Henze, 41 Bolton Street, Thomas Street, Kennington Park, S.E., or by letter to H. Hopkins, 17 Gairloch Road, Shenley Road, Peckham, S.E.

DRUM AND FIFE BAND.—Next meeting will be held at 13 Farringdon Road, Sunday February 10, at 7 p.m. Contributions in aid of the funds are urgently needed, and should be forwarded to E. Turner, treasurer, care of F. Kitz, 13 Farringdon Rd. Any comrade capable of taking the post of instructor to the Band is requested to communicate with G. Cores, Secretary *pro tem.*, Farringdon Road.

IPSWICH LABOUR LEAGUE.—Pioneer Club, Theatre Yard, Tacket Street.—Sunday February 3, a debate took place between Thomas and Spinks on "Is a Representative Government Necessary?" Its uselessness and evils were well put. Questions put and fairly answered negatively. Next Sunday there will be a debate between Spinks and Read on "Are Parliamentary Governments Failures?"

NOTICE.

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

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EDITED BY BENOIT MALON.

8, Rue des Martyrs, Paris.

SUMMARY OF THE JANUARY NUMBER.

"The Confluents of Socialism," B. Malon; "The Right to Strike, and its Consequences," F. Bouley; "Violence," G. Tridon; "Essay on Scientific Socialism," P. Angryades; "Alcoholism," E. Fourniere; "Alarm Cry," A. Verber; "Socialist poetry," E. Herbel; "Mme. de Barrau," Emile de Morsier; "Social Movement," A. Verber; Correspondence; Books.

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