SIGNALS OF THE TIMES.

As a consequence of the crisis, the shower of "Court holy-water" has been falling pretty fast and heavy, but the jingoistic circles are not entirely without the garnet for Mr. Millais and Mr. G. F. Watts. Mr. Watts has declined the "honour" however, a fact which artists must rejoice over, as Mr. Watts, in spite of his being a member of Sir John Everett Millais's "great four," is once a great painter, now a great picture-dealer, seems to have accepted. His acceptance does not disgrace his second calling. — W. M.

A new Socialist paper, the Worker's Friend, has been started by the Jewish section. This journal, which is printed in Hebrew character, and appears monthly, promises, so far as can be judged from the first number, to be a very useful co-worker in the cause.

At a meeting held at Morley Hall, Hackney, on July 1, in favour of Mr. Keir Hardie, Q.C., Parliamentary candidate for the Bethnal Green Division, the chairman, in introducing the audience, informed them, among other extraordinary things, that he (the chairman) was not in favour of the State lending small farmers money to buy a farm, and that, next to that, was Socialism. There is evidently ground for good work in Hackney.

The second volume of Karl Marx's work Capital is now out in Germany. It is on the circulation, and is almost purely scientific.

The third part, the manuscript of most of which is in hand, will be the most likely reading of the three. Those who know the author and play of passion and ideas held within the second part of the volume are written down something of what to expect.

E. A.

BRANCH REPORTS.

INTERNATIONAL EXCURSION.—On Sunday, July 9, an excursion of Revolutionaries, organised by the International Club, was made from the Palace of Westminster, took the steamer, and reached the Scotch Border on July 16, a whole day. On their return journey, they were met and kindly received by the working men of Carlisle. A large number of people met them in the railway station and were present at the meeting in the Coffee Room.

BLOOMSBURY.—Since the public meeting in June, this branch has started a series of meetings for further discussion. On Wednesday, July 12, they took the form of a talk on "What is Socialism?" followed by a series of interesting questions and answers. The chairman, Mr. G. H. Stone, and the members of the branch were present at the meeting and took part in the discussion.

OXFORD.—This Branch of the Longes has met weekly, and has had discussions on subjects ranging from the ideas of the late economist Mr. W. T. Stead, to the social and political issues of the day. Some good debates have been held, and we hope to continue the meetings next autumn.

LEEDS.—A meeting had been held on Sunday, the 10th, at the Victoria's Croft, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by an assembly of about 50 working men: "That we heartily admire and applaud the efforts of Mr. Beesley, and that we support him heart and soul in his work for the abolition of Capitalism.

That we are greatly indebted to the Leeds Socialist League for their conciliatory action in bringing about this meeting, and that we hope to have many more such meetings."

THAMES.—On Monday, July 17, Mr. Aveling and the chairman of the Manchester branch held a discussion on the subject.

MANNING.—On Saturday, July 13, the Manchester Socialist Club, held a good day. The meeting was held at the Memorial Hall, and the house was occupied by the members and friends assembled in force and gave him the heartiest of welcomes. A short address was given by Mr. Aveling, and then the whole meeting adjourned to the Hotel for dinner.

The Manchester branch have been very successful in their meetings and discussions, and we hope to see them continue in the same way.

FREEMAN.—A small lecture was held on Octon, Marx and Blauhl, on July 19, at the Globe Hotel, Peckham, to a good audience, who received the lecture well, and an interesting discussion followed.

MANNING.—A meeting was held on the afternoon of Sunday, July 12, at the Cumberlidge Gardens at Rotton, subject: "The Depression of Trade," Mr. Lord, an old friend of the Manchester Socialist Club, was present. The audience, largely composed of young men, was attentive, but the subject of Socialism was not touched upon. The members of the Old Comrades asked questions, one student among them taking the floor, and another the floor of the chairman. The lecturer, assured the audience that the depression of trade was good, and throughout the meeting the greatest interest was shown in Socialism. All the newspapers have given excellent reports of the proceedings, and the Manchester Evening News wrote: "The day's lecture was worth, we think, the long wait. — Thomas Elwin.

PECKHAM.—A. B. C. Beesley lectured on Owen, Marx and Blauhl, on July 19, at the Globe Hotel, Peckham, to a good audience, who received the lecture well, and an interesting discussion followed.

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L E C T U R E D A I R Y : August, 1885.

Sunday — 2. —Ammersham, J. L. Mahon, at 8 p.m. — Herbert, G., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, G. W., at 8.30 p.m.

Monday — 3. —Kensington, W. M. Marsden, at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, G. C., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, W. M., at 8.30 p.m.

Tuesday — 4. —Kensington, W. M. Marsden, and G. C., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, G. W., at 8.30 p.m.

Wednesday — 5. —Kensington, W. M. Marsden, G. C., and G. W., at 8.30 p.m.

Thursday — 6. —Luton, J. L. Mahon, at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, W. M., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, G. C., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, G. W., at 8.30 p.m.

Friday — 7. —Kensington, W. M. Marsden, and G. C., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, W. M., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, G. C., at 8.30 p.m. — Hove, G. W., at 8.30 p.m.

BRANCH MEETING ROOMS.

Hove (E. L. & S.), Exchange Hotel, Field Street, opposite Hove Church, N. Perrott, K. M. Perrott, 26 High Street, W. M. Marsden, at 10.30 p.m. — Hove, W. M., at 10.30 p.m. — Hove, G. C., at 10.30 p.m. — Hove, G. W., at 10.30 p.m.

Bradford — Laycock's Temperance Hotel, Kirkgate. Meetings every Wednesday. Sympathisers invited.

Manchester Socialist Union — County Forum, Market Street, Manchester. Meets at 10.30 p.m. on the second Thursday in each month.

Oddfellows — Coffee Tavern, York Street. Meets every Monday at 7.30 p.m.

OPEN AIR PROPAGANDA.

(Socialist literature should be on sale at all the meetings. Each speaker will always carry a supply of the Commonwealth.)

North London.—The Golden Statue Committee, 12, Union Church Road, every Tuesday evening at 9 p.m., from 11 to 12, Mr. Perry, 11, H. H. Sparking, 18, D. Nicol; 25, W. G. Wade.

Hove (E. L. & S.), Exchange Hotel, Field Street, opposite Hove Church, Thursday evening from 7 to 8 p.m., every Tuesday at 8 p.m., every Saturday at 10.30 p.m., and Wednesday at 10.30 p.m.; Mr. Perry, 11, H. H. Sparking, 18, D. Nicol; 25, W. G. Wade.

Isle of Wight, every Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m.

Bradford — Laycock's Temperance Hotel, Kirkgate. Meetings every Wednesday. Sympathisers invited.