May, 1885.

THE COMMONWEAL.

35.

should consider whether murder is a crime simply because it is forbidden by law, or whether it would be so equally on some desolate island where no law existed. From that he may go on to consider slighter and more complex cases of interference with person or property, and in due course come to the conclusion that there must be laws of ethics as certain as those of mathematics, though the factors in any given problem may be more complicated. On the second question, his reasoning appears to borrow from the idea of living in a state of nature. We entirely agree with him that "the education of the so-called upper or wealthy classes (on this subject) is an imperative necessity," and we ask him what more potent factor in that education can be conceived than a demonstration how to live on the face of others without acting unjustly? Those amongst these classes who desire to do what is right will need no further argument, and even those who are careless of anything but gain and position will be inclined to reason as they do when they find that those others are waking to the sense of their rights. Then with regard to the workers themselves, unless we are very much mistaken, they would sooner live in comfort on the charity of others, and it is easier to the manufacturer to do without any justice than to his profit to do without any justice. The wages which they receive are not only proportionately less; and in proportion as the mental one is complete will all danger of a sanguinary one be averted. We hope Professor Pearson may yet do good, but pity the man who is so content with his position as to make a rest on a basis of justice will have as little success now as they have had for the last 1800 years.

Frank Fairman.

SIGNS OF THE TIMES.

The subjoined paragraph from the Manchester Evening News is a fine sample of modern philanthropic Charimachism. It is a pity the Mahdi does not understand Political Economy. "If we can do anything to rescue the poor Southerners from Arches for the thousands of the South and the Kurouba, and give them the blessings of English Government, we ought, on grounds of commonhumanity, to do it. The Souland might have been a profitee possession to Egypt, but it would be profitable enough to those who would do it, and to the people of the West also. If a Pacha, in the course of three years, can squeeze £60,000 out of the helpless people of Khartoum, and if some of the merchants who sit all day in their little stalls in the bazaar are really millionaires, and could buy up many of our London merchant princes, there must be many opportunities for making money in the Souland, and under English rule it would prove a valuable opening for English commerce. The money which now swells the ill-gotten gains of Pachand would then, by the legitimate operations of trade, find its way among our English manufacturers and workmen. The Berber railway may yet repay our military sacrifices." Amen.—W. S.

The infamous Ferry is at last exposed in some measure. He has been hanged and branded as a liar. The following passage from the address of the International on the Commune of 1871 reads significantly. The Radicals of England in 1871 were ruthless and dogmatic men, with Marx for his pitiless denunciation of Ferry. Let us see whether he was not in the right. "Jules Ferry, a penniless barrister before the 4th of September, contrived, as Mayor of Paris during the siege, a profitable occupation out of famine. The day on which France would have to give an account of his mal-administration would be the day of his conviction."—M. Vembéry is to deliver lectures on "Herat from a Commercial and Industrial Point of View." It will go hard but the English capitalists, Spylocks in all the bad and in none of the good qualities, "will believe his instruction." The new book by Stendhal, "Russia under the Tzars," will appear about the beginning of May. Socialists who know how Stendhal writes will be more eager to see a work that promises to be even more interesting than his "Underground Russia." Some of our readers will remember the part played of late years in our "politics" by Mr. Gladstone's Egeria, Olga Novikoff. A certain coquette, Madeleine Valtesse (Madeleine, because she had as many husbands as she had husbands), was once discovered at a shameful Tonkin expedition. She was then the suggestion she had who gave the lesson learnt from Mlle. Valtesse, and really believed he had hit on a means of saving his fastwaning prestige. Gambetta dead, M. Ferry accepted his policy. Hence the whole shameful "war." Madame Novikoff and Mlle. Valtesse! Vive l'ordre et sa famille!"

In delivering his charge, the Bishop of Bath and Wells said that the growth of Socialism was deeply affecting both the Church and the State. Opinions were now widely spread utterly inconsistent with notions of property, and the people were demoralised by their preva-

lent influence. Several recent Acts of Parliament arose from this loosened sense of the sanctity of the rights of property, and to have prepared the way for still greater departures from ancient principle. A school of thought had arisen whose schemes for getting rid of poverty and removing all social inequalities, was for the State, an act of confiscation and plunder, to take possession of the land, to abolish private property, and to divide the produce of the soil among the people, and this insane and iniquitous scheme actually found favour with a large number of working men, alike blind to the first principles of honesty and their own interests, and even, with some clergyman. Such a spirit was one of the most dangerous features of the present time, and if it were to spread would be the destruction of Society.—E. A.

In declaring for Socialism another member of the "respectable" class has fallen out of the ranks, and denounces the competitive system of industry. Says Mr. Charles Rowley, jun., of Manchester, "I am an economist." Reviewers of Socialism.—"Let us each decide what is just in the matter, and then give ourselves no rest until we achieve, or hope to achieve, a better state. Our supposition on most of these vital social questions is simply im-

moral. Why do we keep speaking of the "exploited," the shipowners who send ships and men to sea for the sole purposes of being lost? We are to make a revolution, not because it is a work of justice, but because it is a necessity. A mill owner who fattens on a high death-rate among his children. We hang a few poor and wicked wretches who are born and who are made so by our vicious arrangements. The real criminals escape, and yet we know them, and we hope to bring them to their knees, yet they escape. But be of good cheer! The time is evidently coming when we shall "suit the word to the action and the action to the word," then a thief will be called a thief and treated accordingly. This "better state" we hope and think you will help us to achieve.—W. M.

REVIEWS AND NOTICES.

The Socialism of To-Day. By Enid de Laveleye. Translated by G. L. Field. Benn. Field's political tracts are the most readable and known work, "Le Socialismes Contempor flirt." The space at our disposal will not permit us to enter upon an elaborate criticism of the bourgeois commentator's in many respects distorted exposition of the different phases of modern Socialism. Needless to say, we have the back apologies of the capitalist advocate trotted out. M. de Laveleye's mild refutations of scientific economics may be translated, and are to serve, with those acquainted with the subject, to while away the tedious journey. If we cannot take pains to lay aside our prejudices and find a fertile and intelligent mind in a thorough ignoring the moralizing doctrines of economic revolutionaries. Turning to Mr. Orpen's share of the present work, his translation, we may observe, is worthy of a better medium. The translation of the first chapter shows an evident desire to be fair, though it is not entirely accurate as to facts. It might be made fuller with advantage in a second edition.

E. B. B.

Social Politics. By Charles Rowley, Jun. John Heywood, Manchester.—There is an allusion in the "Signs of the Times" to this pamphlet, which is undoubtedly a sign of the times, and a cheering one. Mr. Rowley says as no means much, and the pamphlet is printed on the inside of the cover show that he has grasped the essential fact of the class struggle and known that the worker's lot cannot really be bettered except by a revolution, and that, so long as the capitalist is the expense of the exploiters. It is a pity, since this is the time he should have taken the word "expansion of England" into his mouth except to condemn it, and that he favours emigration as a remedy for class evils, if he really means this. If those who are most keenly stung by the evils of class domination, and at the same time have energy to resist them, leave the country which is the very forge of class domination, their desire will surely put off the Revolution which Mr. Rowley desires, and make it more disorderly when it comes, as it must come. "The expansion of England" means the transfer of capital to other countries and the perpetuation in our own of these horrors, of that State in life, which Mr. Rowley regards as the true England. The course the expanded England of Professor Seeley is by no means the England which Mr. Rowley hopes for, and which will certainly be attained at all events. Mr. Seeley believes that does roundabout to avoid the entire abolition of classes.—W. M.