



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

Communications are invited from all concerned with social questions. They should be written on one side of the paper only and should be addressed to the Editors of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. They must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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

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All business communications to be addressed to the Manager of the COMMONWEAL, 13 Farringdon Road, E.C. Business communications must NOT be sent to the Editors. All remittances should be made in Postal Orders or halfpenny stamps.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

NOTICE TO ALL SOCIALISTIC NEWSPAPERS.—The *Commonweal* will be regularly sent to all Socialistic Contemporaries throughout the world, and it is hoped that they on their side will regularly provide the Socialist League with their papers as they may appear.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 18.

ENGLAND		TOLEDO (O.)—Industrial News	BELGIUM
Justice		Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair
Southport Visiter		San Francisco (Cal.)—Truth	SPAIN
Freethinker		New Haven (Conn.)—Work-	Madrid—El Socialista
The Socialist		men's Advocate	Bandera Social
Norwich—Daylight		Washington (D. C.)—National	El Grito del Pueblo
INDIA		View	PORTUGAL
Madras—People's Friend		Portland (Oreg.) Avant-Courier	O Campino
Allahabad—People's Budget		Salem (Oreg.) Advance-Thought	O Seculo
Calcutta Statesman		Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	Voz do Operario
CANADA		Chicago (Ill.)—Vorbote	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Montreal—L'Union Ouvriere		Daily News	
UNITED STATES		Detroit (Mich.)—Labor Leaf	HOLLAND
New York—Volkszeitung		Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Recht voor Allen
Der Sozialist		FRANCE	AUSTRIA
Freiheit		Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	Brunn—Volksfreund
Truthseeker		Le Revolte	HUNGARY
John Swinton's Paper		Le Socialiste	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
Boston—Liberty		La Revue Socialiste	NORWAY
Woman's Journal		La Tribune des Peuples	Social-Democraten
Denver (Col.) Labor Inquirer		Guise—Le Devoir	SWITZERLAND
Little Socialist		Lille—Le Travailleur	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat

RECEIVED.—"Moderation"—"The Amsterdam Riots"—"Advertisement"—"Capiialistic Advantages of Vegetarianism."

NOTES ON PASSING EVENTS.

It is worthy of remark that while there are some brief notices in the Tory evening prints of the trial of our comrades, those papers that were most open-mouthed in support of the freedom of speech in the Dod Street affair, have not one word to say on this much more important case; if we except the *Weekly Dispatch*, which condemns the action of the police and the prosecution generally, though strangely enough it considers £20 a "small fine"; and still more *Reynolds*, who condemns the conduct of the authorities without qualification. One cause of this poltroonery is clear enough. Sir Charles Warren calls himself a Liberal or Radical, and is also, it is said, a Salvationist. No doubt he reckons on being able to let his friends of that "religion" have a good deal of their own way; but is he so sure that he will be able to do so?

As to the Tory papers, of course one does not go to them for support of freedom of speech, and their hard words do not break our bones. The *Globe* is as befits its "pinkness", philistine, dull and moderate. The *Evening News* has a joke not so bad as to the possibility of a Socialist behaving well for a whole year. Our romantic friend the *St. James's Gazette*, follows its kind; the report tells the obvious lie that Mainwaring's speech was almost a repetition of Mr. Thompson's. The budding genius who has written the leaderette says they were "ordered to enter into recognizances of £20 each and to find sureties for their good behaviour." The rest of this novelist's romance is not worth quoting; but really the editor should keep an eye on the cheap boys who do the inferior (?) work for him.

A friend writing from Bedford says that the working-men there about call the first morning train that brings down the newspapers, the Liar Train. There must be glimmerings of sense in the creatures, as Paillie Nicoll Jarvie says of the highlander.

The platitudinous speech of Lord Salisbury delivered at the Mansion House banquet contained nothing in it except a taunt against the working-classes of England for not having or not using the vote, and a sort of veiled intimation which there was no need to give, veiled or otherwise, that the Irish question was to be shelved as long as possible, and that the present Government would go as far in the way of coercion as they durst. But it was no wonder that the tone of the speech should be self-gratulatory as far as the party is concerned, as there is little likelihood that he will be disturbed by the "Liberal Party," wherever that is to be found.

I owe an apology to Mr. Cook, of Birmingham, for assuming last week that he was likely to be successful in his attempt to get himself returned for East Birmingham. But it did appear that he had made up his mind to win, and it is clear that he could only win by ratting just so far as would please the Jingoos of that borough. It is satisfactory that he has refused to do so; but meantime it seems to be growing clearer that if the "Liberal Party" ever unite once more it must be under the leadership of Lord Hartington, and his humble follower Mr. Joseph Chamberlain; which would be a bad look-out indeed if the "Liberal Party" were what it gives itself out to be, to wit, the bearer of the torch of progress into the dark places of the earth. Fortunately there is something behind all that, which did indeed push the Liberal Party into its late position, and which is preparing to take its place. Lord Hartington and Mr. Chamberlain and their Whigs may shut the shutters, but that will not prevent the sun from rising.

We have not yet had the pleasure of meeting our French comrades in labour who have come over to England to study the differences between our slavery and theirs. We can at least assure them of our sympathy; and we shall believe that if any of them have any doubts of the necessity of Revolutionary Socialism as the only remedy for the misery of the workers, they will have those doubts removed by what they see here—our commercial successes on the one hand, our social failures on the other.

Sentence of seven years' penal servitude was passed on a man (a Russian) the other day for having in his possession a block for printing Russian bank notes. Of course we all know that commerce safeguards itself by most ferocious punishments as compared to those meted out to offenders against the person of their fellow-citizens; but apart from this, what was the crime for which this man is being punished? The wrappings of conventionality being stripped from the case, we perceive it to be that he designed to *live without producing*. It must be admitted that this is a heavy offence, because it entails infinite misery on the world if it is widely committed, and especially if those who commit it manage to acquire large fortunes, as they often do, and along with them the respect and admiration of the greater part of mankind. Heavens! what a cost we shall be at for new prisons, jailers, and so forth, when all these criminals are under lock and key, from the highest aristocracy down to the lowest pettifogging lawyer or unjust judge! Here, as with other criminals, turning them into honest men working for their livelihood is the cheaper and cleaner remedy. A remedy which, alas! these foolish persons will resist tooth and nail, invoking the ten commandments to protect their special robbery all the while; so that it is to be feared that they must be compelled to be honest, since argument does not touch them.

W. M.

The *Daily News* recently indulged in a sorry piece of rhodomontade *apropos* of the late execution of the poisoner, Mary Ann Britland, at Manchester. The *Daily News* had no word of support for the abolition of capital punishment when proposed in the last Parliament. It has never, apparently, experienced the "thrill of horror" it speaks of on this occasion, on any one of the many former occasions, when some wretched man has had to undergo the extreme penalty of the law for, perhaps, a fatal blow given in haste, and who has *also* had to be dragged in a state of prostration by warders to the scaffold. Yet because Mrs. Britland, although admittedly guilty of murder tenfold as calculated and atrocious, happens to be a woman, and to have made a loud noise over being hanged, the middle-class sheet waxes maudlin. But, after all, perhaps our governing classes, who refuse to abolish the hangman's office in obedience to justice and humanity, may grant it to the braying of a sickly and passive sentimentalism, which they can better appreciate.—E. B. B.

One characteristic of our time should not be forgotten by the privileged classes: that is, the enormous increase of the intellectual proletariat. A French contemporary, writing on this subject, shows that in Germany the number of students has doubled in fourteen years. It is pretty much the case in our own country, though I have not the exact figures. There is no doubt that there is an ever-increasing number of men of high education thrown on the world, without any prospect of earning sufficient to supply their wants, which, owing to their education, are very considerable. The Indian service is becoming blocked with numberless applicants, and so it is all round the other Government offices. The supply of teachers at present is enormously greater than the demand; I know of many graduates of universities that are working for less than £2 a-week. It appears evident that this intellectual proletariat is a very dangerous element in our present society, from the point of view of the plundering class. Because, once these men become alive to the fact that the shopkeepers and manufacturers are, generally speaking, most ignorant men, they will take