The platitudeous speech of Lord Salisbury delivered at the Mansion House banquet contained what was so far as I know except its large share of praise 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 too long as possible, and that the present Government would go as far in the direction of depression 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 elected to the House of Commons, as I have now been assured that he did not return 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 rating fairly as would please the jingoists of the House of Commons. It is clear that the Address of the Tory 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. Chamberlain; whose "Liberalism" is to be trusted. Only if the "Liberal Party" were what it gives itself out to be, to wit, the beater of the torch of progress into the dark places of the earth. Fortunately there is something behind all that, which did indeed prove 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 it was to be endeavored here any doubt 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.

Sentences of seven years' penal servitude was passed on a man (a Russian) the other day for having in his possession a block for printing bank-notes. Of course here it could have been settled 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 worst crimes of convention by 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 to be committed; without license to commit it manages to acquire large fortunes, as they often do, and along with them the respect and admiration of the greater part of mankind. Heaven's! what a cost we shall all be for new appointments, the less 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 renounce their crime before argument does not touch them.

W. M.

The Daily News recently indulged in a sorry piece of rhodomontade apropos of the low estimate of the point of view of the Govern-ment. 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 had 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. Britain, 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 government is a misrepresented and unappreciated one, for we are in the 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.

One characteristic of this year's parliamentary elections 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 more and more a career, with numerous 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 who 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 classes. Because, once these men become alive to the fact that the shopkeepers and manufacturers are, generally speaking, most ignorant men, they will take