



"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.

Rejected MSS. can only be 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.

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.

W. R. (Halifax).—Would you mind communicating with the Manager at this address?

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday August 25.

ENGLAND	Boston—Woman's Journal	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)
Southport Visiter	Denver (Col.) Labor Inquirer	Le Socialiste
Free thinker	Little Socialist	La Revue Litteraire
Bristol Mercury	Toledo (O.)—Industrial News	BELGIUM
Norwich—Daylight	Cincinnati (O.) Unionist	Brussels—Le Chante-Clair
Leicester—Countryman	San Francisco (Cal.)—Truth	SPAIN
Club and Institute Journal	New Haven (Conn.)—Work-	Madrid—El Socialista
INDIA	men's Advocate	Cadiz—El Socialismo
Madras—People's Friend	Washington (D. C.)—National	Barcelona—La Justicia Humana
Allahabad—People's Budget	View	HOLLAND
Bombay—Times of India	Portland (Oreg.) Avant-Courier	Recht voor Allen
CANADA	Springfield (Ill.)—Voice of Labor	HUNGARY
Toronto—Labor Reformer	Chicago (Ill.)—Verbote	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
UNITED STATES	Herald	NORWAY
New York—Volkszeitung	Tribune	Social-Democrat
Der Sozialist	Times	SWITZERLAND
Freiheit	Milwaukee (Wis.)—Volksblatt	Zurich—Sozial Demokrat
Truthseeker	FRANCE	
	Guise—Le Devoir	

RECEIVED.—"Moderation"—"The Government and Ireland"—"Advertisement"—"Crime under Socialism."

MISANTHROPY TO THE RESCUE!

A PAPER read by Mr. Wordsworth Donnisthorpe at the Fabian Conference has been printed in the *Anarchist*. It excited much interest at the time when it was read, and aroused no little indignation in the minds of some of the Socialists that heard it; but printed, it does not seem a very remarkable piece, being simply an example of the ordinary pessimistic paradoxical exercises which are a disease of the period, and whose aim would seem to be the destruction of the meaning of language. Thus Mr. Donnisthorpe declares himself an evolutionist, but his evolution simply runs round the circle; and in fact what he really means is the ordinary assertion that no condition of things but the present one is really natural and enduring; or, to put it in another way, that slavery is a necessity and that the latest development is the best, as it is the most veiled and therefore the safest for the slaveholder. This is indeed the due conclusion for the secretary of the Liberty and Property Defence League to arrive at; but it is a little curious that some people should have been ensnared by his not very ingenious fallacies, and supposed that he was covertly supporting some advanced doctrine or other. To these I commend his concluding sentences: "The best system that I could bethink myself of if my opinion were asked would be the system of private property. To every man the fruits of his labour. If this view was adopted a state of things would arise exactly like what we have now," etc. "To every man the fruits of his labour." Might one make bold to ask Mr. Donnisthorpe what are the fruits of the labour of a duke, a shareholder, or a lawyer? The worst enemy of the non-producing classes would scarcely grudge them the fruits of their labour—nothing, to wit. If Mr. Donnisthorpe is not misreported, this sentence is a curious one to come from a man who affects such exactness of thought.

But indeed all these abstractions of Mr. Donnisthorpe's are but Politics in the Moon. In spite of his dyspeptic pessimism, human beings will always take interest in one another, and will have some

sort of common aspirations; even, what doubtless will be a frightful word to Mr. Donnisthorpe, some religion, some bond of responsibility to each other. It is impossible for no other relations between men to exist long save those between the bester and the bested, the slave and the slaveholder; society will arise and grow in spite of all calculations founded on a one-sided view of men's struggles for self-preservation: nay, it exists now outside the world held together by those arbitrary rules which are sustained for the upholding of private property, and which Mr. Donnisthorpe really means when he speaks of liberty; and indeed it is just that rudimentary and as yet vague society of well-wishers, into which people are attracted by the interest in each other as human beings, which holds the world together until it shall be forced into a completer society by the march of economical events. It is true, as Mr. Donnisthorpe says, that the working-classes are degraded, though whether they are more degraded than their degraders is another matter; but it is not because they produce that they are degraded, but because they are kept poor by arbitrary rules in favour of property. But poor as they are, they now have before them the prospect of getting poorer, while at the same time they are growing less ignorant; or say the luxury of keeping masters to employ them is getting so expensive that it threatens to ruin both master and man, and that while the masters have no way of escape, the men have a simple one—to wit, the getting rid of their masters. This they are beginning to learn, and when they get more perfect with their lesson, and come to understand that they can produce without the help of the lookers-on who pocket so large a part of their product, in spite of all abstractions, and in spite also of misanthropical prophecies they will insist on having "the fruits of their labour." Nay, they will be forced to take steps to having them from the breakdown of that very slave-system of which Mr. Donnisthorpe is such a sedulous supporter. That slave-system is at best preparing widespread commercial ruin, and thereby is performing the last action that it is capable of; it is expending the last force that it has in giving force to the new order of things; it is putrid, but still useful—as dung.

Let us, then, take to heart some of Mr. Donnisthorpe's taunts, and use them for what they are worth. He tells us in a great many words, considering the simplicity of the statement, that if the workers can take over the artificially protected property of the useless classes they have a right to do so, and sarcastically cheers them on in the attempt. It is our business to accept the challenge; and we may at least thank him for not hypocritically deprecating the use of force as a wickedness and immorality in the ordinary fashion of the day. But though the day of change will come at last, surely it will come the quicker if we take to heart those taunts aforesaid. True it is that it is the surroundings of the workers acting on exactly the same material as that of the useless classes which has produced their degradation; but it is possible for men who have once had a religion implanted in them to make that surrounding overcome the others—at least for the practical purposes of revolution. It has been seen over and over how a religion, a principle—whatever you may chose to call it—will transform poltroons into heroes, by forcing men to make the best of their better qualities and making the excess of what they have got in them that is good supply the defects of their lacking qualities. So I think we may, in spite of Mr. Donnisthorpe, each one of us, make ourselves good enough for revolutionists, though in this generation we may fall short of perfection. Yet I admit that it is a difficult thing to do, for it means giving a sense of responsibility in greater or less degree to a great many people; so once more let us take warning by the enemy, and remember that the Religion of Socialism which our manifesto speaks of does call upon us to be better than other people, since we owe ourselves to the SOCIETY which we have accepted as the hope of the future. WILLIAM MORRIS.

A BENEFIT CONCERT

WILL BE HELD AT

FARRINGDON HALL, 13 FARRINGDON ROAD, E.C.,

ON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18th, AT 8 O'CLOCK,

For the purpose of raising Funds to pay the Fine (£20) imposed on SAMUEL MAINWARING at the Middlesex Sessions.

Admission by Programme only. . . Sixpence Each.

Which can be obtained from WM. BLUNDELL, 13, Farringdon Road, E.C.; H. G. ARNOLD, 6, Little Carlisle Street, W.; E. POPE, 6, York Street, Church Street, Bethnal Green, E.; and T. E. WARDLE, 9, Charlotte Street, Bedford Square.

NOTE.—As some of the country Branches have written asking why Mainwaring did not go to prison like Williams, we take the opportunity of stating exactly what the sentence was, viz., That each of the two men should find two securities of £50 each to keep the peace for twelve months, and in addition pay a fine of £20 with no alternative; the two months' being the penalty in the case of not finding the securities, and as Mainwaring is a householder the Crown could sell his goods to levy the £20. The League has no intention of allowing young policemen to buy Mainwaring's furniture at their own prices, so we have determined to pay the fine. THOMAS E. WARDLE, pro Concert Committee.

SALIENT (Catalonia).—Seven factories here have stopped work or diminished the hours of work.

BARCELONA.—A large part of the employés at the bottle factory have struck, the remainder following suit.

CASTELLON.—The Printers' Society have declared a strike at the Armengot establishment, and seem firm and determined to hold out.