



"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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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.

QUESTIONS bearing upon the principles propounded and the objects had in view by the *Commonweal*, will be welcomed by the Editors.

CORRESPONDENTS wanted in Dundee, Rotherham, and Workington.

LIGHTNER, U.S.—Address of *Le Socialiste* is 17 Rue du Croissant, Paris. Subscription, 8 francs per annum.

RECEIVED—*England*: Anarchist—Worker's Friend—Daylight (Norwich)—Christian Socialist—Church Reformer—National Review—Republican—Journal of Vigilance Association—Justice—To-Day—Freethinker—Practical Socialist—Leicester Co-operative Record—Imperial Federation—Our Corner—The Socialist. *Belgium*: Le Chante-Clair (Bruxelles). *Canada*: L'Union Ouvrière (Montreal). *France*: Paris: Cri du Peuple (daily)—La Revue Socialiste—Le Révolté—Le Socialiste—La Tribune des Peuples—Revue du Mouvement Social—La Citoyenne. Le Devoir (Guisse)—Le Forçat du Travail (Bordeaux). *Germany*: Neue Zeit (Stuttgart). *Holland*: Recht voor Allen. *Hungary*: Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik (Buda-Pest). *India*: People's Friend (Madras). *Italy*: Il Fascio Operaio (Milan). *New Zealand*: Watchman. *Portugal*: O Campino—Voz do Operario—O Protesto Operario (Lisbon). *Spain*: El Angel del Hogar—Revista Social—Acracia—La Justicia Humana (Barcelona)—Bandera Social—El Socialista (Madrid)—El Socialismo (Cadiz)—La Perseverancia (Huelva). *Switzerland*: Sozial Demokrat (Zürich). *U. S. A.*: (New York): Volkszeitung—Der Sozialist—Freiheit—Progress—John Swinton's Paper—Spread the Light—Our Country—Amerikanische Arbeiterzeitung—Truthseeker. (Boston): Liberty—Woman's Journal. Denver (Col.) Labor Inquirer—Little Socialist—Chicago (Ill.) Alarm—Detroit (Mich.) Labor Leaf—Princeton (Mass.) Word—Cleveland (O.) Carpenter. Cincinnati (O.) Unionist—San Francisco (Cal.) Truth—Stockton (Cal.) Mail—Petersburg (Ill.) Voice of Labor—New Haven (Conn.) Workmen's Advocate—St. Louis (Mo.): Altruist. Kansas (Mo.) Sun—Pittsburg (Pa.) Labor Herald—Baltimore (Md.) Labor Free Press—Valley Falls (Kan.) Lucifer—Newfoundland (Pa.) La Torpille—Litchfield (Minn.) Radical—Evansville (Ind.) Neue Zeit Milwaukee (Wis.) Volksblatt—Portland (Oregon) Alarm—Salem (Oregon) Advance—Thought—Paterson (N. J.) Labor Standard.

ARTICLES RECEIVED.—Will appear: "Malthusianism"—"The Dead to the Living"—"A People's Palace"—"Isms and Schisms."

NOTES.

The Liberty and Property Defence League, *i.e.*, the League that defends the liberty of robbery and the property of the privileged in other people's labour, have been having a field-day; they have seen the necessity of doing something towards internationalism, since it is clear that their principles cannot be bounded by narrow geographico-political limits. So M. Léon Say has been holding forth to them; and a very proper person he is to do so, considering that he is one of the directors of the Decazeville miners, in whose liberty and property he is so seriously interested. He admitted and lamented the spread of Socialism from France to England, and spoke of it as taking two forms, centralising and municipal Socialism, which he spoke of as already affecting the liberty to live at other people's expense. But if M. Léon Say lives, he will see what real Socialism means, something very different from the first nibblings at crude State Socialism that he has got into his head as being the enemy. He expressed a sort of after-dinner hope of crushing out Socialism in France, which aspiration of a true defender of Liberty no doubt he will do his best to realise. Just so sailors, who find there is an irretrievable leak in their boat,

try to keep out the limitless ocean with whatever of rags or oakum happens to lie handy; not because they really hope to succeed, but because they must needs satisfy their consciences by hoping against hope.

Bad news from Burmah—or good, if you be not a confirmed Jingo. The Dacoits are giving trouble indeed, and are as eager for other people's goods as the veriest Englishman would have them to be; this is always on the assumption that they are Dacoits, *i.e.*, robbers; as, of course, all people are who resist the progress of our commercial body-guard. And yet, if the history could be written by the vanquished, their resistance would seem uncommonly like that defence of hearth and home that has been so besung amongst us, though we have had so little to do with the practice of it, except as affording occasion for it. Indeed, as regards our dealings with barbarous foreigners, we English are like the poor in the capitalist morality, whose function it is to afford occasion to the virtues of charity and benevolence. If the Burmese, therefore, are troubled to account for such unaccountable evils as English invaders, they had better conclude that they were made to give them an occasion for practising hopeless courage first, and fortitude under injury secondly. They are hardly like to find a better solution of the problem.

By the way, the Indian mutiny is an old story now; but it is worth while to quote a line or two from the very frank author of "Life on Board the Alabama" in the *Century* magazine, who says in passing as a matter not worth much attention, "I must say that the 'pandies' were not a whit more brutal and savage than the English civilians and soldiers." He saw Gordon afterwards in China, and found him "a very common-place gentleman," with a great talent for swearing. General Ward, the ex-Yankee clipper-mate," he admired far more as "bold, bloody, and resolute." The poor devils of Taipings probably found out the meaning of those words, which give one a kind of shudder, as of Captain Teach or Blackbeard come back again. Truly our soldiers of fortune are a fine present for us to give to the "outer barbarians."

W. M.

SOME INSTRUCTIVE FACTS.

A FEW facts are worth a great many suppositions. The following brief history of a firm has been put together as an illustration of the working of the present competitive system. The writers have satisfied themselves of the accuracy of the statements, and are quite prepared to prove them if challenged. This is in no way meant as an attack upon the persons at the head of the firm, nor is it the record of an exceptionally infamous instance of capitalist tyranny and greed. Plenty of similar cases could be found, and no doubt many a great deal worse. It is just a type of the system, and without the least exaggeration in the telling.

Some weeks ago a note appeared in this journal on the state of trade in Leeds. A firm in the flax industry was mentioned which would shortly close its works, remove its machinery to America, and leave some fifteen hundred employes without the chance of earning even the scanty living now afforded them by the mills. The firm referred to is Marshall & Co. It was founded some seventy or eighty years ago by the father of the present partners. Business was started in a humble way, but carried on with more than ordinary shrewdness, and perhaps less than ordinary regard for the people who laboured hard and long to build up the great mass of wealth now owned by the masters. The business grew steadily and quickly into fame and importance: the workers made the riches quickly, and Marshall & Co. took care of them. In time one of the hugest flax-mills in the world was built, splendid machinery made, and at the period of their greatest prosperity about 3000 hands were employed. To-day the head of the firm is reputed a millionaire, while the younger members have trifling fortunes of a few hundred thousand pounds each. These mills became, of course, one of the staple industries of Yorkshire, and many hundred families depended on the employment furnished by them. Of late years, however, the great change which has come over England's commerce began to affect this branch of trade, and with characteristic acuteness the firm was at once on the lookout for a means of holding on to its profits. It was soon apparent that trade was not merely dull or declining, but that it was departing from the country altogether. The capitalists soon resolved to follow their profits, and preparations were made, and are now nearly finished, to leave the country. Their capital (machinery and all) will be transported to America, where the industry can be carried on more profitably. This case of capital being driven out of the country is not caused by terror at the spread of incendiary doctrines, but is simply the result of the capitalist looking out for himself, as he always will, and going to whatever country and exploiting whatever people will yield him the biggest return.

But although the capital is going, the workers will be left behind. Labour is as willing, plentiful, cheap, and, on the whole, as docile, in America as here. So the cost of transit will be saved, and the workers, including several hundred young girls, will be left to look out