CORRESPONDENCE.

As notwithstanding our explanation, Mr. Fox Bourne still desires the publication of his letter (sent to us a fortnight ago concerning some remarks by Dr. Aveling in the Commonwealth for May 15) we print it, with Fox Bourne’s reply; and we must ask that the matter be allowed to end here:

4 Priory Road, Bedford Park, W., May 18, 1886.

GENTLEMEN,—My attention has recently been called to “Notes” by Dr. Edward Aveling, in your last issue, containing unfounded statements and slanderous insinuations concerning me. I am bound to assume that these angry and offensive utterances were only allowed by you to be made public through inadvertence and that, had you understood your purport, you would have refused to print them. I therefore ask you to expel them.

I have read the letter you have printed from Dr. Aveling and present occupations, that feeling assured none of my friends can be in the slightest degree interested in seeing me suffer; but, although I may say absolutely nothing, I do not believe that is right to treat his remarks with silent contempt; but as some of your readers may not be thus prepared, I feel it right to protest against these misjudging and libellous statements, which, I truly hope, will at last be revealed to the public, and that the misfortune which affects them shall be the misfortune which affects one which I am afraid we are talking about ourselves. How many such attacks on itself are aware of the prejudice and cautious you incur by insinuating and ungenerous attacks on those who do not agree with you in all respects.—Your obedient servant,

H. R. Fox Bourne.

As to Mr. Fox Bourne’s letter, only two notes. (1) According to his own letter my Notes state “...a fact that he admits” He does “not care to repeat in detail.” Nor does he repeat at large. There is absolutely no question of a misstatement by me.

(2) Mr. Fox Bourne (whom I have seen thrice in my life for ten minutes) is the first hand: therefore his friends have the misfortune to belong to the same calling as himself—journalism. Only I sign my articles whenever an editor will let me.

EDWARD AVELING.

SOCIALISM IN DUBLIN.

No doubt many of the readers of the Commonwealth would be glad to hear how the people are getting on in the case of the Comrades of the Saints. Any one having even a superficial knowledge of the ideals of the Irish people, both on political and religious subjects, will readily admit that its sacrifices, its own poverty, its own suffering, are the least of its difficulties to be overcome here that the exponents of Socialism in England are contending with. For the majority of the people will not tolerate any movement that appears to them to be out of harmony with the national sentiment; they believe that the mere attainment of a Parliament on this island would be a cure for all the ills they are afflicted with; reason and logic are powerless in the face of appeals to race-hatred and past wrongs. The great difficulty is the religious one; the priests have the people so well in their power that it makes it difficult for them to face the difficulties to overcome. Their influence at the present time is most powerful, for the priests are the most influential members of the part of the national movement, Ireland being so much isolated, and the attention of the people being so much devoted to one particular subject, it is scarcely necessary to point out the advantages the priests have in the way of importance to their welfare. All things considered the wonder is not that we have done so little, but that we have been able to keep the flying fowl soaring till now. We can only hope that the attempt to the present time has been no organised attempt to break up our movement. Nor is it serious when we consider that in an attempt to found a Branch of the International have been dispersed by force, and its promoters subjected to violence at the hands of an infatuated mob.

The visit of comrade Morris has been productive of a great amount of good, and the seed that he was instrumental in sowing will in due time bring forth good fruit. From reason over which we had no control, we have been compelled to give up our public meetings during the summer months, and content ourselves with meetings of members and friends, pushing the sale of Commonwealth, distributing leaflets, etc. We have had the fateful necessity in the way of securing suitable rooms for our meetings, being evicted three times by landlords. Our meetings have not been as successful as they otherwise might have been had we been able to secure a room at a reasonable rent, without running the risk of being ejected on the slightest reference to the International, which is the thing with.

Comrade Hayes, literary secretary, has been actively engaged in inducing, assessing, obtaining the cooperation of the Nationalist, and expose contents bill. Several of them promise to do so, and we are asking some of them that may remain unsold. Arrangements have also been made for selling Commonwealth in the principal streets of city on Saturdays. Several hundred of the Branch have been actively engaged in placarding the city with “The Worker’s Claims,” the police in several instances dispersing the crowds that were formed, indeed, a prominent member of the Corporation had the audacity a short time ago to suggest that working-men should be content to work longer hours for less money in order to keep the trade at home, while they obliged his claim by saying that this matter should be that they should live on rice in order that capitalists might be able to compete with the French.

When the people find out that mere political reforms will not make their life anything better than it is, Socialism is bound to make head- quarters, and Ireland, although the clouds may look black at present, they are not without a streak of silver lining; and with steady work on the part of Fox Bourne, the Nationalist, Socialists in Italy and France will rally to its side whose nationalities are in favour of a better state.

Bourne's letter.

A friend writes that the number of men employed at Kirkcroy by Moyns, Kinnersly is 1500 and not 10,000 or 15,000 as given in "Notes on News" last week.

INSTRUCTIVE ITEMS.

The eight hours movement in America has not been the failure it is so highly proclaimed. The miners in Idaho, despite a menacing strike, have gained the eight hours system; that another half-million are working under the same conditions in New York, and that the season's gains have exceeded in shortening the hours of labour in one shape or another. The fourteen and fifteen hours men have cut off two or three hours; the Savings Bank in the middle west has been doing a shorter working day and every closing and Sunday closing movements have been successful in most places.

"What should I go to see in Europe?" writes Lady Hester Stanhope, from the wild solitary home she has made for herself among the hills of Palestine. "Notions worthy of their chains, and kings unworthy of ruling. Before long, your old Civilisation will be shaken to its foundations. All that is wrong with Europe. Kings, nobles, clergy, dead or dethroned for their faults, and degenerate as they succeed each other; the aristocracy, soon to fade from the public minds, will be succeeded by a National and Republican spirit, as the strength and vigour of the people alone will retain character and some virtues. Tremble, if ever they realise that strength."

Even in the villages and little towns of the country, as well as in the great centres of labour, employment is lacking. Hampton-in-the-Bush and Leatherhead, two such centres of employment as are to be met with, are in such a state of trouble! I find some farmers that I was amongst in a second-class carriage between the two places amongst others gave me information by a talk between themselves. The following is the talk that took the following turn: "I was sorry," said the youngest man present. "that they couldn’t do anything for that man who had cut his fingers off and came for medical relief. "Well, you see," said another, "we are all much too very particular about such cases, or they would make up all kinds of tricks. "He ought to have had to take his place, that’s all right. Quiet, a third, a white-headed man of the small parrot-nosed, broad-faced type, with self-satisfied arched eyebrows, which proclaims the unfailing fool without any mannerisms, and is convinced of his amiable qualities. Said the older man: "He will have to pay a doctor to cure him out of a week. "He ought to have belonged to a club," said parrot-nose. The younger man answers: "Well, he didn’t, and it’s a hard case." He ought to have to, said parrot-nose again; "he could easily have paid up weekly," with the train. The man seated at a table, and the party broke up, not at all dispirited of the idea of the named labourer and his position between the bour-bour and civilisation.—W. M.

ITALY.

In Italy the electoral contest continues to absorb public interest. The Labour party sends up fifteen candidates in all. In Milan G. Beretta stood as representative of the same, G. Gnocchi-Viani for the Socialist party, and A. Ciampi for the Anarchists. G. Gnocchi-Viani in his resolution has fought to have matters political and parliamentary the work to be done is essentially that of propaganda.” In a letter to the party lately. G. Gnocchi-Viani has said, "We are in a hope to stand. Do these Labour candidates honestly believe, that with all their admirableism and sincerity, that with all their unselfishness, and all their work of propaganda and organisation in Parliament, and transform the Camera into a Socialist administrative body! As a means of releasing Amilcare, the last two months have been longer than they any one who calls his name as a friend and colleague of Fiumeours must however be heartily glad of the success of those who worked for him."

During the month the wage demands have been raised even more, and they are paying. They demand a ten hours’ day, at 4fl. the hour. The bourgeois papers are unanimous in their praise of the quiet and dignified conduct of the strikers, to whose advantage the authorities have already found occasion to fall back on arrests. The city is crowded with guards and carabinieri, amongst whom there are a few from about quite a number, and have quarrel with them. The masters have issued a notice, containing paternal advice to the men to return to their work, "since their persistence in their unreasonable demands will consequently cost the masters very dear.

"A couple is a story—hardly credible—which the Fauci gives of the greed of masters and the insufferably foolish long-suffering of the exploited. At Castel- Lazzaro Bormida there exists a certain factory where women work for the early wage of four and a half francs, and although they are only at the year's end, for the sake of the interest securing therefrom to the master. The girls are very badly treated by the master, who is not always at work, and is confirmed to be expected that women suffer such treatment, and their husbands and fathers who let them suffer it, will be in their spirit and sense enough to attempt to meet the threat, even for a few francs."

Cigar-makers in Milan have shown more spirit. In a certain cigar-factory the women have for a long time been complaining that the leaves being very uninteresting the cigar-men gain the work of the women. That is to say, as much as to say that the leaves was she at work on, which coming to the ears of the overseer resulted in her dismissal. The women protested and struck, and a certain number of women left the work. For a certain Italian is often done with a beautiful simplicity and naïveté. To turn away "hands" on some frivolous pretext, after one or two months, laps a thing, which the work got out of them is generally equal to that of a regular paid worker—this is a mode of grinding down commo-

"the labourer's hands", and the workmen.