THE PEOPLE'S PRESS.

[Under this heading will be found a collection of witty paragraphs culled from various journals published in the interest of labor. Composed for the benefit of the laborer, and written from English and translations from foreign labor journals.]

Modern Money-Lending

BOMBAY, Feb. 24, 1886.

Enclosed is a cutting from a Bombay newspaper of this week, showing how the money-lenders are taking advantage of the salaried classes of the city. At 2 per cent per month, but as he secures his interest in advance, he really lends Rs. 1,710 to be repaid Rs. 3,000 in eight month installments in 20 months. If the Rs. 3,000 is invested at 4 per cent, per annum, but as it is to be repaid in equal installments of Rs. 150 per month, the interest amounting to 48 per cent, per annum. Notice that he will only lend upon "good security," i.e., some one in good position is expected to back the bill. I feel obliged to say that I believe no one in Bombay who is a respectable military or a official a member. Or

A correspondent has sent us the following characteristic letter which he has received from a money-lender in a neighboring town in reply to a query as to the advisability of lending to a friend of his, described as "an honest, respectable member of the community," the correspondent remarks, "the letter will be the first on your relations." He

"...and he was quite willing to lend money to a certain member of the community, but, as he is only willing to lend his money to people who have no debts, he will only lend upon "good security," i.e., some one in good position is expected to back the bill. I feel obliged to say that I believe no one in Bombay who is a respectable military or a official a member."

D. GORTON.

CONCERNING THE "COMMONWEAL."

A comrade writes to us, on the naming of the Commonweal the "official" organ of the League, a letter which he summarises thus:

1. While agreeing with most that appears in the Commonweal, I (and I doubt not many others) absolutely decline to be held, responsible or to be credited with the opinions expressed in that paper.

2. The public invariably hold the whole League responsible for all that appears in their official organ.

3. It is impossible for any man to be responsible for the utterances of another, who has previously fully instructed him, which is clearly impossible in the present case.

4. Therefore, the title should be changed somewhat in this fashion: The Commonweal, an exponent of Socialism and organ of the Socialist League.

The propositions 1, 2, 3, I would, mean, with general assent from the members of the League. I beg to remind our correspondents that all articles are signed, and therefore those that write them are the only persons fully responsible for what is said in them, and that the editors are responsible for their appearance in the paper. The Commonweal is called the "official" organ of the League, because the Editors are responsible to it for the whole conduct of the paper, are appointed by the League, who have the power of making and breaking it, or in the name of the League anything that seems to nullify against our principles. Undoubtedly the Editors would not insert any matter with the opinions of which they do not agree, without the express permission of the League, in the name of the League anything that seems to nullify against our principles. I must add that it seems to me that the difference between the "organ of the League" and "official organ," is one of words only.

W. M.

Society is barbarous until every industrious man can get his living without being a slave. What is the true test of civilization? It is not the size of the cities, nor the crops, but the kind of man the country turns out.—Hustings (Mich.) Journal.

If you have more money than human life? If not, when once is drafted to defend the nation, why should not the other be drafted also, in just and equitable quality?—Chicago Tribune.

The cranks of the present are the men who have an idea, a thought involving a principle in science, in political economy, or in government, which is not committed by those who advise the government. It is better to be called a crank than a blackhead.—Carpetser (Cleveland, O.)

The policy of the government seems to be to take care of the Indians because it is possible to make them trouble. In a cold day for an honest, energetic and work white population comprehend this policy, and they will not be slow to act.—Labor Leaf.

"In the castle of Labour dwells Riches." True, but why does not Labour dwell in his own castle? Because at the gate of the castle Riches has placed two guards—Custom and Law. Labour in America dwells in the castle Riches dwells in Labour's castle. Labour must needs find shelter in Poverty's bowels.—Labor Leaf.

There is far too much, even in our own ranks, of the worship of so-called "enlightened" and leading men. We think it a great thing when one of this class fails a few years; we need to be the first to show that a great man is not to be afraid of trouble to find the remedy. It is the lethargy of the masses, besotted by some fatal spell, that makes revolution meaningless. Capital like fire and water is a very good servant but a most cruel master. Capital is the creature of labour and so long as it holds a subordinate position to labour—so long as it remains a means to an end—it will do well. But when this natural order is reversed—when capital becomes the master the working-man becomes the tool.—Daily Citizen (Topeska, Kansas).

"Labour is dead, but the corporations through which he made his money still live. They are the greatest power in the world, more powerful than the government of the United States, more powerful than the Pope, just the same as if Vanderbiilt was living. And there is the lesson we women should learn: Our fight is not against men, but against systems. The axe must fall at the root of the tree, and only when the tree becomes powerless can it be touched with the thumb. It is Socialism which has taught the world that trade and industry, society and spirit, and state and Church are human in the moral, and that without such a basis modern society would end in a tragic conclusion.—Boston棕色 Journal.

Many capitalist newspapers advise the Knights of Labour—for the sake of their good name—to do away with the nasty practice of boycotting objectionable manufacturers. That is not the policy of the Knights. Vanderbiilt is dead, but the corporations through which he made his money still live. They are the greatest power in the world, more powerful than the government of the United States, more powerful than the Pope, just the same as if Vanderbiilt was living. And there is the lesson we women should learn: Our fight is not against men, but against systems. The axe must fall at the root of the tree, and only when the tree becomes powerless can it be touched with the thumb. It is Socialism which has taught the world that trade and industry, society and spirit, and state and Church are human in the moral, and that without such a basis modern society would end in a tragic conclusion.—Boston棕色 Journal.

This reminder us of the story of the white loafer and the negro filling on a wood pile at Nantucket. Says white loafer to negro: 'Sam, go get a shoveling broom, go down to the shore and dig a buneh of halms and give it you' long. And the negro did it. This seems very funny—that anybody should be so foolish; but if you will stop and think you will see that the clausn which live by sny, speculation and their wife, giving no equivalent in production for what they enjoy, whether they actually say to the worker of the country, 'Make your spin put out, and bring them here and you'll give you half,' or any similar request as to get their half, the same—all. Our Country.

A cost does good service to a growing boy, yet when the leg outgrows the coat, it is cast off for a newer and better-fitting garment. In like manner our cost—

The competitive system has done us good service, but we are getting too big for our coat. As we grow, the old system becomes too short, and as we grow, our boot is out of place. We are still growing, we feel increasing pain and misery from the inconvenience of wear, and need a larger garment. It is necessary for society to get a garment that will outgrow the whole of the present, that will outgrow the state, our safety and happiness; nay, to our very lives. Rest assured that if we do not get a new, or at least a better garment, the old one will give pieces with a shock that will shake the earth to its very centre. Rest assured we cannot—we cannot last much longer the strain. The new garment—co-operation industrially and politically—will give heed to the demands of nature, and the whole human race.——Labor Exposer.

During the late rise in the Missouri river a man was standing watching the drift-wood float past, when he called to several coloured hatteran standing by, and said he would give them, for any part of the wood they could carry, a sovereign. Their answer was to cast aside the best weapon within their reach, while the struggle against oppressive employers is becoming more intense. The good man would show them to allow this to continue would allow them to carry, would be a luxurious and expensive article.—Cincinnati Unionist.

Mr. Chamberlain was much excursed at the anti-capitalistic nature of the House Rule Bill at Birmingham the other evening. Nor are we Socialists at all concerned to defend or fight this proposition. We are only concerned when he said that it was ridiculous to suppose that the Irish people would accept it, its really strange that he was not met by a shout of laughter even on the halls of the House. It is a question of whether the Irish people are Radicals or are not. Radicals are deficient in a sense of humour, and Mr. Chamberlain has the right to be laughed at. The House, the Irish, the English, and the world, will no doubt look on at this new piece of fiction with a shock that will shatter the earth to its very centre. Rest assured we cannot—we cannot last much longer the strain. The new garment—co-operation industrially and politically—will give heed to the demands of nature, and the whole human race.——Labor Exposer.