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NOTES ON NEWS.

"It seems almost too monstrous to contend that self-defence is a crime; that organised resistance to organised exaction is an offence against the moral law." So says *United Ireland* in speaking of the Plan of Campaign.

But that contention, so fiercely made, has done great good. It has forced upon popular notice the question of "people *v.* privilege," and where that is debated who doubts the result?

The longer that the fight is carried on by the Government and their parasitic protégés against the people of Ireland, the further will it advance the revolution and the less battling will be left to be done "next time."

That the people are moving along may be seen by the reports of the Dublin unemployed demonstration. It is quite evident that the workmen who formed the deputation did not regard Home Rule as settling *everything*.

The only political event of the week worth any notice has been the Burnley election, which, although not so important as represented, is at least a good sign of the breaking-up of the unreasoning prejudice on which the Tories rode to victory at the last elections.

One of the worst parts of the modern commercial war-making for profit and the competition between nations, is the constant perversion of ingenuity in inventing new and still newer engines of destruction.

Every fresh rifle or heavy gun adopted by a nation means not only the enormous waste of labour in making the new arm, but also the absolute loss of all the labour once put into the older weapon.

Anyone of a speculative turn may profitably indulge it nowadays by trying to reckon out the exploitation represented by the expenditure upon re-arming the European armies.

The *Spectator* says: "A correspondent sends us the proposal of M. Albert Tachard for ensuring the safety of Egypt. It is to entrust the country to a Swedish, Belgian, or Swiss force, under the orders of an International Commission, which would keep back the Soudanese and put down internal rebellion, and then to retire. Our correspondent does not seem to detect the immorality of the proposal. It would arm the Pashas with the irresistible strength of civilisation. They could extort as they liked, secure that the European force would put down all resistance. Burke impeached Hastings for that very crime, and it is the one charge upon which he was entirely in the right. If we grant European strength to Asiatics, we must enforce obedience to European ideas." Would our contemporary or somebody explain what is the exact or approximate difference between the "morality" of European and Asiatic ideas?

I have seen more than once Mr. Jones, the manager of the London Co-operative Society, quoted as saying that capitalists will be glad to allow labour to use their money for nothing on the condition that the principal shall be secure. Here is another case (with a vengeance) of "Good wine given away for nothing—to-morrow"? Meantime will Mr. Jones explain how these too sanguine "capitalists" propose to live while they are neither buying victuals with their money or being paid for the use of it? Let us take, for instance, the poor-widow-small-shareholder of whom we have heard so much: will she send her money to a co-operative society and accompanied by a letter couched in such terms as these: "Kind gentlemen, I send you my little all, and trust that you may find it useful; to me it is no longer so, since I am told (and believe it) that people can now live without either working, begging, or stealing; therefore pray send me no dividend, but whatever profit *you* make of it by employing people to work and taking from them a part of what they produce, keep for yourselves with the blessing of the widow and the orphan." I wonder what her next letter would be like.

W. M.

Levi Lawson's stockjobber sheet, the *Daily Telegraph*, had one of the most idiotic leading articles on Feb. 23rd, anent the German elections that was ever penned. Had Levi hired a street sponge pedlar to write it nothing more silly could have been the result. Berlin is said to be "a hot bed of anarchism" because it returns Socialists to repre-

sent it. This is much as if we were to say that Levi is an honest man because he puts quack advertisements in his paper. Some London workingmen will have something to say about "the atrocities of the Communists" on the 17th inst., which will make the enlightened editor, who has the cheek to pose as the mouthpiece of English sentiment, shiver.

Another of Levi's hirelings feels indignant because certain Socialists kept their hats on in St. Paul's last Sunday. Surely it is well known that the Lord commanded the children of Israel to appear covered in his tabernacle, and when Levi goes to the synagogue he keeps on his cylinder. Why, then, this abominable hypocritical rant about the wickedness of men keeping their hats on in church? Because such rant pays as well as the quack advertisements.

A. D.

LAW AND ORDER IN GERMANY.

THE ELECTIONS.

For several days all eyes have been turned to Germany. Peace or war was supposed to depend on the results of the elections. The anger of Bismarck, the man of blood and iron, was to be appeased at the ballot boxes, and the press is jubilant at the triumph of the Government. True the Government is sure of a majority for the Septennate. It may be true, too, that the Government will be able to secure a majority for most of its measures. But its majority may not be a permanent one. And above all, the triumphs of the Government will not disperse the war clouds of either the West or the East. Those clouds will become more dense, till the almost countless legions are flying at each others' throats. In Germany, as in the other European States, the throne and the altar make war on the people. The principle of absolutism is there arrayed against the liberties of the people. In the councils of the empire the principle of despotism rules supreme. The heaven-anointed emperor with his heaven-born chancellor are more powerful than the forty-seven millions of the German population. Many people cannot understand why the Germans, with manhood suffrage, cannot break the tyranny of both emperor and chancellor; why they cannot destroy the tyranny which there prevails. It was a favourite though a foolish saying of O'Connor, during the Chartist movement, that he did not fear the Crown so long as the power behind the throne was greater than the throne itself. But the throne is always and everywhere a danger, and allied, as it invariably is, to the altar, its power becomes almost irresistible. In Germany the power of the Crown does not depend on the German people. The chancellor and the ministers do not depend on the Reichstag. They are appointed by the emperor, and are responsible only to the emperor. Under such a system there is war between the throne and the people. It is a war of principle, and can end only by the extinction of Imperialism or the subjugation and degradation of the people. The struggle will be a severe one, though it may not be a long one. In Germany there is no question of ministerial responsibility, the emperor declaring (Jan. 8, 1882) his determination "to personally direct the policy of the Government."

In Germany as in other States, there are of course the same political parties, based upon the same class distinctions and of class interests. Nay, the political parties there are so sub-divided that it is difficult to say where party lines begin or where they end. But taking the two extremes of imperialism on the one hand and social-democracy on the other, all that lies between is mere political cant, political expediency, and political humbug. The German National Liberals are very much like Liberals everywhere, moderately revolutionary in relation to imperialism, but decidedly reactionary in relation to the mass of the population. Their great strength lies in their pandering to the mere national or patriotic feeling, so easily aroused among the unthinking of every class. They have gained largely by the elections, while the New German or Free Trade Liberals have been nearly extinguished. The Socialists have also suffered, and no wonder. When we consider the warlike spirit evoked by the action of the Government, the language of Bismarck, of Moltke and others, with the campaign on the part of the official and semi-official press, the Government, in its desperation, accepting even the intervention of the Pope,—what wonder that the Government should have triumphed over all the more advanced sections of the population.

We must bear in mind, too, that Berlin and other great centres are