NOTES ON NEWS.

Our comrades of the Social Demokrat have received notice of expulsion from their asylum at Zurich, and will have to leave Switzerland. This attack on freedom by a bourgeois Republic is the sort of thing one expects in these days, but it may be ominous of something special in the welter of European politics, an indication that the huge tyranny of the German Empire is looking on a war as sensibly drawing near, and is putting its house in order, by a further attempt, which will certainly be as futile as the rest to stamp out the growing flame of Socialism.

Just as we are going to press we have received an interesting letter from a comrade on this subject, recounting the shabby pretenses of the Swiss Federal Government for this tyrannical act. Of course, as our comrades know, the Swiss Government is acting under pressure from the German Executive, and the. move is a demonstration of the "energy" of the latter of revenge on the Social Demokrat for the defeat sustained by Bismarck and Co. in the Reichstag, when the attempt was made to strengthen the laws against the Socialists, which, it seems, is responsible for the imprisonment of Mr. Blane for having the hardihood to appeal against his conviction. Such conduct is worthy of an ill-tempered pedagogue, and no one but a man who considers himself entirely irresponsible to anything but his own indigence, would dare to act in such a manner outside the ranks of the English or American fool, the quixotism of all stupidity past or present.

Yet it is probable that the Balfourian snobs think that something will come about from the imprisonment of Blane and McFadden and the onslaught at Ennis, and other deeds of a like nature. What is that "something" which they hope for? Surely that they may at last irritate the Irish into some way of excusing themselves, that, as they would at any rate have made haste to alter the sentence of additional imprisonment passed on Mr. Blane for having the hardihood to appeal against his conviction. Such conduct is worthy of an ill-tempered pedagogue, and no one but a man who considers himself entirely irresponsible to anything but his own indigence, would dare to act in such a manner outside the ranks of the English or American fool, the quixotism of all stupidity past or present.

We may well wonder what Balfour and his mates believe in their hearts will be the end of their Coercion adventures in Ireland. What lengths they are prepared to carry it. They must, at least, have a deep faith in the want of generosity of the English bourgeois, and the insensitivity of the English bourgeoisie. Even if they have everything in their favor, or they would at any rate have made haste to alter the sentence of additional imprisonment passed on Mr. Blane for having the hardihood to appeal against his conviction. Such conduct is worthy of an ill-tempered pedagogue, and no one but a man who considers himself entirely irresponsible to anything but his own indigence, would dare to act in such a manner outside the ranks of the English or American fool, the quixotism of all stupidity past or present.

As to Mr. Blane, however, perhaps the Irish authorities may know what they are about, and have laid hands on the right person. Some of us will remember our introduction to him at the tea whereas Graham and Burns were welcomed, and the speech he made on that occasion, in which he spoke like a Socialist and a thoroughly good fellow. No doubt he is a dangerous man, and the opportunity of keeping him under lock and key a few months longer is not lightly to be foregone. Meantime, after what we saw of him on that occasion, our sympathy with him must be of the strongest character.

The meeting summoned by the Metropolitan Radical Federation to consider the Trafalgar Square business will, at any rate, have one good effect, that no Radicals worthy of the name can look with anything but contempt on their "Liberal" representatives in London. Mr. Foot's defence of them in the letter which he wrote to the Star is as lame as anything could be; and the round-robin written to the meeting fully deserved the shouts of laughter with which it was greeted. Men who will match at such an excuse as Mr. Saund's civil case will do anything in the cause of the people, even to risking themselves. If Mr. Saund gains his case he does not establish the right of meeting in the Square, but only settles under what quibble it is most convenient to forbid meeting. If he loses it, affairs are just in the same position as they are now.

We need not doubt that there is plenty of law to prevent us meet-

ing in the Square; or, indeed, anywhere else in the open-air. For the matter of that a very little ingenuity on the part of lawyers and judges would enable a government to forbid us meeting indoors either unless we say there what pleases our masters. There is still, for instance, the old "tyranny of unlicensed" with which the law is always ready to meet us on any occasion. The law is hardly held as a respecta-

ble member of the present Congress; but there is no doubt that Socialists have something to do with it. But the reality of it is nothing more than a huge hunger-revolt—and nothing less. Meanwhile there seems to be something of the kind on the part of the Roumanians of striking at the root of the evil, and there is most certainly none on the part of the outside advisers. The old "remedy" of repression is to be tried; "order" must be "restored" before anything is done; etc., etc.

But such wicked proceedings as those of the Roumanians must be looked on with horror by the dear good Englishman, who would like in the face turns round to be kicked, and sing psalms of loyalty and law-'n-order while he is being plundered.

R. W. M.

Events are moving in Roumania with such rapidity that the peasant revolt there will have been crushed, or a revolution carried out, before this number is in the hands of its readers. When the rising took place it was at first described as a mere local outbreak fomented by Russian money; but the flame spread, and village after village rose upon its oppressor, and proprietors had to fly for their lives from estate after estate. Large towns were taken, pitched battles fought, granaries pillaged, and extortionate officials tried and sentenced with rough justice. Day after day it was stated that the rising had subsided, and then that it had broken out again, and then that the territorial troops had fraternised with the people and fired on the regulars who were sent against them.

It is becoming increasingly clear that Russian money, or any other outside stimulus, has little to do in the affair; the movement is Socialistic, says the ' Pall Mall,' and there is no doubt that Socialists have something to do with it. But the reality of it is nothing more than a huge hunger-revolt—and nothing less. Meanwhile there seems to be something of the kind on the part of the Roumanians of striking at the root of the evil, and there is most certainly none on the part of the outside advisers. The old "remedy" of repression is to be tried; "order" must be "restored" before anything is done; etc., etc.

Vol. 4.—No. 120. SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 1888. WEEKLY; ONE PENNY.
THE attitude of the Irish Party at the Mid-Lancashire election is very unsatisfactory. They have advised the electors to go against the Labour candidate. This is a shabby return for the self-sacrifice of those English working-men who have gone to Ireland and suffered imprisonment for the Home Rule cause; and the lesson will not go well on the thousand of workers who have subscribed their pence for the same cause. The Irish party have talked a lot about their trust in the English democracy, and to a large extent they have gained its sympathy. But matters were not calculated in that manner on the other side.

We hope the election will show them that they cannot afford to insult the Labour party in this way. 

A NEEDED TALISMAN.

Sun.—Since the beginning of the present year I have passed through a sort of trial. To each of you I must say that, by the grace of God, I have been able to withstand the test. It was open to me to escape, and I must be told that I was able to endure it. I must undertake you to be a sort of talisman for me and my family. I have behaved in public, and on the box, I hope, better than any other man on the box in the country.

The speech of the Prime Minister has been very popular. He was always a good speaker, and he has been more popular as Prime Minister than as Chancellor of the Exchequer. The former is his natural vocation, and the latter is not in his line.

The Prime Minister has been very well received in the House of Commons. It is the first time that he has made a speech in that House. The House of Commons has always been a good place for a Prime Minister to make a speech. It is the only place where a Prime Minister can be sure of a good reception.

I have been very much pleased with the way in which the Prime Minister has been received. He has been received with great respect and attention. It is a great pleasure to see a Prime Minister looked up to in that way.

I have been looking at the houses of Parliament. They are very well built, and the workmanship is excellent. The Houses of Parliament are a monument to the skill of the workmen who built them.

I have been looking at the figures of the Prime Minister. They are very well drawn, and the faces are very expressive. The Prime Minister has a very good face. He is a man of great expression, and his speeches are always well received in the House of Commons.

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THE BLASTED FURRINERS.

This growth of Socialism and the gradual breaking up of the competitive system, evidenced by masses of poverty-stricken unemployed, is calling into light some curious men with curious ideas as to how Society based upon robbery can be saved, and its human waste and upheavals removed. The following signs are in evidence:

These would-be saviours of Society plus a slight percentage on salvage, are in short a literary policy, as useful to the proposed classes as is Scotland Yard. Their work is to start discussions in press and parlor upon various pseudo-social problems.

Trotting out their own petty hobbies, which generally ends in their being called before a Committee of M.P.'s or outside rogues and laddies, to give them their brutal treatment and to knock out what they have gathered in the first time in their lives, while they smile on in happy ignorance, thinking they are still imposing their falsehoods upon us.

I have taken the following reports down in shorthand, but I may in transcribing have made some mistakes. If you think that probable, you are at liberty to alter; only pray do it carefully, as a most awful curse rests upon the person who changes "one jot or title" unnecessarily. Should they be indited (correctly) I will hand you a wonderful paper in the box at the end of the week (which will be "the absolutely last day" on which the charm will have its proper effect). I shall thus confer a boon upon the offender in the year 1900; for your printed matter will be much more readable than the manuscripts I have had handed down to me. I hope therefore for lis sake you will have the kindness to insert them.

C. CLIFFORD.

SCENE—POLICE COURT.

John Bull, whose face was severely cut, covered with blood, and very much swollen, was charged with attempting to rescue a prisoner from the custody of the police, and further with assaulting constable Jones, 441 H, while in the execution of his duty.

When I opened the box just before seven o'clock the previous evening he was in Trafalgar Square, in company with constable Robinson, when he saw a number of the three-deckers in front of the three factories. Witness told him to "move on," and on his refusal took him into custody, when the prisoner, rushing up, struck him on the head and attempted to take the man off his horse. Subsequently, leaving Police Constable in care of constable Robinson, proceeded to arrest the prisoner, which he succeeded in doing, after a very severe struggle, but not before witness had received a wound on the head and at the back of the neck.

The magistrate said the man was evidently a desperate character, and the constable was to be praised for his courageous conduct in arresting the prisoner.

I thought it about time we heard the truth, so I muttered over the charm.

P. C. Robinson, 301 H, was then called, and deposed that on the previous evening he was on a mounted police, when arresting C. Fearless, after being endeavoured to knock the opposition out of him when the prisoner came up and called them "cowards," "brutes," etc. He said he would attend the witness and said this, leaving Police Constable in care of witness, Jones sprung upon the prisoner, and so effectually batoned him with his truncheon, that he was soon reduced to an almost insensible condition.

While giving his evidence, P. C. 301 H looked quite happy, as though perfectly certain of promotion. But as he advanced to his evidence, the black looks of the magistrate and the relieved look which stole over the prisoner's face, made him feel very uneasy, although unable to account for this change of emotion.

The magistrate then said that the evidence of the last witness clearly proved that the man had tried to incite the prisoners by false evidence. It was perfectly evident that the first witness had committed deliberate perjury. It was past his comprehension why constable Robinson had not supported his fellow officer. However, in spite of this evidence, directly supporting the prisoner's statement, he must sentence him to three months' hard labour. Prisoner was then removed, looking considerably astonished.

It will be observed that the stone does not seem to force the person to a sense, and that it is perhaps in some cases, a complete charm. I intend to read the papers found in the box, and may find instruction there.

Believing that the adulteration Act did not fully prevent fraudulent adulteration, I went the other day into a grocer's shop, kept by a Mr. Girty. On entering the shop, observing that a lad was being attended to by an assistant, I repeated the charm in an undertone, when the following conversation ensued:

"Laddy Customer, Have you any butter which you can recommend?"

Assistant. Well, madam, this article labeled "pure butter" is a combination of hard grease, oil and fat and various other ingredients, and is at a very low manner of fifth and rub.

Mr. Girty (who has heard the latter part of this description with horror). Here, James, just see to this; I will serve that lady. Very sorry, madam, that my young man should have told you what he did. You see, this is not genuine, though we label it "pure." I think there can be no more profit out of it than we can out of the genuine article. Can I supply you anything else of it?"

"L. C. No, thankyou; I think I will get my butter elsewhere." (Exit.)

Then Mr. Girty and James indulged in mutual recriminations, during which I thought it advisable to take my departure, and postpone my inquiries until a more favourable opportunity presented itself.

And James having departed, the following dialogue was displayed that article in its true light. My further experience shall be sent anon.

C. C.