THE REVOLT OF GHENT.

(Continued from p. 274.)

Save the old chronicles.

"And when Philip van Artevelde was slain at his lodging, and such as had followed him had been at Tournay with him, and every man gone to their own lodgings, then Peter du Bois, who desired to hear some tidings, came in the evening to Philip's house, and so then the man went to the earl; for Philip demanded from him how he had sped, and Philip, who would hide nothing from him, said: 'By my faith, Peter, by that the Earl of Flanders hath answered by his council sent to Tournay, he will take no manner of person within the town of Ghent to mercy, no more one than another.' By my faith,' quoth Peter, 'to say the truth, he doth right but to do so: he is well counselled to be of that opinion, for they be all partakers as well of the matter in hand after me, as also it was the intent of my good master John Lyon that is dead: for now the town will be so troubled, that it will be hard ever to appease it again. Now it is time to take bridle in the teeth; now it shall be hard to humour this creature.' Either shortly the town of Ghent shall be the most honoured town in Christendom, or else the most desolate. At the least, if we die in this quarrel, we shall not die alone; therefore Philip, remember this night, tomorrow morning we may know how the people of the determination of your council holden now at Tournay, and that ye may show it in such manner that the people may be content with your consent. And I have already the grace of the people, for two causes: one is, because of your name, for sometime James van Artevelde, your father, was marvellously well beloved; the other cause is, ye entreat the people meekly and safely, as the common saying is throughout the town, wherefore the people will be the better for it after me, and also show them your counsel, and say how ye will do thus, and they will all say the same. Therefore it behoveth you to take good advice in short time, and let the lord of your good Flanders, and so he shall show true, and I trust so to speak and show the business of Ghent, that we who are now governors and captains shall either live or die with honour. So thus they departed for that night each frother: Peter du Bois went home to his house, and Philip van Artevelde abode still in his."

"Ye may well know and believe that when the day desired was come that Philip van Artevelde should generally repel the council of Ghent, all the people of the town of Ghent drew them to the market place on a Wednesday morning; and about nine of the bell Philip van Artevelde, Peter du Bois, Peter de Nutre, Fray Jean, and twenty other of your liege lords, and all of them into the common hall. Then Philip leaned out at a window and began to speak, and said—

"O, all ye good people, it is of truth that at the desire of the right lady, master of Brabant, and the right noble duke Albert, bailiff of Hainault, Holland, and Zealand, and of your lord the bishop of Liége, there was a council agreed and accorded to be at Tournay, and there at this time, where the lord of your good Flanders; and so he shall send his council to Tournay within or six days after, so well instructed by him that they should plainly show the full of his intention and mind. Other answer could they none have, and so he took the council of Tournay."

"And then the day assigned by thereto there came fro him to Tournay the lord of Ranselles, the lord of Cominicus, sir John Villians, and the provost of Harlebeke; and then it showed them all the verses of this war, how the peace might be had between the Earl and the town of Ghent. First, determinably, said the Earl, that all every man in the town of Ghent, except prelates of the church, lords, and worthies of five hundred crowns, under the age of sixty, that they all in their shirts, bare headed and bare footed, with halters about their necks, avoid the town of Ghent, and so go a twelve mile thence into the plain of Burgesians, and there they shall meet the Earl of Flanders, accompanied widowed with sin please him; and so when he seeth in that case, holding up our hands and crying for mercy, then he shall have pity and compassion on us, if if it please him. But, sirs, I can not know by the relation of any of his council but that by shameful punishment of justice there shall suffer death the most part of the people that shall appear there that day. Well, sir, consider well if ye will come to peace by this means or not."

"When Philip van Artevelde had spoken these words, it was great great impression upon the men, women, and children; and all their love of their fathers, brothers, husbands, and neighbours. And after this tournament and noise, Philip van Artevelde began again to speak, and said, 'Peace, sirs, peace, and incontinence every man was still. Then they began to speak, and said—

"Ah, ye good people of Ghent, ye be here now assembled the most part, and ye have heard what I have said. Sirs, I see none other remedy but short counsel, for I fear we know well what we are there thirty thousand in this town that did eat no bread this fifteen days passed. Sirs, of three things we must of necessity do the one. The first is, if ye will, let us enclose this town, and the good people of Ghent will be clean to God, and let us enter into the churches and monasteries, and so let us die for famine repentant of our sins like martyrs, and such people as no man will have mercy of. Yet in this thing we shall have mercy of our souls, and it shall be said in every place where it shall be heard, that we be dead valiantly, and like true people."

"Or else, secondly, let us all men, women, and children, go with halters about our necks in our shirts, and cry mercy to our lord the Earl of Flanders: I think his heart will not be so indurate (as when he seeth us in that estate) but that his heart will mollify and take mercy on his people; and as for myself, I will be the first of all to apprise it, to his discerption, and after that, I promise you, I will present my head and be content to die for them of Ghent."

"Or else, thirdly, let us choose out in this town five or six thousand men of the most able and brave appointed, and let us draw the Earl in the town with him; and if we die in this voyage, at the least it shall be honourable, and God shall have pity of us, and all the world shall say that valiantly and truly we have kept our faith; and we shall have the remembrance of us, as of anciently he put his puissance into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, duke and master of his chivalry, by whom the Assyrians were discounted, then shall be we reputed the most honourable people that had reniged the days of the Honorious; such as should now do."

"Now, sirs, take good heede whisch of these three ways ye will take, for one of them must ye needs take."

"And as such as were next not good, and had heard him best, said: 'Ah, sir, all we have our trust in you to counsel us, and sir, look as you counsel us, so shall we follow.'"

"By my faith,' quoth Philip, 'then counsel you; let us go with an army of men, for we shall find him at Bruges; and as soon as he shall know of our coming he will issue out to fight with us, by the pride of them of Bruges, and of such as be about him, who night and day informeth and stirreth him to fight with us; and if God will by his grace that we have the victory, and discounten our enemies, then shall we be reserved for ever, and the most honoured people of the world; and if we be discounted, we shall die honourably, and we shall not be brought to such strife as the other people in Ghent shall escape, and the Earl will have mercy on them."

"And therewith they all answered with one voice, 'We will do this, we will do this, we will make no other answer,' so said, 'Sirs, if ye be your wills to do thus, then return home to your houses, and make ready your harness, for to-morrow sometime of the day I will that we depart out of Ghent and go to Bruges, for the Lord of our good Flanders, and within five days we shall know if we shall live or die with honour, and I shall send the constables of every parish from house to house, to choose out the most able and best appointed men, and let us go forth in the market-place, and made them ready; and this Wednesday they kept the town so close, that neither man nor woman entered nor issued out of the town till the Thursday in the morning; and then we were to the number of five thousand men, and not past, and they had with them two hundred cars of ordnance and artillery, and but seven carts of victual, five of biscuit bread, and two thousand bottles of wine, for all they had but two tun, and left no more behind them in the town."

"This was a hard departing, and they that were left behind were hardly leaght. It was pity to behold them that went forth, and they that were left behind, saying that they knew what ye leave behind you, but never think to come hither again without ye come with honour; for if it be otherwise, ye shall find here many and many a time with the thing."

"So for as soon as we were ten day after we were discounted, we shall set the town on fire and destroy uselves like people despair.'

"Then they that went forth said to comfort them, 'Sirs, pray to God for us and we shall shew you and you also, or we return again.'

"Thus these five hundred departed from Ghent with their small provision; and that Thursday they went and lay a mile without Ghent and brake not; but their provision, which they had abroad in the country, and the Friday they went forth, not touching as yet their victual, for the forgers found some what in the country, wherewith they passed that day, and so they went forth, and they rested there and took a place of ground at their device, abiding their enemies; and before them there was a
DYING IN HARNESS.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

Only a fallen horse stretched out there on the road, Stretched in the broken shaws and crushed by the heavy load; Only a fallen horse, and a circle of wondering eyes.

Watching the frightened tearful horses, that had to rise.

Hold! for his toll is over—so little money for him; See the poor neck, outstretched, and the patient eyes grow dim; See on the friendly horses change that Homework.

Thinking, if dumb beasts think, how good it is to be dead; After the weary journey, how restful it is to lie

With the creased necks, pressed between the shaws, and lying only to die.

Watchers! be in harness—died in the shafts and straps.

Full and the burden killed him: one of the day's mishaps.

Then the mother, this morning wonders whether

A toller dying in harness, heedless of call or goad.

Passers! crawl the pathway, staying your steps awhile,

What is the symbol? Only to touch the tireless will.

Does he who taught in parables speak in parable still?

The seal on Rock—on best-kept men of Rome

That gather and cow, and grasp and go—labour and sleep, and then—

Then for a moment on the road of ever-drawing end.

The toiler, crushed by the heavy load, is there in his harness—Dead!

(From 'Songs, Legends, and Ballads,' Boston, 1875.)

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 1888.


7 Tues. 1830. The Bourbons finally deposed from the thrones of France. 1834. Waterlow was selling stamped papers. 1890. C. Southwell died.


Lovett and Collins.—The trial of William Lovett, Secretary to the General Convention of the Working Classes, on the charge of publishing a seditions libel, took place before Mr. Justice Littledale at the Assizes, Warwick, on Tuesday, August 6th, 1839. John Collins, a working cutler, who had been very successful in a lecturing tour, was put on trial the day before on the same charge as Lovett, which charges were then dropped in July of the same year. With 10,000 people, unlawfully assembled armed with divers offensive weapons, to the great terror and alarm of the peaceable subjects of our lady the Queen, Lovett most ably defended himself; and although the whole of the proceedings were legal and orderly until the police made the move, the "merry party" had some cause, and the jury after a three minutes consultation returned a verdict of "Guilty," and Lovett and Collins were each sentenced to be imprisoned in the common gaol of the county for one year. While in prison they were of course shamefully treated, but kept up an active agitation they secured in time some valuable concessions, which improved not only their own position but of all the other prisoners. While in prison Lovett wrote a work which on their release was published in their joint names under the title 'Chartism, or a New Organization of the People.'—T. S.

Liburne's imprisonment.—It is impossible to over estimate or too much admire the extraordinary concomitance of 'glorious John Liburne.' Whether it is London, combating with whose good English epistles the self-seeking spotters of greed and tyranny, or in the field flashing a never-failing sword in behalf of the poor and neglected, every report that is given can stand. Liburne, true hands get a few of their native holidays in most of the mills, but, as is pointed out, they have to attend without pay for half the day, for the pay-roll is at five o'clock. The work is not weak, and will not produce work till 5—3—thirty hours, probably thirteen hours and a-half.

They have to walk three miles to their homes in the evening and three miles back in the morning, so that 15 to 15 hours are doneP days in the week, and the remaining 3 to 9 hours at home, not in sleep, for the morning meal has to be cooked before they leave, and the evening meal after their return. The officials themselves and the agents would all be glad, we are told, for the Government to step in, and pass a 10 hours law for all hands, men and women, and to enforce it as is now half stamped. The hands are cleaning up, and on every Sunday—not because it is Sunday, but because it gives them an extra sixpence to help them to market their produce in the larger and cheaper markets, and to wash time, to wash their clothes, and also the officials a little rest. The hands used to sleep during the two night courses, which is quite enough for them, and now all, lying under the mill floors like a army of dead bodies. Such rest is impossible now. Our comment upon all which is that though there is very much more than a "Factory Act" needed, it is a cheering sign to see such a respectable bourgeois paper as the Spectator going as far as it does. Seeing that the press follows public opinion rather than make it, this means that there is in India as elsewhere a large section who are for "going further."