

## THE REVOLT OF GHENT.

(Continued from p. 234.)

Says the old chronicler:—

“When Philip van Artevelde and his company entered again into Ghent, a great number of the common people desiring nothing but peace, were right joyful of their coming, trusting to hear some good tidings; they came against him, and could not restrain, but demanded tidings, saying, ‘Ah, dear sir, Philip van Artevelde, rejoice us with some good word, let us know how ye have sped’: to which demands Philip gave none answer, but passed by, holding down his head. The more he held his peace, the more the people followed him, pressing to hear some tidings; and once or twice as he rode to his lodging ward, he said to them that followed him, ‘Sirs, return to your houses: for this day God help you, and to-morrow at nine of the clock come into the market place, and then ye shall hear the tidings that I can show you.’ Other answer could they have none of him, whereof every man was greatly abashed.

“And when Philip van Artevelde was alighted 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 they two went together into a chamber; then Peter demanded of 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 but right to do so: he is well counselled to be of that opinion, for they be all partakers as well one as another; now the matter is come even after mine intent, and 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 seen who is sage and who is hardy in the town of Ghent. 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 all alone; therefore Philip, remember yourself well this night how ye may make relation to-morrow to 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 you: for ye 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 sagely, as the common saying is throughout the town, wherefore the people will believe you to live or die: and at the end 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 showing words, whereon lieth your honour.’ ‘Truly,’ quoth Philip, ‘ye say truth, 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 fro other: 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 report the effect of the council holden at Tournay, 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 Nuire, Francis Atreman, and the other captains came thither, and entered up 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 honourable lady, my lady of Brabant, and the right noble duke Albert, bailiff of Hainault, Holland, and Zealand, and of my lord the bishop of Liège, there was a council agreed and accorded to be at Tournay, and thereat to be personally the Earl of Flanders; and so he certified to these said lords, who have nobly acquitted themselves: for they sent thither right notable councillors, and knights and burgesses of good towns; and so they and we of this good town of Ghent were there at the day assigned, looking and abiding for the Earl of Flanders; who came not nor would not come; and when they saw that he came not nor was not coming, then they sent to him to Bruges three knights for the three countries, and burgesses for the good towns; and they travailed so much for our sakes, that they went to him to Bruges, and there they found him, who made them great cheer (as they said) and heard well their message: but he answered them and said, that for the honour of their lords, and for the love of his sister the lady of Brabant (he said) he would send his council to Tournay within five 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 they returned again to us at Tournay.

“And then the day assigned by therle there came fro him to Tournai the lord of Ranessels, the lord of Gountris, sir John Villayns, and the provost of Harlebeke; and there they showed graciously their lord’s will, and certain arrest of this war, how the peace might be had between the Earl and the town of Ghent. First, determinally they said, the Earl will that every man in the town of Ghent, except prelates of churches and religious, all that be above the age of fifteen year and 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 Burlesquans, and there they shall meet the Earl of Flanders, accompanied with such as shall

please him; and so when he seeth us in that case, holding up our hands and crying for mercy, then he shall have pity and compassion on us 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. Now, sirs, consider well if ye will come to peace by this means or not.’

“When Philip van Artevelde had spoken these words, it was great pity to see men, women, and children weep, and wring their hands for love of their fathers, brethren, husbands, and neighbours. And after this tournament and noise, Philip van Artevelde began again to speak, and said, ‘Peace, sirs, peace,’ and incontinent every man was still. Then he 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 ye know well what necessity we be in for lack of victual; I am sure there be 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 ourselves in this town, and mure up all our gates, and then confess us clean to God, and let us enter into the churches and ministers, 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 estate God 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 my 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 appease his displeasure; I shall 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 best appointed, and let us go hastily and assail the Earl at Bruges, and fight 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 and maintained our quarrel. And in this battle, if God will have pity of us, as anciently he put his puissance into the hands of Nebuchadnezzar, duke and master of his chivalry, by whom the Assyrians were discomfited, then shall we be reputed the most honourable people that hath reigned sith the days of the Romans.

“‘Now, sirs, take good heed which of these three ways ye will take, for one of them must ye needs take.’

“Then such as were next him, and had heard him best, said: ‘Ah, sir, all we have our trust in you to counsel us, and sir, look as ye counsel us, so shall we follow.’

“‘By my faith,’ quoth Philip, ‘then I counsel you; let us go with an army of men against the Earl; 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 discomfit our enemies, then shall we be recovered for ever, and the most honoured people of the world; and if we be discomfited, we shall die honourably, and God shall have pity of us, and thereby all 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 none other end.’

“Then Philip answered and said, ‘Sirs, if it 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 toward Bruges, for the abiding here is nothing for us profitable; and within five days we shall know if we shall die or live 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.’

“In this estate every man departed out of 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, that every man was ready, such as should depart; and they 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 tun of wine, for in 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 bested. It was pity to behold them that went forth, and they that abode behind said to them, ‘Sirs, now at your departure, ye know 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 nothing; for as soon as we hear tidings, that ye be either slain or discomfited, we shall set the town a-fire and destroy ourselves like people despaired.’

“Then they that went forth said to comfort them, ‘Sirs, pray to God for us, for we trust he shall help us 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 up their provision, but passed that night with such things as they found abroad in the country; and the Friday they went forth, not touching as yet their victual, for the foragers found somewhat in the country, wherewith they passed that day, and so lodged a seven mile from Bruges, and there rested and took a place of ground at their device, abiding their enemies; and before them there was a

great plash of standing water, wherewith they fortified themselves on the one part, and on the other part with their carriages. And so they passed that night.

"And when it came to the Saturday in the morning, the weather was fair and clear, and a holiday called in Bruges, for that day of custom they made processions. Then tidings came to them how the Ghentois were come thither. And then ye should have seen great murmurings in Bruges, so that at last word thereof came to the Earl and to his company, whereof the Earl had great marvel, and said, 'Behold yonder ungracious people of Ghent, I trow the devil hath brought them to their destruction; now is the time come to have an end of this war.'

"And so then his knights and squires came to him, and he received them graciously, and said to them, 'We shall go and fight with yonder unhappy people of Ghent. Yet,' quoth the Earl, 'they had rather die by the sword than by famine.'

"Then the Earl was counselled to send three men of arms into the field to see the demeanour of his enemies. And so then the marshal of Flanders appointed out three squires, valiant men of arms, to go and see the behaving of the Ghentois.

"As Lambert of Lambres, Damas of Buffey, and John of Beart; and so they three departed from Bruges, and rode toward their enemies. And in the meantime, while these three went forth, they of Bruges made them ready to issue out to go and fight with the Ghentois. Of whom I shall show somewhat of their order." WILLIAM MORRIS.

(To be continued.)

NO MASTERS IN AMERICA!—The Pittsburgh *Tribune* condemns certain dailies for employing the term "ironmasters," and asks from what monarchy do the proprietors recruit their forces, that a term "so decidedly un-American" should be admitted to their columns? "The night masters should be instructed by the chief masters to inform the city masters that masters left America with the peace of Appomattox."

A TALL STATEMENT.—The Chicago *Journal of Commerce* states that three newsboys of that city, guilty of no misdemeanour, were arrested last week at their request and sent to Bridewell. Their reason for wishing to go there, as stated to the police justice, was that they wanted to learn a trade. Under the laws of the trades unions there is almost no chance for the American boy to learn a trade in any shop or manufactory outside of a house of correction!

LESS THAN PAUPERS.—The average earnings of all the manufacturing and mining operatives in this country is 1 dol. 2 cents per day. The average family of the working-man is five. Allow two of the family to earn the average wages, which would give to the family 2 dols. 4 cents a day, or a fraction over 40 cents a day for the support of each individual of the family. The statistics of the board of charity of the State of Illinois show the cost of supporting each pauper in the State to be 66 3-10 cents per day, 26 cents more than the labourer gets.—*Chicago Labour Enquirer*.

ANOTHER TRAMP-MAKER.—A machine has just been completed that will revolutionise the cooper trade. With this machine three men will be able to make 600 oil barrels a day. It is the invention of a woman, Mrs. Maria E. Beasley, who has been working on it for the past eight years. She has interested a number of capitalists, who are erecting a building to put the machine in operation. If the machine proves a success it will destroy the cooper trade, as the men who tend the machine need not be skilled men. The machine furnishes further proof that machinery is destined to supplant the hand-work of the toiler, and should warn the working people of the danger that threatens them. They see the course of the tide, feel the pressure of machinery that is crowding them to the wall, and stand idly by doing nothing to prevent themselves being made the hewers of wood and the drawers of water. Is it not as plain as two and two make four that, under the present system, every improvement of machinery works to the injury of the toilers? What are you doing to prevent this? Are you one of the great army which is striving to bring about a system under which the toiler will receive the benefit of the increased production, or do you content yourself with growling at your hard lot and doing nothing to better your condition? If you are, it is time you should wake up and organise.—*Independent*.

"A FACTORY ACT WANTED FOR INDIA."—It can hardly be denied, asserts the *Indian Spectator*, that the cotton and other mills in Bombay have retrograded. In the case of the former the stoppages of the machinery twice a day for half an hour each have become a thing of the past. The mills now only stop at twelve noon for ten minutes for oiling the engines, and in some mills they pride themselves upon having such good engines that they run from sunrise to sunset without once stopping. Further, they used to stop every other Sunday for cleaning the boilers. But now the mills have extra boilers, so that a stoppage for this purpose is not necessary. This we look upon as little short of slavery, and a law alone, we fear, can stop it. It is true the 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 purpose of cleaning up. They commence work in this hot weather at 5.30 and work till 6.30—thirteen 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 15½ hours are daily consumed in work, and the remaining 8½ to 9 hours at home, not in sleep, for the morning meal has to be cooked before they leave, and the evening meal after they 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, women, and children, also enforce stoppage on every half-Saturday for cleaning up, and on every Sunday—not because it is Sunday, but because it gives one day's rest in seven, and allows the hands time to do their marketing in the larger and cheaper markets, and time to wash their clothes, and also allows the officials a little rest. The hands used to sleep during the two half-hours, and it was a sight to see the wretched people lying all over the mill floors like an array 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 makes it, this means that there is in India as elsewhere a large section who are for "going further."

## DYING IN HARNESS.

JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY.

ONLY a fallen horse stretched out there on the road,  
Stretched in the broken shafts and crushed by the heavy load;  
Only a fallen horse, and a circle of wondering eyes  
Watching the frightened teamster goading the beast to rise.

Hold! for his toil is over—no more labour for him;  
See the poor neck outstretched, and the patient eyes grow dim;  
See on the friendly stones how patiently rests the head—  
Thinking, if dumb beasts think, how good it is to be dead;  
After the weary journey, how restful it is to lie  
With the broken shafts and the cruel load—waiting only to die.

Watchers! he died in harness—died in the shafts and straps—  
Fell and the burden killed him: one of the day's mishaps—  
One of the passing wonders marking the city road—  
A toiler dying in harness, heedless of call or goad.

Passers! crowding the pathway, staying your steps awhile,  
What is the symbol? Only death—why should we cease to smile  
At death for a beast of burden? On, through the busy street  
That is ever and ever echoing the tread of the hurrying feet.

What was the sign? A symbol to touch the tireless will?  
Does he who taught in parables speak in parable still?  
The seed on the rock is wasted—on heedless hearts of men,  
That gather and sow, and grasp and lose—labour and sleep—and then—  
Then for the prize!—A crowd in the street of ever-echoing tread—  
The toiler, crushed by the heavy load, is there in his harness—dead!

(From 'Songs, Legends, and Ballads,' Boston, 1873.)

## REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING AUGUST 11, 1888.

5	Sun.	1642. Portsmouth surrenders to the Parliament. 1835. Miners' riots at Ilkeston. 1887. Midland Railway strike (midnight 4—5).
6	Mon.	1775. Daniel O'Connell born. 1839. Lovett and Collins imprisoned for Chartism. 1887. Antonio Carra died.
7	Tues.	1830. The Bourbons finally deposed from the throne of France. 1834. Watson arrested for selling unstamped papers. 1860. C. Southwell died.
8	Wed.	1815. Napoleon banished to St. Helena. 1855. Riot in Hyde Park. 1877. W. Lovett died. 1894. Stellmacher hung at Vienna.
9	Thur.	1853. Michael Schwab born. 1882. Thomas Walsh sentenced for treason-felony.
10	Fri.	1643. Siege of Gloucester, causing the march of London tradebands and forming of Cromwell's Ironsides. 1646. John Lilburne sent to Newgate for libelling the Cromwellians. 1782. Trial of David Tyrie for high treason. 1792. Attack on the Tuilleries and flight of the king. Foundation of the Commune of Paris and the French Republic.
11	Sat.	1549. Ket's rebellion in Norfolk. 1868. Students' demonstration at Paris.

*Lovett and Collins.*—The trial of William Lovett, Secretary to the General Convention of the Working Classes, on the charge of publishing a seditious 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 charged them with having on July 4, at Birmingham, 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 trouble, "property" had had a bad scare, 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 by keeping 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 Organisation of the People.'—T. S.

*Lilburne's imprisonment.*—It is impossible to over estimate or too much admire the extraordinary omnipresence of "glorious John Lilburne." Whether it is London, combating with good round English epithets the self-seeking apostles of greed and tyranny, or in the field flashing a never-failing sword in behalf of the English republic, John Lilburne is the finest figure of the hour. He was the first of the honest democrats who found out and denounced the parliamentary plunderers. He was the last to leave the field where a Stuart's partisan was to be met. Goaded and abused by the rich cowards in London town, he was their shield and buckler even as late as 1651, when he smote James Stanley, Earl of Derby, at Wigan, and laid the gigantic form of the King's bosom friend, Lord Witherington, in the dust.—L. W.

AND SHALL JOHN DILLON DIE?—The *Freeman's Journal* said last week the public will be concerned to learn that imprisonment is visibly telling on the health of Mr. Dillon. If anything were to happen to John Dillon (says the *Freeman*), we don't know who could stand between the people and those responsible.

FACILITIES FOR TRUNCHEON WORK.—Warren's wolves no longer carry their truncheons suspended in a leathern case from their waist-belt. The fact that they were seen without their truncheons gave rise to the foolish rumor that the use of them had been abolished by the Chief Commissioner. There is no need to say that this is not so. Tailoring arrangements have been made by which a long pocket for the truncheon is provided at the right-hand side of the uniform trousers, and inside, much after the fashion of the pocket in which carpenters and joiners carry their rules. The truncheon can now be more readily got at!