



HAVE YOU NOT HEARD HOW IT HAS GONE WITH MANY A CAUSE BEFORE NOW: FIRST, FEW MEN NEED IT; NEXT, MOST MEN CONTEMN IT; LASTLY, ALL MEN ACCEPT IT—AND THE CAUSE IS WON!

**Communications invited on Social Questions.** They should be written on one side of the paper, addressed to the Editors, 13 Farringdon Rd., E.C., and accompanied by the name and address of the writer, not necessarily for publication.

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*Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday November 28.*

<b>ENGLAND</b>	San Francisco Arbeiter-Zeitung	<b>SPAIN</b>
Glasgow Herald	Coast Seamen's Journal	Cadiz—El Socialismo
Justice		Madrid—El Socialista
Labour Tribune	<b>FRANCE</b>	Seville—La Solidaridad
London—Frete Presse	Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily)	<b>PORTUGAL</b>
Norwich—Daylight	Le Parti Ouvrier (daily)	Lisbon—O Protesto Operario
Railway Review	La Revolte	<b>AUSTRIA</b>
Sozial Demokrat	Le Proletariat	Brunn—Volksfreund
Telegraph Service Gazette	La Revue Socialiste	<b>HUNGARY</b>
Worker's Friend	Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur	Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik
<b>UNITED STATES</b>	St. Etienne—La Loire Socialist	<b>ROMANIA</b>
New York—Der Sozialist	Sedan—La Revolution	Jassy—Muncitorul
Freiheit	<b>HOLLAND</b>	<b>DENMARK</b>
Truthseeker	Hague—Recht voor Allen	Social-Demokraten
Volkszeitung	Ghent—Vooruit	<b>SWEDEN</b>
Alarm	Liege—L'Avenir	Malmö—Arbetet
Workmen's Advocate	<b>SWITZERLAND</b>	<b>WEST INDIES</b>
Boston—Woman's Journal	Arbeiterstimme	Cuba—El Productor
Liberty	Bulletin Continental	<b>MEXICO</b>
Chicago (Ill)—Vorbote	<b>ITALY</b>	Sinaloa—Credit-Foncier
Detroit—Der Arme Teufel	Rome, L'Emancipazione (daily)	
Fort Worth (Tex)—South West		
Faterson (N J) Labor Standard		

## NOTES ON NEWS.

THE Government have passed their bill for the relief of the Irish landlords to the extent of five millions, as they were quite sure to do in the teeth of all opposition, but their victory is not very likely to do them permanent service. Compensation to the Irish landlords at the expense of the British tax-payer is just the rock they are likely to split on, but they cannot help steering in that direction; so that before long they will probably have to make way for their opponents to try their scheme for peasant proprietorship in Ireland; or more plainly, for making a number of small landlords in Ireland instead of a few big ones. Needless to insist on the fact that this also will have to be done at the expense of the British tax-payer, whatever hanky-panky may be used to conceal the fact.

"The flowing tide is with us" (the Liberals) cries the *Pall Mall Gazette*. From the election agents' point of view that is probably true; that is, at present the chances of a Gladstonian success at the next election are brightening. But another metaphor more accurately describes the process by which the change of ministries is being brought about: "The pendulum is swinging to our side again," is the due figure of speech. That is not so encouraging perhaps to some of the members of the "Liberal party," that curious creature with a Whig head and a Radical tail; though I fear a very great many of them are much better pleased that so it is. When the "flowing tide" of really advanced opinion sets in, these gentry will skip out of the way of it with all the nimbleness they are capable of.

Mr. Henry George has come to England once more with his old pretensions to Socialism abandoned, but clinging obstinately to his old economical heresies, with which in past days he used to weave a veil of vague socialistic aspiration and eloquence. Free trade and the single-tax, *i.e.*, what he used to call land nationalisation, but which he now more accurately describes as the taxing of land values, is his platform. He says it is but a step from free trade to the single tax, with a very curious oblivion of the not very recondite fact, that England has been a free-trade country for many years and is not very far on the road to the "single-tax."

Mr. George combats the cry of the land for the cultivator with the cry of the land for the people; but, unhappily, it is but a cry. What he really means is "the land for the money capitalist"! And how he proposes to separate the land-capitalist from the money-capitalist passes human ingenuity to imagine. Is it possible for a man to be sincere, who with plenty of people teaching him, has not been able to learn this through all these years? To be a forward politician; to make a

great agitation, clamouring for a great change which would change nothing in the life of the toiling people; but which happily cannot by itself be attempted even. This seems now Mr. George's career, after all his big words.

The frightful case of injustice perpetrated by "justice" against the two poor men, Murphy and Branaghan, and the case mentioned by Mr. Bernard Coleridge, in which no pretence to remedy a similar injustice has been made (though, indeed, how can you "remedy" the murder of so many years of a man's life?), shed a lurid light on all the ways and manners of our criminal law. For who can doubt but that many and many such cases have happened, and will happen as long as our sham society lasts, and calls for such a system of defence?

One remark in the papers about this shameful affair struck me particularly. It was stated that there were serious doubts at the time of conviction as to the guilt of the men, but that they were overborne by the sympathy felt for the victims of the burglary. Does not this show how the whole feeling of the public is corrupted by our laws? An offence is committed, and straightway in the interests of society a man-hunt is set on foot; some one is arrested, and the public will be so bitterly disappointed if nobody is caught that if the guilty person cannot be convicted, at least convict somebody; and then the whole machinery of the law is set at work to get a conviction, of the guilty man if possible, but at least of some one. A theory of prosecution is started, and the whole mass of circumstantial evidence is manipulated by it; a sham jury give a verdict which purports to be theirs, but is in fact nothing but a deduction from the judge's summing-up—and, as far as they are concerned, the play is over and the public speedily forgets it, while the unhappy victims of its idiotic thirst for theatrical revenge are rotting in jail if they have not been hanged. The word *rotting* being no figurative word, let us remember, but a literal expression of a fact.

Mr. Pyke, in his interesting volume on the 'History of Crime,' notes that in the height of the Middle Ages in England juries were very unwilling to convict. There is no more significant token of the servile condition we have dropped into than the ease with which convictions are got now-a-days; *per contra*, when juries begin to think about their position, and the Courts complain of the difficulty of getting convictions, we may begin to lay some claim to be of the same blood as our stout ancestors.

W. M.

What trifles will throw some people into rapturous ecstasies. A week or so ago that very advanced *Star* went almost insane with joy over Mr. Gladstone's Birmingham programme. This perhaps should not occasion any remark, for that organ of London Radicalism, having its due share of Celtic impetuosity, takes very little to excite it; but when the Able Editor of the *Star* asks comrade Morris what the people in America have reaped from the bomb at Chicago compared with what the people of London have gained from the peaceful and constitutional action of the *Star* editor, the time has come, I think, to make some reply.

What in the name of all that is wonderful is there in this Birmingham programme for the people of London to rejoice and be thankful for? What above all is there for the poor wretches who hardly know where to get their next meal, who are starving for want of work, and who see the grim demon of hunger advancing to devour them?

Leasehold enfranchisement! This may make the heart of the small shopkeeper and house-farmer leap with joy within him, because he will have no ground landlord to share the spoils he wrings from his rack-rented tenant; but it will hardly afford much comfort to the unemployed workman who is going to be turned into the street by the house-farmer because when he is out of work he cannot pay the exorbitant rack-rent which his landlord wrings from him.

"Such changes in the land laws as would prevent the dreadful overcrowding of the poor in London." What does this mean? As far as I can see it may mean *anything*, from free land to some form of land nationalisation; but those who know the Liberal party may well guess that it does not mean the latter.

It means "free land," then—that is, expropriation of the encumbered aristocratic landlord in favour of the arrogant plutocrat of the towns. Capitalism may then own the land as well as the factories. A grand advantage, truly; but how this will diminish over-crowding I will leave my readers to find out.

Then again "something" is to be done to provide the working classes with decent dwellings, but concerning *what* is to be done the great chief of the Liberal party is commendably reticent.

On the whole, nothing has occurred to justify the enthusiasm of the *Star*, or to give London workmen any notion that the great Liberal party has changed its character. It is still the miserable sham it has been in times gone by, and those who trust to it will reap their reward.

The workers of London have gained nothing but promises, and very poor promises. But it may be objected that the American workmen have gained as little from the events at Chicago. This may be, but