NOTES ON NEWS.

The question of the right of public meeting in Trafalgar Square has again been raised, this time by comrades Hicks (S. D. F.) and Gough (S. L.) Hicks did at least speak, and is therefore "guilty" to begin with, of something, but Gough only sat on a seat and when attacked by the police threw away a stick he held, in the vain hope that this would prevent his being charged with having used it. He stands committed for trial for "assault," and Hicks has appealed against the order to find sureties for his "good behaviour."

So the farce goes on! Vaughan the venemous, in sentencing Hicks, observed that although he was not charged with assaulting the police, "much as directed, passive resistance was equivalent to an active resistance." This is the kind of logic that our policemen deploy, and it is fortunate that one at least is foolish or frank enough to speak it out.

But mere folly or wrong-headedness either on the press or on the bench is but so shadowy as dishonesty such as the Times or Daily Chronicle invariably display. Mean-man Mumford, the editor of the "Radical-Unionist," paper, again and again asserted that Louise Michel was "assassinated" by another Anarchist, even after every other paper had contradicted this lie.

The anonymity of the press makes these crawling assassins to stab where they will with small danger of discovery. It is a pity that Mr. O'Connor had not the courage from the very beginning of the Star, to discard this effete and exploded superstition, and not follow in the track of fortune, or the cunning of the have-nots of the Pall Mall; theatricality moves the crowd, and thus they make choice of heroes.

The "Cass of Canning Town," Miss Covendale, has not been quite so badly treated as her prototype. Warren apparently was not so struck by Bloy's lie-power as he was with that of Endacott, and did not at once interpose for the protection of a "useful officer," and has now only "exonerted" him without a public whitewashing. However with a little care a naturally ardent imagination may be made so useful that in a little while we shall see Sergeant Bloy in the witness-box to swear to a Socialist "assault" upon the police.

Burns and Graham, when they come out, are to have a reception. This is as it should be, but I heartily agree with a member of the S. D. F. who has publicly urged that the humbler martys should have their share of the "honours of war," and hope the rumour will prove true that this is to be carried out. Burns and Graham are brave and good fellows, far too brave and good to be put on a pedestal away from their comrades in captivity. "Remember the unremembered!"

"What has become," asked the Standard on the 23rd, "of all the outcry about the 'unemployed'? They are not in Trafalgar Square." Whereupon the Pall Mall comments, "How beautifully characteristic this is of the Tory method of logic and of policy! When the unem- ployed did go to Trafalgar Square, the Standard was all for punching their heads and filling the Square with police to keep them out. Having succeeded in thus banishing them, it now turns round and asserts triumphantly that there are no unemployed at all. The Stan- dard is clearly of Lord Cowper's belief, that if you drive a grievance— or a crime—beneath the surface, you have done with it."

The salt-tax has been raised in India, and the miserable ryt and his town-dwelling brother have their lot made harder thereby in order that "public works" of the Frontier Railroad kind may go on. The reason publicly given is that the expenses of the Burmese War have been heavy. "Our mission in India," as elsewhere, seems to be to make ourselves rich as soon as possible, with as little risk as may be.

Another victim of our "beneficent" rule, King Ja of Otto, has succeeded to the throne. The Pope had already sent a papal rule to him, and the case was not supposed to be one for the "Pendragon's" charity, as it is expected to be. The Pope, however, has issued a "bull," the higher, puberty, and it is expected to be the Pope over the whole of a" "bull," the higher, puberty, and it is expected to be the Pope over the whole of a

The Vienna Politische Correspondenz hears from Rome that the Pope has just completed and will shortly issue the Encyclical Letter on the social condition of the working classes, upon which he has been engaged for the past twelve months, and about which he has consulted several prominent economists. This Letter declares, in principle, for State intervention in favour of the working classes, and exhorts Catholics to support the Governments of their respective countries in any efforts for the accomplishment of social reforms, and to promote any measures having for their object the alleviation of the lot of the labouring classes.

Now before the ultra-Protestants arise and howl, they should do as much for the People, and not confine all their love to the Purse.

Canningham Graham's manly and outspoken letter upon his sentence is refreshing, after hearing the wailings and gnashings of teeth about wearing prison dress and association with criminals that has emanated from certain politicians sentenced under the Crimes and Punishments Act. His letter is of course a product of society as at present constituted; yet upon the great that the pope has elected to grant him the prefix Mr. and not to Bly, a writer in the Referee bitterly attacks him, accusing him and all well-do-do Socialists of being under the roof of a "Pendragon's" charity, as if alms-giving is the duty of a Socialist, who objects to the system which begets misery.

The working-men's clubs have amongst their membership some ardent lovers of sport, apart from the thievish brutish "harmers" lately got up to rob the gullible admirers of the "noble art," but the Referee is blank-listed on account of its virulent attacks upon the Socialists and Radicals of the "Pendragon's" class.

Another writer in the same paper, by the way—"Dugout" (alias G. B. Stanhope)—once got a magnificent ovation in the East End on account of his writings on behalf of the poor; but times alters things, and as a critic and recently, he runs on all fours now. The wealthy patrons of "sport," as understood by slaughtering pigeons and whooping faces, extort their incomes from the misery of the poor. Hence the wearing of the plug.

"RUSSIA, POLITICAL AND SOCIAL."

By L. Tikhomirov.

Translated from the French by E. Aveling, D.Sc. (Swan Sonnenschein, 1888.)

This is one of the most remarkable and erudite works on Russia that have been published in foreign tongues. I will not say that from the point of view of a Russian political observer the book is altogether without blemishes. Through all the first book, dealing with the border provinces which were annexed in comparatively recent times, and examining the claims of various nationalities to independence, L. Tikhomirov shows himself a decided partisan of "Russia one and indivisible" of the French Jacobins of 1793. True, in another part of the work (vol. ii., p. 115) he gives the programme of the Narodnicks, including among other things a demand for "large local autonomy and elective nomination to all offices." But this vague paragraph admits of several interpretations. If "all offices" includes those of a local legislative body, it means something sensible; a provincial Executive Rule—Italian as it is understood in England and practised in America. But if we exclude the local legislative body from the above-mentioned term we have nonsense at the best; provincial executives, supported by the provincial militia (the only military force admitted by the