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NOTES ON NEWS.

On Saturday, 7th, another Trafalgar Square victim was buried with the "honours of war." William Currie, member of the Deptford Liberal Club and N.S.S., was at Trafalgar Square, got clubbed, arrested, and in the approved law-'n'-order fashion sentenced to four months' imprisonment. The inquest is not finished, we do not know all particulars, only enough to make it sure that his death lies at the door of the police. The society to which he belonged gave him a public funeral, in which the Law and Liberty League and Socialist League took part.

He died at home, poor fellow, or there would have been an attempt to another affair as at Pentonville, where a man, named Frost, who understood with his stomach, was kept on good diet which he could not eat, and did not eat for eight days. He was taken five times to the doctor, who disbelieved his state, and suspected him of being in the view and treatment of him, rendering a verdict of "sufficient anatomical charge," while the coroner said "the jury had no concern with the suppression of Frost's letter. That was a question of prison discipline, and if the friends felt themselves aggrieved, they were at liberty to complain to the prison authorities."

They had resolved to carry out at all costs their preconceived opinion, and as the poor devil did not fit their ideas, so much the worse for him! Proved up to the hilt as it was, the jury passed by the contradiction between the man's actual state and needs, and the doctor's view and treatment of him, rendering a verdict of "sufficient anatomical charge," while the coroner said "the jury had no concern with the suppression of Frost's letter. That was a question of prison discipline, and if the friends felt themselves aggrieved, they were at liberty to complain to the prison authorities."

As he was only a prisoner for burglary, and a poor man, nobody seems to care about it all, save the Pall Mall and ourselves, any more than they do about the conduct of Barendt of Bute, a doctor who refused to see a dying man "as he was in evening dress and going to a ball!" At this the coroner "expressed dissatisfaction," but the jury, being partly composed of men who would have done the same thing, disagreed, and would add no rider to their verdict.

"The policeman" (P. C. Brood, 120 B) "had trumped up a false charge and not told the truth," said Mr. Partridge at Westminster on 15th. Commenting whereupon the Pall Mall says: "If he had said "deliberately perjured himself," he would have stated the fact. We have not yet heard that Police-constable Brood, 120 B, has been promoted, but that no doubt will come in due time. If such zealous officers are to be discouraged in this way by magistrates, how can the cour de corps of the force be kept up?"

Broad struck a man who happened to push against him on the pavement, and being out of awe-inspiring blue-whites, and having a stick in his hand, he knocked his victim senseless, he ran away. Meeting a constable on duty he refused with him and gave the man into custody whom he had hit, on a charge of assault. Happily he could elude witnesses and get off; but how differently he would have fared if his assailant had been armed with his truncheon, and "carry lucrative" (police) evidence, to first knock him senseless and then swear away his freedom!

Even Mr. Edlin's best efforts failed on Thursday to convict the drummer Hatwell, who was assaulted by the police in Holborn in flagrant violation of Warren's parole. The Treasury adjourned the case from last sessions because they saw the jury was in favour of justice, with the result that after another jury has found Hatwell guilty. Although this was one of the best known cases arising out of the suppression of the right of public meeting in London, not a single daily newspaper save the Times and the Pall Mall is frank enough even to notice the acquittal. A conviction they would probably have reported by the column.

Scene, Piccadilly; Time, Sunday (New Year's Day) morning. Responsible tradesman walking along, and on look at a man who takes him by the collar, saying "Here, I want you!" The tradesman, with visions of battle, murder, and sudden death before his eyes, calls loudly for the police. A constable standing near comes up at once, but instead of helping him, says to the other man, who it seems is a police clothes officer, and therefore a privileged garrotter, "If you want any help I will give it you."

Thereupon the pair dragged the man through Regent Street to the Vine Street police-station. In vain he asked to be taken in a cab, and equally in vain why he was so treated. "You will know when you get to the station," said the officer. At the station he was allowed to his great surprise, with trying to pick pockets. It was only when he had tendered his card and convinced the inspector of his respectability that he was allowed to go, the inspector warmly wishing him a prosperous year and assuring him that the little mistake would not become public.

However, the tradesman was not quite satisfied, as indeed might be expected, and went to Mr. Newton for redress. Mr. Newton did credit to his name by finding that the 'best way of settling the matter was for the tradesman to write to Warren—who from his usual ways and manners may be expected to promote the policeman and reprove his victim for making the affair public.

Speaking on Friday at Dundee Lord Aberdeen sought to reassure those who were deterred by an impression or misgiving that the concession of self-government to Ireland would in some way or another affect our connection to Socialism. "We are not Democrats, nor Republicans, nor Socialists, nor Conservatives, nor Liberals, nor Nationalists," he said, to his great surprise, with trying to pick pockets. It was only when he had tendered his card and convinced the inspector of his respectability that he was allowed to go, the inspector warmly wishing him a prosperous year and assuring him that the little mistake would not become public.

But let them once have bitten the Dead Sea fruit of political liberty without constitutional freedom and they will range themselves under the red flag beside their fellows of other lands. In this sense self-government for Ireland is a step toward Socialism, and a long one. And as to their "instincts and tendencies," the Irish are not so unlike other folk as some would have us think, that is, "be not so จาก ourself." If anything, they are fitter for Socialism than most peoples, being less commercial.

Mr. Bunt's appeal has been rejected, and he is in the jail where he is expiating his "crime." No one, I suppose, expected any other result. With the appeal, although Mr. Bunt said about the illegality of his arrest both before the trial (if we must needs dignify it with that name) and afterwards. What is the use of passing a Coin Act if it has no teeth to it? Let such fish slip through as one's avowed political opponents. Meanwhile, let us say that now Mr. Bunt is in prison, we will not forget that he spoke out well and boldly for the poor people in Egypt who were condemned to similar torture there by our English stockjobbers.

Apropos of this trial, the Pall Mall Gazette asks in a straightforward letter to the paper there any right of public meeting. Our antagonists, one would think, does not ask the question because it does not know the answer to it, which is a short one enough, "NO." But one may expand the answer by explaining to those who have not thought about the matter, that in a "constitutional" country there is liberty enough for every one belonging to the privileged class, but no liberty for any one else; and what sort of liberty of public meeting is that privileged class likely to allow to "any one else" who is attacking its privilege openly?

The Radical clubs of Hammersmith have sent a delegation to the Metropolitan Board of Works, asking them to adhere to their bye-laws as to the newly-acquired Ravenscourt Park, setting aside a portion of it for public meetings, whereas the Hammersmith Vestry have passed a resolution asking the Board to alter this. I may inform those who do not know Ravenscourt that it is a very large tract of ground, and that it would be easy to set aside a part of it for public meetings without in the least spoiling it for recreation. In fact, the Vestry are simply following their kind in trying to put a stop to public meetings in Hammersmith. Considering how much recreation ground will be in and about Hammersmith, it will be preposterous if the inhabitants
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LAW AND WAR.

(Continued from p. 1.)

It is, however, urged that if a system were once started in conformity with justice, it could be amended as occasion arose and circumstances altered. It is impossible to frame a system which shall be just to the interest of the wants of man; I do not mean only his bodily wants, but the necessities and wants of his whole nature. It is unlikely, so unlikely as to be outside the need of consideration, that such a system, even if started by infinite wisdom, could be amended from day to day. We are at this moment practically under the law, which was imposed on a large part of Europe by the Roman Empire, and which has lasted from Justinian's time for some 1500 years. His time was that of the decay of the Empire, a decay due to the action of the parasites that grew in each of the established laws. It is the principle of contract, of gambling with futurity; it treats every man as a liar, and bids us entangle each other with engagements, whose meaning in the bath of antiquity is obliterated, and whose wisdom is quite as hard to understand as the ancient taboos and usages. It is the whole system, and the basis of every system, which has lasted. It is a signal illustration of the curse of an established law, a signal proof of the enormity of really amending it when once established.

We may go farther back than the Roman Law, eight hundred years further back than Justinian, and see that even the law as established was nothing more than the interest of the stronger. Securites, some of those men put to death by the privileged class, because he spoke the truth, and the interest of justice. The ordinary politicians of the day. The latter expresses himself with the cynical frankness thus: "There are different forms of government, tyrannies, democracies, and aristocracies, the Government being that which has the power of making laws determinate, democratical, aristocratical or tyrannical, with a view to their several interests; and these laws, which are made by them for their own interests, are brought to their subjects, and put into execution, and punish him who transgresses them as a breaker of the law. That is what I mean when I assert that in all States there is the same principle of justice; which is neither more nor less than the interest of the Government; and as the Government must be supposed to have power, the only reasonable conclusion is, that every where there is one principle of justice, and this is the interest of the stronger. The interest of the stronger, the interest of the governing classes, that was what was enforced under the name of justice 2000 years ago. It seems to me that the reverential attitude which befits Force in the hands of the stronger is now known as "Law and Government," though they call their place of "Palace of Justice," rest on force and not on reason, and constitute therefore a system.

War is any set of circumstances in which a question is settled not by discussion and the use of reason, but by force. There need not be fighting to make war. An army is reduced by starvation, by wet weather, by toil and marches, as much as by the actual storm of battle. Moreover, a body of soldiers, posted near to a battlefield, though not actually fighting, is counted as giving assistance by their presence. This so-called peaceful society, the vast body of police and soldiers, though seldom actually fight, are always present as supporters of whose business it is to enforce the law. We are, in fact, all engaged in enforcing the law, some actively, and more by supine acquiescence.

That it is the intention of the privileged governing classes to carry out the law by force, before any question of its justice is admitted, is very clear. The greater part of the members of those governing classes both in deeds and words. Strikes are battles in which the weapons on one side are semi-starvation, and on the other the prospect of commercial ruin. There is a very serious strike against rent now going on in Ireland, and in regard to this various representations have been made. The governing classes have expressed themselves clearly enough. Lord Hartington, for example, finished a speech at Newcastle on February 2, 1877, by saying: "So long as you recognise the right of the landlord to any enjoyment of his property, it is difficult to see how any public law can be brought against evictions. He was here alluding to the brutalities of the Glenbeigh evictions. He then went on to urge people to "assist the Government to enforce the law." It is probable that those measures (order trains, etc.), may be undertaken, in order that such a policy may be undertaken with any prospect of success, it is necessary, first of all, that the law as it now stands should be established.

Again, Sir Michael Hamilton, Chief Secretary for Ireland, said in the House of Commons on January 29, 1887, "We are pledged to maintaining the Union, but it is a man's business to maintain the law, so it can be said that it would be better to have everything withdrawals in order to stop the disturbance in this neighbourhood." We should think that there was something helpful to the public peace in a political meeting from this very man. Brookesまでの with the matter; whereas, to our way of thinking, a meeting held in order to exclude the most people who are not very "superior persons." The Hammerites club must be congratulated on taking action in this affair, which they will have to regret very much. They won't be very far.

A ballad-singer was sentenced at Droome last week to one month's imprisonment for singing a ballad having reference to a proclaimed meeting.

C. J. FAULKNER.