



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.

As all articles are signed, no special significance attaches to them because of their position in these pages. None to be taken as more than in a general manner expressing the views of the League as a body, except it be so explicitly declared by the Editors.

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A. H.—Of course the Calendar cannot be made wholly exhaustive all at once. We shall be much helped by anyone who fills up for us any omission in the list of events. The Cato Street affair will be treated in an article as fully as time and space will allow.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday February 29.

ENGLAND Bristol—Magpie Die Autonomie Jus Justice Leaflet Newspaper London—Freie Presse Labour Tribune Norwich—Daylight Railway Review Worker's Friend	MILWAUKEE (Wis.) —Volksblatt San Francisco (Cal) The People Coast Seamen's Journal Freethought	SWITZERLAND Geneva—Bulletin Continental
UNITED STATES New York—Freiheit Truthseeker Volkszeitung Boston—Woman's Journal Denver (Col.) Labor Enquirer Fort Worth (Tex)—South West	FRANCE Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) La Revolté HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen BELGIUM Seraing (Ougree)—Le Reveil Ghent—Vooruit Antwerp—De Werker Brussels—L'Avant-Garde Liege—L'Avenir	SPAIN El Productor Madrid—El Socialista PORTUGAL Lisbon—O Protesto Operario GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune AUSTRIA Vienna—Gleichheit HUNGARY Arbeiter-Wochen-Chronik DENMARK Social-Demokraten NORWAY Kristiania—Social-Demokraten
	ITALY Milan—Il Fascio Operaio Rome—L'Emancipazione Marsala—La Nuova Eta	

A TRIPLE ALLIANCE.

THE struggle for the elementary right of freedom of speech, of which the events of Bloody Sunday formed such a dramatic episode, is taking a new development. The police onslaught of November 13th, and the subsequent reactionary tyranny of the Government, came as a surprise on the genuine Radicals who took part in the proceedings of that disastrous and shameful day: and it can hardly be doubted that the orthodox Liberals were also surprised at it; but their surprise took the form of striking them dumb as well as deedless. Comment has been made in these columns on the dastardliness of their behaviour, which, all things considered, was not astonishing, as well as on its stupidity, which really was almost astonishing. For here had the Tories put a weapon in their hands of a like nature to that which they were using so eagerly in Ireland, and yet they let it tumble to the ground and lie there; thus practically admitting their real alliance with the very men they are formally contending with in the Parliamentary game. So much for Mr. Gladstone's British following, and, grievous as it is to say it, his Irish allies behaved no better. Here one has some right to be surprised: how could it be that they did not see the force of the argument ready to their mouths, "You Englishmen, you Londoners, have coerced and gagged Ireland, with the result that you are coerced and gagged; join you with us, as we will with you, to get rid of coercion and gagging altogether, or else you will suffer along with us"?

And moreover, in joining heartily in our protest they would have been even formally pushing their own cause; the meeting on Bloody Sunday was called to protest against the wrong done to an Irishman and Ireland, and every man in the bludgeoned processions was an enthusiastic Home Ruler. Yet no one spoke or stirred, except, to be fair, Mr. Bradlaugh, mindful of his old struggles in the Square. It was left for the Socialists only, helped in the press by the professed democratic and workman's paper, *Reynolds*, and the *Pall Mall Gazette*, which for the time at least became almost a Socialist journal.

Nevertheless, so flagrant was the case, so open was the intention to thrust forward the merest absolutism, so disgracefully unfair was the conduct of the courts that tried the "rioters," and so savagely vin-

dictive the sentences passed on them, that the conspiracy of silence has failed at least as far as London is concerned; and the Southwark election, which otherwise would have been a matter of little importance, showed, as is admitted on all sides, that the London workmen understand the subject of Trafalgar Square much better than their so-called "leaders."

This fact has at last penetrated the numskulls of the orthodox Liberals, and it said that the wily old politician who "leads" them is going to contribute his "old stager" wisdom to the debate on Trafalgar Square, which is (perhaps) to come off on Thursday: nay, that the very dissentient Liberals themselves have taken the alarm, and are meditating a little dishing of the Gladstonians.

Meantime, the meeting of Monday 20th, which was called to welcome Burns and Graham, became under these circumstances a demonstration of a triple alliance for freedom of speech between the Irish, the Radicals, and the Socialists. We are bound to hope that this alliance will give back Trafalgar Square to the people, and put the whole matter of open-air meeting on a better footing than it is at present; but it will only do so if the rank and file of the Irish and Radicals are determined to make a genuine alliance with their Socialist brethren, whatever the leaders may do: it is their business if they are in earnest in upholding freedom of speech throughout the country to look to it that the Liberals do not use it merely as a good electioneering cry for London, to be cast aside on the first opportunity. At the meeting of the 20th the Radical part of their audience were loud in their boast that they could win the right of free speech from the reactionists by the ballot box. So be it! They are certainly not prepared to win it by physical force or the threat of it; though for my part I must think that rather their shame than their glory; and also that it is impolitic to cry out to such an enemy as they are facing (if they are in earnest) "Do what you will with us, if we cannot out-vote you, you are safe." However, let that pass; they are *not* prepared to carry the matter by force, and they think they can by voting. Well, then, at least let them vote hard and not soft; let them exact a pledge from every candidate to support the freedom of speech in Trafalgar Square and open spaces generally, and refuse to vote for anyone who will not give this pledge unreservedly, whether he calls himself Liberal, Radical, or Home Ruler. If they do less than this they may be sure of one thing, that the attitude of the Liberals when they come into power will be pretty much that of the Tories; and they will find after all that they will be driven to use force if they really want to speak out their grievances in public. For after all, it will one day be just as inconvenient to the Liberals as to the Tories that the people should claim what they want by means of public meetings, and whatever opinions the majority in the House of Commons may profess, the Executive will always do its best to silence the people, unless it is repeating parrot-fashion the words put into its mouth by its masters.

As to whether the mass of the Radicals are prepared to assert themselves, and will pluck up heart of grace to beard their leaders, from all that is past one cannot help being very doubtful about that. If they are not, they are exciting themselves very unnecessarily about getting rid of the Tories, who will in that case answer all their purposes quite as well. They may make use of the Liberal party to carry on democracy to the point when it must melt into Socialism; if they do not, they will be made use of to get a party into office, which, as far as any practical purpose is concerned, is composed of leaders who will not lead, and of followers who have got nothing to follow.

W. M.

ANOTHER GREAT RAILWAY STRIKE IN AMERICA.—The engine-drivers and firemen have struck along the entire Quincy system, comprising 6,000 miles of railroad in Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, both the freight and passenger traffic being paralysed.

SOCIALISM IN LONDON.—The Socialists seem to be making headway in the local Parliaments. There has been a Socialist Ministry at Charing Cross, and now the Battersea Parliament has followed suit, and is led by a Socialist Ministry. We notice that at Battersea, as at Charing Cross, the first measure to be brought forward is one for the enlargement of the municipal and parliamentary franchise, and prominent among the projects of legislation is "a Bill to increase and amend the powers of local authorities." It looks as though at Battersea, as at Charing Cross, the "Socialists of the municipality" were in the ascendant.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

THE TITHE RIOTS AT LLANGWM.—Eight men, including the Rev. Edward Roberts, Wesleyan minister, were indicted at Ruthin assizes on Tuesday that "they, with other evil-disposed persons to the number of three hundred, did riotously assemble armed with sticks, and further did wound George Thorpe and others." They were escorted from Llangwm by an enthusiastic crowd. Twenty-seven men were originally committed for trial, but the Attorney-General entered a *nolle prosequi* against nineteen of them. Mr. M'Intyre, Q.C., opened the case for the Crown, and described in detail the riots; but subsequently the defendants were liberated on their recognizances in £20 each to appear, if necessary, on March 28.