



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.

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. Rejected MSS. only returned if a stamped directed envelope is forwarded with them. Subscriptions.—For Europe and United States, including postage, per year, 6s. six months, 3s.; three months, 1s. 6d.

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ARTICLES unavoidably held over: "Endowments"; "Reflections"; and conclusion of "Humours of Propaganda." UNSUITABLE: T. J.; K. O.; R. S.

Periodicals received during the week ending Wednesday November 7.

ENGLAND Blackburn Times Church Reformer Die Autonomie Freedom Justice Leicester—Countryman Labour Tribune Norwich—Daylight Postal Service Gazette Railway Review Social Demokrat Yorkshire Post Worker's Friend	CHICAGO—Knights of Labor Vorbote Detroit—Der Arme Teufel Fort Worth (Tex)—South West Milwaukee—National Reformer Paterson (N J) Labor Standard Coast Seamen's Journal	SWITZERLAND Geneva—Przedswit ITALY Turin—Nuova Gazzetta Operaia Florence—La Question Sociale Turin—Il Muratore
INDIA Madras—People's Friend	FRANCE Paris—Cri du Peuple (daily) Le Parti Ouvrier (daily) La Revolte Le Coup de Feu Le Proletariat Lille—Le Cri du Travailleur Sedan—La Revolution St. Etienne—La Loire Socialiste	SPAIN Barcelona—El Productor Barcelona—Tierra y Libertad Madrid—El Socialista Seville—La Solidaridad
UNITED STATES New York—Der Sozialist Volkszeitung Alarm Workmen's Advocate Boston—Woman's Journal	HOLLAND Hague—Recht voor Allen	PORTUGAL Lisbon—O Protesto Operario Porto—A Revolucao Social
	BELGIUM Ghent—Vooruit Liege—L'Avenir Antwerp—De Werker	GERMANY Berlin—Volks Tribune
		SWEDEN Stockholm, Social-Demokraten Malmo—Arbetet
		WEST INDIES Cuba—El Productor

NOTES ON NEWS.

MRS. PARSONS left New York on the "Arizona," which reaches Liverpool on Thursday morning, 8th, after we have gone to press, so that we cannot announce when she will arrive in London, but she is expected to do so the same evening. Her public reception on Saturday promises to be a great success, but all comrades should still work their hardest to ensure it being so. S.

The *Echo* has been kind enough to advertise our approaching celebration of the Chicago martyrs and Bloody Sunday by a ferocious attack upon us, in which all the old calumnies against our comrades have been new burnished for the occasion, and we are held up to public reprobation as "enemies of society." All this is chiefly meant as an attack on Cunninghame Graham for his having the courage to be prepared to express in public what not only all Socialists, but all democrats who have enquired into the matter, must feel in their hearts. For the *Echo* believes Cunninghame Graham, though an opponent, to be on the same plane of politics as itself; in which idea it will I feel sure find itself mistaken.

Meantime let us say once more what was the real state of the case. Our comrades, the *Echo* says, were tried and found guilty of being privy to the throwing the bomb. By whom? By the declared enemies of the people, who for long had no word in their mouths but "shoot them down." And on what evidence? On evidence rather less valuable than what would suffice for the condemnation of an English labourer before his squire of poaching a rabbit. There was no real evidence offered or required for the condemnation of our comrades: their guilt was clear already—they were the friends and fellow-agitators of the workmen on strike; that was enough.

Does the editor of the *Echo* know anything of that redoubtable weapon in defence of "society," the Law of Constructive Murder? It is a comprehensive one and by means of it any obnoxious person may be "removed" by "society" at a pinch. Any one taking part in a meeting at which loss of life occurs may be indicted for this wide-reaching crime. Supposing at some not very distant date the editor of the *Echo*, taking part in some Unionist meeting at which the audience gets too excited and shots are fired and someone is killed: how sad it would be if he was put on his trial for constructive murder!

"Enemies of society"? Of what society? Of the society which enables friends and kindred and fellow-workmen to live together in peace and good-fellowship, helping one another through all the dif-

ficulties of life; the society which gives every one an opportunity for living as well as the nature surrounding him will allow him to live? We are not enemies of this society, we are now devoted soldiers of it, and some of us may yet live to be happy members of it. For are we not Socialists—i.e., people who want to realise true society?

But I suppose the *Echo* is thinking of another society; the society of classes: the society which insists that most men shall be poor in order that some may be rich. The society which as its culminating success in our own days takes care that poverty shall no longer mean, as it once did, mere rudeness of life and scantiness of possessions, but utter degradation of body and soul; the society which produces in one country, in one city, living under the same "equal" laws, the coster's barrow and the duke's palace; the culture of the Whitechapel slum-dweller, and the "culture" of the university superfine superior person. In a word, the "society" that produces the rich and the poor,—that is to say, the suffering of the world.

Of such a "society" as this—or rather of such a band of robbers and heap of corruption usurping the holy name of Society—every honest man must be the enemy, even if he is not conscious of it.

Mr. Balfour in his speech at Wolverhampton was very emphatic in showing that the difference between the Irish rebels of the present and the past, was that those of to-day were engaged in a socialistic agitation; the *Daily News* in commenting on the speech was naturally anxious to disprove this, pointing out that several of the Irish leaders are strong Anti-Socialists, that Mr. Davitt is not supported in his land nationalisation by his countrymen, and the Irish peasant is a fanatic for property in land.

All this is true enough on the surface; nor could it be otherwise, since the Irishman is conscious of having been thrust off the land by mere foreigners. The capitalist as he knows him is either an alien in blood or at least the representative of alien domination. Nevertheless Mr. Balfour is more nearly right than the *Daily News*, more nearly right than he knows himself probably. The agrarian agitation in Ireland is an attack on property, though its immediate results may be the establishment of a peasant proprietorship, a thing which in itself all Socialists condemn. The claim for Home Rule is an attack on the centralised bureaucracy, which is the palladium of the present robbery sham-society; although its realisation may lead at first to the establishment of another bureaucratic centre, which will be rotten long before it is ripe; and although the principle for exclusive nationality is abhorrent to all true Socialists.

But the Irish are being educated into Socialism by the force of circumstances whether they are conscious of it or not, and whether they like it or not. This is what Mr. Balfour means, and he is perfectly right.

We need not trouble ourselves about Mr. Vizetelly's "punishment." He offered his back to the lash, and is of course a mere capitalistic publisher engaged in bringing out what will sell, irrespective of other considerations. But a word or two may be said on the scene of ridiculous hypocrisy in which he played an unwilling part. M. Zola's books are horrible. Granted—but are they as horrible as the corrupt society which they picture? What is good enough to be done is good enough to be told of; and I think it is but fair to assume (since the books are undoubtedly powerful) that he is not merely wanton in writing them, but wishes to show modern Society what a foul beast it is. On these grounds he may claim at least the pardon accorded to the hearty good-humoured grossnesses of Shakespeare and Chaucer; and, as a matter-of-fact, the outspokenness of his books is not so provocative of lust as the veiled corruption of the ordinary erotic novels of the day.

As to whether all this is due material for art—that is another affair. But an affair to come before a judge and jury? Preposterous! Why the very reading of detached passages from the book as a method to found criticism on, shows how entirely outside the judgment of a law-court such things must needs be. Really I think the position of the ordinary newspaper critic as compared with that of the author on whom he lives is already sufficiently imposing, without dressing him up in a gown and wig and giving him the power of sending his literary opponents to prison. In short, this trial of M. Zola (for he was the real person tried) is another indication, if but a small one, of the way in which our laws represent the worst side and not the best of modern life. WILLIAM MORRIS.

METROPOLITAN PAUPERISM.—The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers relieved in the third week of last month was 94,950, of whom 57,728 were indoor and 37,222 outdoor paupers. The total number relieved shows an increase of 1,330 over the corresponding week of last year, 5,444 over 1886, and 6,303 over 1885. The total number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 1,263, of whom 1,027 were men, 204 women, and 32 children under sixteen.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST to Socialists in the November magazines:—*Quarterly*: "Technical Education and Foreign Competition." *Murray's Magazine*: "The Police of the Metropolis," Sir Charles Warren. *Atlantic Monthly*: "Studies of Factory Life: Black-listing at Fall River," Lillie B. C. Wyman. *Century*: "The Guilds of the City of London," Norman Moore; "Political Exiles at Tomsk," George Kennan. *Fortnightly Review*: "Modern Handicrafts," William Morris. *National Review*: "Remedies for the Sweating System," Arthur A. Baumann, M.P.