

grindstone; he may have thought he had given the poor a benefit by "cheaper bread," when he believed in depriving them of all bread except at the supreme pleasure of himself and his fellow task-masters. All I can say is that his ignorance was ethereal. His contempt for the poor (as also his ceaseless venom against Robert Owen and all social reformers) was simply loathsome in a pretended follower of Jesus of Nazareth. Here is his notorious "residuum" speech:—

"I have always been in favour of household suffrage. I believe that the solid and ancient basis of the suffrage is that all persons who are rated to some tax should be admitted to the franchise. There is a small class which it would be much better for themselves if they were not enfranchised, because they have no independence whatsoever, and it would be much better for the constituency also that they should be excluded, and there is no class so much interested in having that small class excluded as the intelligent and honest working-men. I call this class the residuum, which there is in almost every constituency, of almost hopeless poverty and dependence."

Now this man could have had no idea of human rights as originating in humanity. His division line, of course, must come from so-called "property," even among his "honest and intelligent working-men." Property consists in the right to steal the product of other people. To him "honesty" and "intelligence" implied this faculty. Doubtless he was too ignorant to understand this; it was only an instinct. This instinct dominates his whole class. A few weeks ago one of his near relatives (a woman) let out the secret in Kennington. She said the land agitation has caused "property to depreciate." Quite right, my lady. "Property" is likely to depreciate still further; it is like to disappear altogether. Nature knows no reason why you and yours should live by the labour of others. While you are sufficiently cunning, and the mob able to bear your pilferings in patience, all is well. But the over-burdened mule either succumbs or rebels at last.

George Fox made his own suit of leather, as Carlyle has rendered famous. George Fox required no "compromise with sin" to sustain him in a false position. His nominal followers to-day, foul with the disease of usury, play—

"such fantastic tricks before high heaven,
As make the angels weep."

John Bright was the mouthpiece of these degraded beings. He was not like Gladstone, a scheming politician, ready to take any side, and plotting for applause and power. John Bright was the type of one of those two thieves (land and money) between which, as Bronterre O'Brien was fond of repeating, the cause of the workers is crucified. Because John Bright denounced the land robbers, the workers have been fools enough to trust in his saving arm. As a fact, there was nothing noble in Bright's hatred of the landlords. Bright represented the ancient "British" spirit, the real "residuum" of the queer mixed race of England, the stupid, unenlightened, bigoted, grasping, and servile element, which Romans, Angles, Danes, and Normans have rolled over in vain. There was nothing new or true in Bright's vulgar jibe about Disraeli's blood. The miserable Piers de Gaveston called Aymer de Valence "Joseph the Jew." John Bright knew nothing about the "English blood" of himself or of others. There was nothing about him which is associated with the real glory of the Anglo-Norman race. That race is not a race of cheap goods, of smoke-choked slaves, of the fairest island of earth turned into the blighting waste of steam-driven slave-dens. All this will pass away. A new generation will look back upon it all with horror and contempt, and wonder how a deluded people could ever have been wasted by such a social disease as produces such examples of human distortion as John Bright.

"O England, model to thy inward greatness,
Like little body with a mighty heart,
What might'st thou do, that honour would thee do,
Were all thy children kind and natural!"

L. W.

DUCKS AND FOOLS.

WHEN I was in Iceland, I was told about the habits of the eider ducks, which breed in great quantities in the little islets scattered about the firths there, and also of their treatment. They, of course, get their own living; they are pretty good to eat, but not very good; so they are not allowed to be shot, because they produce valuable down, which can be got at by the following process: They make their nests on the ground in the above-mentioned islets; the duck half strips her breast of the down to line her nest; this down is at once collared from the nest by those who are privileged to do so according to law. Then the duck pulls off the rest of her down, as she is anxious to sit and hatch; comes the legal owner of the down, and takes that also. Then comes the drake and half strips himself; this also the legal owner takes, grumbling because the drake's down is coarser, and also because his game is over; for now the poor devils of ducks would not hatch their eggs unless the drake were allowed to line the nest with all that remains to him. Therefore this time the down is not taken; the eggs are allowed to be hatched, so that in due time they may fulfil the function of their lives, and produce down for others' use. Moral: Ducks are obliged to stand this from Icelanders; but why Englishmen should stand similar usage from Englishmen is a curious question.

W. M.

EVICCTIONS IN LONDON.—A Parliamentary return has been issued, showing the number of warrants issued by justices under the Act 1 and 2 Vict., c. 74, for the recovery of possession of tenements within the metropolitan police district during the two years ended September 30, 1888. The divisions in which the largest number of warrants were issued are as follows: Whitehall, 378; St. James's, 235; Marylebone, 418; Finsbury, 702; Bethnal Green, 100; Whitechapel, 77; Lambeth, 87; Southwark, 281; Hammer-smith, 231; Wandsworth, 99. The total number of warrants was 2,757, and in 187 cases force was required to give effect to the warrant, these cases including 97 in Marylebone, 21 in Holborn, 22 in Bethnal Green, and 22 in Wandsworth. In three cases only was such force resisted—namely, in Marylebone, Finsbury, and Southwark.

FROM THE SLUMS.

WHAT care they for the lives we live,
Styed in a single room?
What thought, men, do these wealthy give
To all that is our doom?
What are the pauper lives to which
Our wants, our wives, condemn?
Our children's squalor—to the rich,
What are these things to them?
Of their æsthetic art they fuss;
They'd scorn to waste a thought on us.

Their sickly novel's loves and woes
May wake their cultured sighs;
Some spaniel or canary shows
How much their pets they prize;
We are but human flesh and blood;
We want—we starve;—what then?
We are not of their pack or stud;
Why should they care for men?
Of racer—pointer, they may fuss;
They'd scorn to waste a thought on us.

So be it; but we read at last;
To question Why we dare
One life is in an alley past,
One, in a wealthy square;
Why they to pampered lives are born,
We, starved lives to endure;
And if God made us for their scorn,
Or wills there shall be poor.
And at our clubs we dare discuss
Why they must differ so from us.

Why we are low—why they are high,
We reason all we can,
Yet fail to find the reason why
Man differs so from man.
We've blundered somehow into this,
Men's common rights forgot;
Now seems it that 'twere not amiss
That all should share one lot,
Should know one equal comfort thus,
Nor rich nor poor be known to us.

W. C. BENNETT.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING APRIL 13, 1889.

7	Sun.	1820. G. Klapka born. 1868. T. D'Arcy Magee shot. 1881. Irish Land Bill introduced.
8	Mon.	1801. Revolt at Warsaw. 1832. Co-operative Congress at Huddersfield. 1840. Bronterre O'Brien sentenced for sedition. 1848. Trial of Chartist rioters. 1848. Repeal banquet to O'Connell. 1867. Special Commission for trial of Fenians opens at Manchester. 1871. Monument to Ernest Jones unveiled in Ardwick Cemetery, Manchester. 1834. Serious labour-riot in Kidderminster, caused by importing "rat" weavers during a strike.
9	Tues.	1626. Lord Bacon died. 1797. Trial of John Gale Jones for sedition. 1817. Trial of William Edgar for administering unlawful oaths. 1834. Revolt at Lyons. 1869. Massacres at Seraing.
10	Wed.	1784. Viscount Strangford tried for acting criminally and corruptly as a Lord of Parliament, Ireland. 1820. Sir Charles Wolsey and Rev. Joseph Harrison tried for their "seditious" speeches at the Stockport meeting on the previous 28th of July. 1848. The great Chartist Demonstration on Kennington Common. 1833. Trial of the "Invincibles" began at Dublin.
11	Thur.	1814. Napoleon abdicated. 1839. E. Courmet born. 1887. Anti-Coercion Demonstration in Hyde Park; 150,000 present.
12	Fri.	1793. Phillips imprisoned for selling 'Rights of Man.' 1823. Second public meeting in the Rotunda, Dublin, to hear Robert Owen lecture. 1334. Defeat and massacre of the Lyons Socialists. 1858. Trial of Simon Bernard. 1867. The "Erin's Hope" ("Jaemel") sails from New York. 1871. Pierre Leroux died. 1878. Vera Zassulich acquitted of the killing of General Trepoff. 1879. Nihilist address to the Czar. 1885. Eight-hour labour-day demonstration in Hyde Park, held by the S.D.F.
13	Sat.	1593. Henry IV. of France issues the Edict of Nantes. 1812. Luddite riot at Leeds. 1829. Catholic Emancipation Bill passed. 1861. Taking of Fort Sumter begins American Civil War. 1872. Samuel Bamford died. 1886. J. H. Noyes died.

Vera Zassulich.—The acquittal of Vera Zassulich by a Russian jury made an epoch in the history of the Russian movement. General Trepoff (the Sir Charles Warren of St. Petersburg at that time) caused one of the political prisoners who were kept in the House of Detention to be flogged for not having taken his hat off before the General. Other prisoners confined in the walls of the same prison made a riot in their cells in order to prevent the disgraceful operation being performed, but they were beaten by warders till quite exhausted, and Bogoliuboff (the insulted prisoner) was flogged in spite of all that could be done. Outsiders did nothing. Officials, lawyers, authorities, and public men,—all knew what was going on in the prison, and none moved a finger to check the omnipotent Trepoff. But there appears in his office a humble, decently-dressed young girl, and presents him with a petition, accompanied by a revolver-bullet in the dictator's abdomen. Of course she was arrested, imprisoned, and tried; but the jury hated the General so much that they acquitted Vera Zassulich. The police and gendarmes tried to arrest her immediately after acquittal, but her friends and the enthusiastic crowd prevented it from being done, leaving one killed and several wounded on the spot. Vera has been living ever since in Switzerland.—TCH.

CLUB AUTONOME.—Lecture on "Anarchism," by James Harragan, on Sunday April 7th, at 3.45.