WHIGS ASTRAY.
A DIALOGUE BETWEEN
Owen F. Bacon, Jun., Esq., author (unpublished), and—
the Rev. Edward Stanley, a Nonconformist person, and—Radicals.

Suddenly, in a comfortable looking room at Mr. Brown's house, with tobacco and pipes and grog to the fore. Mr. Stanley and Mr. Brown sitting on either side of the fire, looking important and self-satisfied.

Between them, Mr. Jones, with an occasional ill-concealed grin on his face.

(Concluded from p. 13.)

S. 'We are in favour of giving some relief by way of security of tenure to leaseholders who are exposed to enormous losses and ruin.'

I. (after that this may only be in accordance with a contract voluntarily entered into; and it must be admitted that the evil is a difficult one to deal with,)

J. Yes, so difficult with your qualification tacked on to the remedy (as it must be) for the practical system of government might offer.'

S. Yes, indeed, only sufficient to stave off hopeless poverty; an easy job, isn't it? Man alive, do you know what hopeless poverty is! I live the life of it, and then you will know. And how many live such a life!—two-thirds of the whole. Nearly three things in ten, I think. Your system of government need be wise and practical indeed to stave that off.

J. Of course there ought not, and I am glad to hear you say so; but what are you to do but cherish your sentiment as a pious opinion? Can't you see that if it were so, labour would be dear; the capitalist would have to compete for the workman, instead of the workman for the capitalist, as is now the case! The capitalist would be done out of work, and would cease to employ, unless by the aid of new machinery he could once more win the blessing of having a due amount of men willing and unable to work. And if the capitalist won't employ labour—i.e. workmen—how is it to be employed?

S. They must employ themselves, I suppose.

J. I suppose so. In this case, where are those non-producing classes which you are so tender of?

S. Well—gone, I suppose. J. So what? if you have been speaking of them as thought they and their necessary complement, the poor, were essential and eternal.

S. (a pause.) For my part, Jones, I think you are trying to confuse the simplicity of true democratic ideas with your pedantic political economy. Let us come back to the point. Now please attend.

We are in favour of making justice easy of access to all. 'The path to the judge ought to be the most easy; it is the most difficult. Justice ought to be the cheapest commodity in the nation; and it is the dearest.'

J. The path to the judge is pretty easy for some people; and it strikes me that when they find him, they may be fain to find an animal which is a cross between a baboon and a tiger. But do you know that by justice you mean law; and I more than doubt if that wouldn't be deranged by the law, as it is not at least, the enforcement of private contract, with all its intricacy, by the undermining of the executive, which doesn't trouble itself to consider what the man who takes the benefit, of the contract will be injurious to the private person or to the community, so long as it has been entered into legally?

S. You don't understand you.

J. I fear not; and there are many in your case, who think that peace means the rule of law. So much the worse for all of us. I advise you to work a civil process in a law court (if you haven't done so already), and then see what you think of it. If you then don't understand what I have been saying, it's no use trying to make you understand.

S. Listen to this now! Now I think you will agree with me. The Radical is in favour of a positive reform of the Land Laws, with a view to getting the whole of the land into the hands of the same

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

Week ending February 9, 1889.

27 Mon. 1888. Trial of Gunpowder Plot conspirators. (Lewellyn, 1859; Durrant, 1870; Sweeney, born, 1814; White, died, 1847, 1874; conduct, 1876; Kreeger, 1872; Wastaff, 1874; Marnham, 1844. Outbreak at Openning, 1871. Cherry of Paris.)


31 Thurs. 1801. Lighting of the Beacons. 1811. Peter Finnerty imprisoned for 18 months and bound over for 5 years for "libel on Castle


2 Sat. 1860. Lodro Rollin born, 1886. Fenian (Special Commission) was heard. Support of the church convoked, 36, acquitted, 2. "Revolutionary Calendar.

BEIJING.

The tribunal of Moa has begun its work of vengeance against the miners who some weeks ago struck in the Centre and Boraigai districts. A first series of fourteen workers have been tried and sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. The rest have been released. The miners were arrested on suspicion, and then only the "big" trial for high treason against Defoiseaux, Laloi, Gérard, Marolle, etc., will take place. These last-named Socialists have done nothing whatever which looks "high treasonable," and the Government could not afford to spend all their dynamite for mere trifling trials with two or three months jail as ultimate result. Hence "high treason" must be got up and about.

Comrade Laurent Verrynke, the initiator of the open-air propaganda meetings in Belgium, was tried and sentenced to two years imprisonment. The Comrade is an able propagandist, and his work was considered too dangerous for the Government to go on trial, and for certain will be found guilty of all sorts of mischievous deeds. And so it is that the social revolutionary idea day after day is gaining more ground in that old feudal and rotten land of the Hapsburgs.

SWEDEN.

We told our readers, some weeks ago, that three Socialist papers had been prosecuted, and now we have two more to add to them, the Socialdemokrat at Stockholm, and Arbeidet at Malmo. The editors of the three former have just been sentenced to two years imprisonment and one month in jail, and the editor of Volksrätten (People's Voice), to twelve months for one article. At this very moment all the most notable Socialists of Sweden are in prison. The government has resolved to kill the Socialist movement, and now, before the party entertained better hopes towards its rapid development.

That is the curse of progress.

RUSSIA.

A Russian paper gives some interesting but fantastic figures on transportation from Siberia to Europe. As a rule, passengers who went to the Orient are now transported by rail, from 1827 to 1844, 125,755; from 1845 to 1870, 1,143,760; from 1871 to 1880, 64,658; from 1881 to 1890, 54,570. Out of that number the following were "political criminals": from 1837 to 1845, 51,000; from 1846 to 1876, 78,000; from 1877 to 1879, 66,000; and from 1880 to 1890, 64,658. Hence we have an increase of 14,630; while in the same period the number of persons transported to Siberia was 72,630. The number of persons transported to Siberia is very small for those who were reduced to serve in Siberia, aggravated by the inhumanity of the weather. Doubtless under these circumstances many of these criminals have not lived to reach Europe, appearing in Green, and Depford, unemployed men parading the streets and attacking some of the shops. During the afternoon some relief had been done by another baker, who to save damage distributed his bread freely among the people. In the Broadway another attack was made upon the shop of a baker, and bread was carried off without any of the noises usually made to prevent the additional force that evening, but were wholly insufficient to prevent the riot; on it it was not made, but the article "marble order" was restored. Next morning large numbers of men again assembled, plaintiff and defendant, tried the "punishment of the rioting. Its effect as usual was seen in the eflusive distribution of middle-class charity, although of course it was all put down by the ordinary press to that dreadful and malign creature the London 'rough'.—D. N.

Non-union carpenters are referred to in Denver as "beavermakers," in Pittsburgh as "jay-hawks," in Texas as "Punch and Judy showmen," and in California as "travelling ships."