IMPRESSIONS OF THE PARIS CONGRESS.

We delegates of the League met as agreed at London Bridge Station, and demoralized a numerous crowd of people going our way. We got things settled in London while we were there, and then it was necessary to go to London Bridge Station, where we met and found that the French delegates had voted in the same way.

There was a large majority for Liebig's motion; and a compromise, the question of the League, and the League's attitude in the way of fusion could follow from this motion, which expressed a wish for fusion, but only on the terms that there should be no submission on our part; and thus a long sitting came to an end.

The next morning, Wednesday, we learned that the Societists had accepted the fusion; but on condition that we should submit to having our mandates examined by the united Congresses, which it was clearly impossible for us to do. It seemed to those who had been most eager in pressing on the fusion admitted. We answered the Societists therefore that we could not agree to these terms, and in the evening received an answer from them in return breaking off the negotiations for ever.

We had thus wasted two whole days in discussing a matter which in the opinion of the delegates of the Socialist League ought never to have been discussed. We had lost our time at last to the delegates of any genuine working-men's association, so that there was nothing to prevent any one from joining us who felt friendly towards us. And furthermore, the plain truth is that real union between the two French sections was impossible, and an artificial union would have produced worse quarrels, and have prevented any profitable discussion to say the least of it.

On Wednesday evening, with the idea of the fusion hanging unsettled over us, began the reading of the reports, Rebe leading off for Germany. These have lasted all today; but as we shall go to press before an account of the end of the Congress could be given, I will give those which are present.

Our comrades should understand that whatever is said in the Congress, whether French, German, or English, has to be translated four times; and at present at least enough is being done. Mrs. Aveling acted as translator between German and French and English; Vollmar did the German part: the translators had their difficult task made more difficult by the buzz of conversation which was so soon as general speaker enough.

The earnestness and enthusiasm of the delegates was very impressive, and seems to have made some impression even on bourgeois and aristocratic; and we therefore during the debates are not at all a surprise. In one word, the whole business, the discussion which took place in the Possibilist Congress anent the fusion, Mrs. Besant allowed herself to say that the English delegates in the Congress represented nothing but themselves and the system, which offered our comrades here to give them every opportunity for the fullest scrutiny of our mandates; but it is quite clear that we gave no account of ourselves to a Congress for which we have received a mandate.

William Morris.

Thursday, July 18th, 1889.

"BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION."