

readers we must aim. Create a demand for Socialism among the readers, and the supply of that, as of anything else, would be forthcoming. Everywhere, in season and out of season, we must work. It is not enough to "celebrate" once a-year, or even to subscribe now and then; each must work always, counting no act too small, no sacrifice too great.

R. B. Cunninghame Graham, M.P., said that it had been well said that the government of the Commune rose with virtue in the morning and retired with virtue at night. Our government, and every bourgeois government, rose with humbug in the morning, retired with humbug at night, and kept humbug in sight all day. He valued the Commune for the noble example it set for us and all the world; he valued its annual celebration because it brought us all together, and did us incalculable good by that one thing alone. It was for us to take to heart its example and precept, and do our best to carry them into practice. Let us not stone another because he differs with us in method, but do our duty as we saw it, leaving others to do theirs.

The resolution was then put and carried, with one dissident. The meeting then rose to its feet, and, standing uncovered and silent for a few moments in memory of the dead, burst into three rousing cheers for the Social Revolution.

"All for the Cause" was sung by the S.L. Choir, and the "Marseillaise" by the whole audience, and the meeting broke up and dispersed quietly.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SOMERS TOWN INSTITUTE LITERARY & DEBATING SOCIETY.

I have the pleasure to inform you that the following resolution was passed after one month's discussion by a majority of 5:—"That this meeting is of opinion that Socialism is the *only* thing that can benefit the working-classes, and urges upon the Government the necessity of starting relief works to meet the demands of the unemployed of this great metropolis."—Sir, I remain, yours in earnest,

77, Euston Road, March 11, 1889.

G. H. THOMAS.

THE JEWISH PARADE AND LAW-'N'-ORDER.

THE International Working Men's Club, Berner Street, arranged a parade of unemployed and sweaters' victims on Saturday, March 16th, and proposed visiting the Synagogue and engaging the attention of Dr. Hermann Adler and his congregation of well-fed *choshens*. Adler may entertain a belief that all will meet on an equality hereafter in a better land, but he and his *clientele* are determined to postpone that meeting until the sweet by-and-bye; so respectable, orthodox Judaism called in the aid of *Christian* defenders of law and order, in the persons of City and Metropolitan police, to keep them from contact with the victims of their greed. The ruffians of the Metropolitan police, aided by a number of spies and roughs, got up a row outside the Club by encouraging boys to stone the members. One, getting an ugly cut, naturally retaliated; the police thereupon forced their way into the Club, kicking the steward, and a brave inspector knocked Mrs. Diemsheitz down and kicked her so as to lame her, using meanwhile the most horrible oaths. Several comrades were arrested on the pretence of having assaulted these wretches, and when in the police-station, a detective seized a poker and beat Diemsheitz about the head with it. When bail was procured, every obstacle was thrown in the way of the men's release. The bail were warned that it was a serious case, and told elegantly not to be fools, and waste their money on a lot of foreigners. Some who tried to see the prisoners were knocked down on the police-station steps, and generally the whole affair was a lesson in law-'n'-order. Bearing in mind the outrages committed by the police at the International Club, Stephen's Mews, a few years back, resulting in one death and many life-long injuries, and seeing every chance of a repetition of that scene when night fell, the police were warned that a defence would be made if any such tactics were resorted to. Preparations were duly made for the defence of the club during the night, but, apparently as the result of the warning, no attempt was made, and the police bullies carefully avoided the neighbourhood. It would be well for all concerned to take note that there is not the slightest intention on the part either of English or foreign Socialists to allow such police outrages to be perpetrated without risk to the perpetrators in future.

F. KITZ.

TO MANCHESTER FRIENDS.

ALL comrades in and around Manchester desiring to see the cause of Socialism pushed forward, and willing to help in spreading the *Commonweal*, leaflets, pamphlets, and other revolutionary literature, or assisting in a paste-pot brigade, are asked to meet comrade W. Wess on Thursday night, at the International Working-men's Club, 122, Corporation Street, corner of Hanover Street; or to communicate with him at 31, Brompton Street, Cheetham, Manchester. Those sympathisers who cannot take the risk of doing active work, can greatly assist by subscribing, through the secretary of the Socialist League, towards leaflet distribution fund, of which there is a great lack here.

Eds.

The object of life is to be happy, the place to be happy is here, the time to be happy is now, and the way to be happy is to make others happy.—*Colonel Ingersoll*.

Gabriel Dumont, who was Louis Riel's lieutenant during the Canadian half-breed rebellion, has been pardoned by the Canadian Government. He is on his way back to his tribe mates.

There is no truth—shall we say no honour?—in public life. Men seem to seek Parliamentary honours in the pursuit of their personal ambition. If the cause they were elected to serve can be advanced in conjunction with their own interests, they will aid it; if it cannot, it must go to the wall. Public life is all a struggle for personal distinction, and in the struggle principle is at a discount.—*Reynolds*.

REVOLUTIONARY CALENDAR.

WEEK ENDING MARCH 30, 1889.

24	Sun.	1794. Hébart and Anacharsis Clootz guillotined. 1871. The Commune proclaimed at Toulouse and Narbonne, and red flag hoisted at Marseilles.
25	Mon.	1812. Alexander Herzen born. 1879. Attempted execution of General Drenteln, chief of gendarmes at St. Petersburg, by Mirsky.
26	Tues.	1848. Insurrection at Madrid. 1869. Memorial meeting for Ernest Jones in Trafalgar Square. 1871. Election of the Commune at Paris.
27	Wed.	1820. Trial ends of Hunt and others for their conduct at Peterloo. 1875. Edgar Quinet died.
28	Thur.	1757. Damiens executed. 1833. Twelve members of the "Irish Patriotic Brotherhood" sentenced—ten of them to ten years, and the others to seven and five years each—"for conspiring to overthrow the Queen's authority in Ireland and to murder various owners of land." 1884. Socialist Congress at Roubaix, France.
29	Fri.	1855. Giovanni Dianori attempts life of Napoleon III. 1872. Agricultural Labourers' Union formed. 1875. John Martin died. 1879. Lock-out at Pimlico army-clothing factory. 1884. Riots at Cincinnati. 1887. Attempt on Alexander III. by an officer.
30	Sat.	1135. Maimonides born. 1870. Negro Suffrage in the United States. 1881. Arrest of John Most and committal for trial; seizure of <i>Freiheit</i> plant, etc. 1882. Execution of procurator Strielnikoff in Odessa by Khalturin and Jevlakoff, by order of the Executive Committee, for cruel and treacherous treatment of political prisoners.

William Skirving.—Born at Liberton, near Edinburgh, about 1750; died March 19, 1796. Son of a farmer, he was educated for the Burgher Secession Church. After finishing his course at Edinburgh University, he studied divinity under the celebrated Professor John Brown of Haddington. He, however, gave up his intention toward the ministry—which was probably less due all along to his own desires than to the wish of his, like that of every well-conducted Scotch family, to see their son "wag his paw in a pulpit"—and became a tutor in the family of Sir Alexander Dick of Prestonfield. Tutoring, however, was evidently not his line, and he ultimately settled as a farmer in Kinross-shire, and married a Miss Alexander of Kirkcaldy, with whom he obtained the small estate of Strathruddie in Fifeshire, which afterwards furnished him with a nickname. He was very fond of agriculture, of which he made a special study, and on which he published "The Husbandman's Assistant," and other treatises; he even stood, very nearly with success, for the Chair of Agriculture in Edinburgh University.

His studies and publications brought him to Edinburgh in 1792, where he enrolled himself among the Friends of the People, soon becoming secretary (unpaid) to their General Association. The first convention met in December 1792, Skirving acting as secretary. So also he did to the second, which assembled in May 1793. The policy of the Pitt administration was now in full swing, and it was highly dangerous to utter anywhere a liberal sentiment, political or social. Skirving knew his conduct to be narrowly watched, and that his prominent position among the Friends of the People could not fail sooner or later to place him in the hands of the authorities, and he was not surprised, therefore, that the first pretext was taken for his arrest. In July a General Meeting was held at the Berean Meeting-house, Dundee, at which an address was adopted, of which Skirving did not approve, although, as he said afterwards, it was "merely the strong effusion of honest hearts, alarmed by the measures of those in administration, judging the constitution in the utmost danger, and catching at the first ground of alarm which presented themselves to their view." It was printed and issued, judged to be "seditious and inflammatory," he was thrown into prison, his house searched and his papers seized. Muir and Fyshe Palmer followed, but were tried first: Muir on August 30 was transported for fourteen years, and Palmer on September 13 for seven. Skirving, meanwhile, let out on very heavy bail, continued to discharge his duties as secretary, and in that capacity signed an outspoken address adopted by the General Convention at Edinburgh in October (Oct. 29—Nov. 6), which said that "this society is determined to adhere to the original principles of its institution." On the 19th November the General Convention again met, at Convention Hall (Mason's Lodge), Blackfriars Wynd. At the fifth day's sitting (Nov. 23) the name of the Convention was changed to "the British Convention of the Delegates of the People, associated to obtain Universal Suffrage and Annual Parliaments"; the vote was unanimous, the delegates rising and clasping hands as they gave it. A few days afterwards, the Convention was addressed by Butler and Rowan, as delegates from the United Irishmen. In following Butler, Gerrald used words that remain true to-day as then: "As soon as the alarm-bell was rung, the Opposition joined the Ministers. *Party is ever a bird of prey*, and the people its banquet." On Thursday December 5, the Lord Provost and magistrates of the city broke in upon and dispersed the Convention. Skirving, who was present at the meeting, thought this only applied to the British Convention, and tried to revive the old "General" Convention. To that end they repaired the same evening to a house in Flesh-Market Close, at the head of the Canongate, outside the jurisdiction of the city magistrates, and there held a meeting and appointed a committee to "report, with all convenient speed, on the means to be adopted for making a spirited resentment of the illegal proceedings of this day." Next morning (6th) they met in a loft or workshop in Lady Lawson's Yard, on the south side of the Crosscauseway, but were speedily dispersed by the Sheriff-Substitute of the county, who came with a large force of constables, etc. Another attempt was made by Skirving, who called a meeting, by advertisement in the *Edinburgh Gazetteer*, for the 10th, at a house belonging to him, formerly called the Cockpit, in or near the Grassmarket. But the house was taken possession of by the Town Guard, himself arrested, and his papers again seized. Kept in prison for some weeks, and let out for another while on heavy bail, he was brought to trial January 6, 1794. The "trial" lasted two days, and ended in a verdict of fourteen years' transportation—a foregone conclusion, ordered from London, as in Gerrald's case. On May 1, 1794, he sailed in the "*Surprise*" from St. Helen's, and reached Port Jackson on October 25. Here he took a farm, which he called New Strathruddie, and settled down to his old pursuit; but the hardships he met with, together with those endured in the living hell of the convict-ship, were too much for him. He was attacked by dysentery, and left his farm to obtain medical assistance; but rather than alarm his friends, he delayed proper care too long, and the attack proved fatal. He was emphatically what his friends called him, "A tried patriot and an honest man." Not brilliant and widely read, like Muir and Gerrald, but of good natural parts, sound sense, unflinching courage, and unblemished integrity.—S.

If not any man of a million has a right to govern me, then the million men have no right to govern me. A millions times nothing is only nothing.—W. H. R.