

SOCIALISM IN SYDNEY.

The Socialist League is making itself felt to some purpose in this colony. The principles of Socialism are now being discussed in one way or other by some of the prominent newspapers, while others are preaching the doctrine of Land Nationalization. Amongst local papers that have noticed the Sydney Socialists, I might mention the *Daily Telegraph*, the *Herald*, the *Evening News*, and the *Echo*. The *Bulletin* is rapidly developing into a Socialistic paper, only it relies too much on parliamentary aids and restrictive legislation. The *Australian Christian World* has also been looking on Socialism with favourable eyes; I might insert here an article it published on *Champion*, *Hedlam*, and the English Socialists.

The *Hawkesbury Chronicle*, (Windsor) edited by one of the ablest and most liberal journalists in New South Wales, (Mr. V. C. Johnson), has in its last issue devoted a leading article of over three columns to Socialism and the Socialist League. The Editor publishes the Manifesto of the League and criticises it clause by clause. His verdict is unfavorable, but he deals more fairly with the subject than does Mr. Joseph Symes in the *Liberator*. Mr. Symes in an address to Mr. Thomas Workman (in the *Liberator* of Sept. 25th.) criticised what he is pleased to term Socialism rather severely. He set up a phantom man of straw, and then proceeded to violently dash it to pieces. He did not attempt to deal with the real thing itself, although he admitted a good deal of what Socialists contend for. I wrote a long article in reply, in which I attempted to deal with the system of Socialism itself and not with some wild Middle-class theological phantom. Mr. Symes penned an article in reply last week, but he does not deal with a single one of the arguments I brought forward.

He tries to make a great deal out of the sentiment of ambition, and assumes that Socialism would destroy all ambition, aspiration, and desire for excellence, which only goes to show how little he knows about the subject he is attacking. He mixes up in a wild manner Individualism, Anarchy with Communistic Socialism and Nihilism, and says that "Anarchists and Socialists are 'amongst the most malignant of mankind'; and the best absolutely concerted tool. They recognise no good in existing social arrangements." What can one say to such unjust and abusive criticism as that? It is false to assert that Socialists recognise no good in existing social arrangements. What they say is this:—that the existing Society immensely over-balance the good, and that those evil conditions are inseparable in spite of the advance of science and education and the preaching

of Atheists have got rid of the old Calvinistic God and total depravity of man; to set up a horrible presentment of universal nature that makes man an automaton, have to a force more thought-destroying and cruel than the Omnipotent God whom Shelley anathematised in "Queen Mab." Mr. Symes is too Presumptuous surely he does not think that human beings are so depraved a scene of his sentences indicate! If I could not see a more bright and hopeful outlook for mankind than he does, I would go back to the bosom of the Church. We have other foes, as bad as theologians, to fight, Landlords, Monopolists, Legislators, Lawyers, and Popes of all kinds. Atheists should not be deluded by the creative fallacies of old Political Economy, and should not denounce reformers who, inspired by the noble principles of Free thought, dare to follow wherever their honest judgment leads and need run the monstrous sham the present conventional and political framework of "civilized" society.

W. H. McNAMARA,
SYDNEY, Oct. 18th. 1887.

SYDNEY NOTES.

The adjourned debate on "What shall we do with our Unemployed?" was brought to a conclusion at the Socialist Rooms, 107 George St. on Sunday evening, Oct. 16th. Comrade J. Anderson opened, and was followed by Messrs. Whalley, McNamara, Canfield, Hennessey and Bayliss. The discussion was very lively on Unemployment, Socialism, Protection, Payment of Members, the Sins of legislators and other topics were introduced. The various speakers got a good hearing from a large and intelligent audience, the room being crowded to hold all that wished to obtain admittance.

A meeting was held in the Park on Sunday at 2 p.m. when Mr. Whalley lectured on the Political outlook of the day and on the crimes of Sineyry, Parkes, and Mr. McNamara delivered an address on "The Coming Social Revolution."

On Next Sunday (Oct. 23rd) a similar debate will take place at 533 George Street between J. Whalley and W. H. McNamara. The subject is: "That the Government should be advocated as a necessary step towards Socialism." Mr. Whalley will open. Mr. McNamara denies. The debate commences at 3 p.m. sharp. All Socialists, Protectionists, Freetraders and Radicals are invited to be present.

On Sunday afternoon (Oct. 22nd) we will do a little Missionary business at the R. Works, George's River when a address will be delivered on Socialism. Mr. Anderson is distributing last week's *RADICALS* at the Relief Works, George's River on Monday (Tuesday). We afterwards pay a visit to National Park. Sold on Sunday last, the *RADICALS*. The sale has fallen off through not getting them in time the week before.

Nearly all these great Socialists and Anarchists have been Freethinkers and have come to their conclusions by the study of Science, Evolution, and Sociology. I do think honestly that, of all people in the world, it should be the last to so bitterly pit themselves in opposition to Socialism and to impugn the soundness, common-sense, and ability of its advocates.