

being let for any such purpose. It will be seen from an advertisement, that the trustees very promptly complied with the request of the inhabitants, and that Mr. Owen was denied access to the room."—*North Staffordshire Mercury*.

YARMOUTH, June 21st.—The clergy of this town have given up all public opposition to our views, for since the attack upon us by the Rev. H. Squire, and the discussion between that gentleman and Mr. Clark, none of them have opposed us openly; but nevertheless opposition has been offered to us in another way. The saints in the neighbourhood of our Institution have been endeavouring to stop our meetings for Rational amusement. At the last Quarter Sessions for the Borough, they got up an indictment against us, and "the Grand Jury found a true bill against the Social Hall of Science, as being a nuisance to the neighbourhood, being the constant scene of nightly broil." On the bill being presented to the Recorder, he informed them that it did not come under his jurisdiction, but that they must report the case to the magistrates in petty session. Since then they have been endeavouring to obtain the signatures of the persons living in the neighbourhood, but in this I have no doubt they will be foiled; for a gentleman who resides in the adjoining house to our Institution, and whom they waited upon to request his signature, refused to sign anything until he had seen and heard for himself. He, accordingly, came to our Institution on Monday evening, the 15th instant, and the result was, as might be expected, he expressed himself highly satisfied with our conduct, and stated that he should come again. We wish the parties who are endeavouring to persecute us would do the same, and we feel assured that they would come to the same conclusion.—Mr. Clark arrived on Thursday, June 11th, and on Sunday, the 14th, he lectured on the necessity of human actions. The easy and pleasing manner of the lecturer gave universal satisfaction to all present. At the conclusion of the lecture he made some pleasing remarks on education, showing the superiority of teaching children facts only, instead of making them recipients of verbal knowledge and imaginary dogmas, and stated that it was our intention to open a Sunday School, on Sunday, June 28th, in which we should teach the children nothing but what was good and useful, without poisoning their minds with any particular creed or dogma. Several persons, not members of the branch, have promised to send their children, and we trust we shall soon be able to shew to our opponents that we have a far better method of teaching them to be good and useful members of society than they have. Eight or ten of our members have offered their services as teachers: a gentleman has also kindly offered to teach music.—The members have taken into consideration the necessity of holding monthly meetings for the purpose of cultivating the true Social feeling amongst themselves, their wives, and families. The first one will be held on the first Thursday evening in July; and, altogether, the branch is better organized than ever it has been since its commencement, and we trust that we shall soon be able to surmount the many difficulties that have hitherto retarded our progress; and finally to assist in establishing for ourselves, and all mankind, universal homes of peace, when want and the fear of it shall cease for ever.

C. HARRISON, Secretary.

BETHNAL GREEN, LONDON, June 17th, 1840.—We are steadily progressing, both in the conduct and manners of the members, and in the general proceedings of the Branch; among other things a strong desire exists for the establishment of a school, now in course of being accomplished for the training, of not only the children of the members, but also of the neighbours and friends, who would wish to have their children taught useful knowledge, free from the sectarian dogmas so abundantly diffused in this locality. Perceiving that similar proceedings are adopted by numerous Branches, we would just hint, that if the Central Board, or a committee of instruction, would take this important matter into consideration, and lay down a systematic plan for their procedure, to be generally adopted, it would be of incalculable benefit to the cause; the rising generation would be imbued with right and uniform principles, and those who had undertaken the teaching of them greatly assisted in their undertaking: we therefore hope shortly to see something of the kind adopted. The last fortnight has been a period of great interest to us, from the circumstance of two of our valued and respected friends leaving us for their appointments in other Districts, namely, Mr. Simpkins, late Missionary for London, and Mr. Stevens, who may justly be considered the founder of this Branch: the kindness and attention of the former during the short time it has been in existence entitles him to our gratitude. On Sunday the 7th inst., he lectured on "Commerce," and the comparison he drew between that at present in operation, and what ought really to be was striking: the eulogies passed on commerce, by political economists the blessings and advantages resulting to a country like this, the progress of civilization, the extreme benevolence, the numerous charities, the intelligence and wealth of its inhabitants, were all said to be the results of an extensive system of commerce: all this appeared very fine, but was it really the case? Look at the state of the manufacturing districts. Ireland was a commercial country, but compare that coun-

try with Norway, and then it would be seen which had the greatest blessings. After explaining the true principles of commerce, the arguments he brought forward, in contrast to those which the inhabitants of this, as well as other manufacturing districts had been surfeited with, were of the most convincing nature and were duly appreciated by the audience. On the following Sunday Mr. Stevens lectured on a similar subject; and as a proof of the esteem in which he is held here, we may state, that we had the largest audience since we have taken possession of our new premises. Subjects of this nature, if treated in the manner they were on these occasions, would be of immense benefit in removing the mist from our eyes, purposely thrown in by interested parties. After the lecture he gave us a parting address, in which he enumerated the motives which induced him to attempt the establishment of a Branch, in this hitherto apathetic neighbourhood, and the same devotion to the cause of socialism should, as far as he was able, prompt him to spread its benign principles wherever he went. We are confident, that if arrangements could have been made, by which he could be retained in London a little longer, much good would have resulted; he has done wonders here, in the opinion of many; and we trust that his exertions, as well as that old and sincere friend Mr. Simpkins, may meet with that success to which their talent and devotion so justly entitles them. We have pleasure in adding that another Branch will shortly be formed in this district, as we understand that the requisite measures have been adopted for obtaining a charter; so that the East Londoners are about reversing the character they have hitherto had, of not being alive to any means for alleviating their present condition, and securing their just rights.

J. BRINDLEY.

DOVER.—The number of adherents to the Social system has much increased since Mr. Simpkins's visit to this town. Several have commenced paying to the Community fund in the Chatham branch. We are happy to learn that the more influential classes are very favourably disposed towards the new views. Mr. Owen is much wanted, to deliver a course of lectures; which, there is no doubt, would be well supported and attended. An admirable and spacious Hall can be procured for the purpose.

BILSTON, JUNE.—Many of our friends throughout the country may have come to the conclusion from not seeing any report lately from us, that this Branch is defunct; if so, this notice will remove the false impression. We have not had any public lecturing lately; but we have been engaged, heart and soul, in improving ourselves, and those who have visited us. Previous to Congress directing the attention of the branches to the importance of forming classes for mutual improvement, we had formed one under very favourable auspices. The leader of our class is known to your readers, as "Pencil'em;" and I assure you that since his appointment, a very marked change for the better is observable amongst our members. It is now the opinion of all that this branch is in a more healthy condition than it ever has been before. We had proceeded in our quiet course up to last week, when Mr. Brindley made his appearance here, and announced two lectures on the "atheism, absurdity, immorality, and robbery of Socialism." On his bills he announced the "revolt of the Social Community in Hampshire." He dared the Socialists to appear to discuss with him. Having heard a great deal, and seen a little, of this gentleman, we thought it prudent to refrain from attendance. A person was appointed each night to take notes for the use of our friend Mr. Mackintosh, whom we engaged to reply to his lectures. The only novelties in his lectures were the announcement of the "revolt of the community, and the peremptory dismissal of Mr. Finch, who was expelled when in a dying state, and whither he had gone no one knew." These and other similar expressions he made use of; in fact, it may be said he out-Brindley'd Brindley, on this occasion. A day or two after his lectures we issued a placard, challenging by name all persons that have attacked us in this town and neighbourhood—Brindley among the rest—to meet Mr. Mackintosh in public discussion, upon fair and equal terms, and announcing two lectures in reply to the calumnies of Brindley and others. We had very numerous, but rather disorderly audiences on both nights. Several of our townsmen came to discuss with Mr. Mackintosh, who soon disposed of their objections. The greatest interest has been created; the meetings were kept up till a late hour; the last night it was twelve o'clock before the chairman left his seat. Our placard, which was a bold one, had the effect of bringing out a committee of gentlemen on behalf of Mr. Brindley; we anticipated this, and had appointed a committee on behalf of Mr. Mackintosh. The committees have arranged as to terms for a discussion; the time is not known exactly, but I expect it will be in a fortnight, if Mr. Brindley does not slip away. A circumstance has happened here which should be known to all. The placards we posted had no printers' name to them, the person who usually does our printing having suffered for it. We employed a poor blind youth to post them. He had posted Bilston, and went

to Wednesbury, an adjoining town; there he was kidnapped by the constable of the place, put in the lock up, and afterwards taken before the Parson Magistrate, who sentenced him to pay a fine of five pounds, or three months' imprisonment, if he would not give up the name of the printer. He had promised not to do the latter; the fine he was not in a condition to pay; and consequently, he is now in Stafford county gaol. We have had advice as to the legality of the act, and are proceeding in the case. I shall send you a full account of this affair, when it is over, for the information of our friends throughout the country. This town and neighbourhood was never so excited before on the subject of Socialism; we have no doubt it will do us good, and add to our numbers. In fact, we have every thing to gain, and nothing to lose, by excitements of this kind; many are led to a knowledge of the truth, and when that is the case, it will require more than the force of Brindley and Barker, or all the parsons and bishops in Christendom to turn them away. Judging of other people by myself, I am perfectly at ease respecting the future progress of our cause, which must be onward;—although Brindley stated "he would be tarred and feathered if a single Social Institution was in existence six months hence." Vain, weak man, to make such a very classical assertion. Some of our friends think it would be a sure speculation to order the material for this exhibition, as nothing is more certain, if Brindley adheres to his statement, than that they will be wanted.

B. SKIDMORE.

WIGAN.—Mr. Connard, Missionary of this district, commenced his labours on Sunday the 14th. inst. by lecturing here, in the afternoon and evening. The lecture in the afternoon was on charity, which he showed to have a much more extended signification, than the extremely narrow view generally entertained of it; for with most persons it is considered to consist only in bestowing a small portion of their wealth, upon what are termed charitable institutions, or in giving a still smaller portion to their destitute brethren; and even in these instances it is to be feared that with many it is more to gain the esteem of their friends, than from a really benevolent feeling towards the objects themselves. But real charity, he stated, consisted in endeavouring, to the greatest extent in our power, to make the whole human race truly happy. In the evening, he lectured on the power of the people, and showed the immense advantages of moral power over physical power; and instanced a variety of changes which had been effected; and contended that when more fully understood and appreciated by the people, it will ensure for them permanent happiness. The lectures were well received by all present, and at the conclusion many expressed their approbation.

F. BAKER.

ARBROATH.—The subject of Socialism was introduced to the inhabitants of this town on the evenings of Wednesday and Thursday, the 17th and 18th of June. But little notice of the lectures was given, yet the attendance was very good, much better than was expected. The first lecture was on "The Production and Distribution of Wealth." The second, on "Education and Government." Both lectures were exceedingly well received by the audience, who testified their concurrence with the principles, by general manifestations of applause. No opposition on the first evening. On the second, questions were asked about the marriage system; belief in a God; natural depravity; the support of children in Communities; and other questions of a similar nature; the replies to which were frequently cheered. The lecturer declined entering into a theological discussion, stating, that when all matters were satisfactorily settled in this world, he might then meddle with the next, but not till then. A class has been formed of twelve or fourteen members, who are to subscribe one penny per week for the purchase of Socialist publications. The members to read them in rotation; to meet to exchange them on Sunday evenings. Amongst other works, they are to take two Stamp'd copies of the *New Moral World*. These will be as the voice of one crying in the wilderness—"Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Socialism) and make his (its) paths straight."

A SOCIALIST.

MR. OWEN'S LECTURES.—Last night (Thursday) and on Wednesday night, this gentleman delivered two lectures in the Theatre, and this evening he delivers another in the same place. As the three are connected, we purpose noticing them in our next.—*Nottingham Review*, June 26.

Most men never distinguish their own decisions from what is right; not considering that, if others are not of the same opinion as themselves, neither are they of the same opinion as others. This arises from that pride which makes every one assume as a fixed principle that he is right. This pride is particularly the lot of the ignorant; and hence, the saying that "he is quite proud of being ignorant." Socrates was just the reverse of such men; after he had learned all that the wisest of his day could teach, he declared that he knew nothing.

PERSECUTION OF TRUTH.—Wherever you see persecution, here is more than a probability that truth lies on the persecuted side.—*Bishop Latimer*.