

## OUR BOARDING HOUSE

Reflections on Current Events by  
the Boarders.

"The Witness, commenting on the May Day riots in Europe, says there is a lesson to be learned from these upheavals which emanate from a condition of poverty which ought to be studied for the sake of its relief," said Brown. "If Christianity does not fulfil her appointed task she must be goaded to it by the promptings of danger. It is now in order for the Witness to explain what it considers the appointed task of Christianity. I was and am yet under the impression that the grinding poverty and discontent of the masses was caused through ignorance, contempt and neglect of human rights on the part of governments. If I am wrong I want to be corrected. True, I always had a suspicion that the followers of Christ were not true to their Master; I even suspected that some of His agents on earth conspired, in a deliberate manner with the ruling powers, to keep the people in ignorance, so that they might rob them with greater impunity, but I never believed what the Witness intimates, that the Church was to blame for all our troubles. It is, however, such an intensely religious paper that I willingly accept what it says, only I would like it to be a little more explicit and point out what it considers to be the mission of Christianity on earth."

"Christianity, as taught and practised by the Church in its younger days, was all right," said Gashill; "it was essentially democratic. Rich and poor, high and low, were treated alike, and with the same consideration. It taught the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man; it affirmed that all men were equal. And the early Christian believed in it, even to the extent of freeing their slaves, if they had any. The rich willingly shared their substance with their poorer brethren, while these in turn had implicit confidence in them. It was the social-democratic character of Christianity, its teachings of fraternity, equality and liberty which enabled it, despite the terrible persecutions to which it was subjected, to steadily gain in numbers. In many of the primitive congregations a real equality prevailed among all its members—a bona fide community of goods and of friendly offices. It was this total absence of selfishness, the perfect sincerity of selfishness, their faith in their religion and in one another that prompted men to embrace the Gospel of the New Testament. This merely lasted, however, until the conversion of Constantine, which made Christianity fashionable, and opened the doors of preferment to the more ambitious and unscrupulous of its leaders, who from that period had one gospel for the rich and another for the poor. The saving of souls became a secondary matter; the church desired power, and to obtain it, it catered to those who held the reins of governments and sacrificed the liberties of the class from whence it sprung. The Witness is right in saying that Christianity has failed to fulfil its mission."

"But why should Christianity, or what is commonly known as the 'Church' be goaded to fulfil its appointed task?" said Phil. "Why perpetuate an organization which has outlived its usefulness? Why follow the lead of men who, according to their own champion, require kicks and cuffs to force them to discharge their plain duty to humanity. The crystallized essence of the New Testament is 'to love thy neighbor as thyself.' The crystallized essence of the labor movement is 'an injury to one is the concern of all.' This is the same religion as that originally taught by the carpenter's son—it is the religion of humanity. The Christianity of our times is run on the maxim of 'Do

your neighbor before he has a chance to do you.' Which will you have, the pure, genuine article of faith of the early Christians, or the Brummagen religious tinsel of the modern church?"

BILL BLADES.

## HOW THEY GOT RICH.

A real estate firm that has a large advertisement in the Daily Real Estate Reporter of Chicago declares in large type that "The merchant princes of Chicago probably owe more of their success and vast accumulations to their real estate investments rather than they do to the purchase and sale of merchandise." These advertisers doubtless know what they are talking about, and here we have clearly illustrated one of the grossest evils of the existing system. A merchant who is making a fortune by the purchase and sale of merchandise is rendering a service to the community in which he lives. The moment, however, that he begins to buy up land and hold it out of use for a rise in price, he begins to injure the community and prevent the wholesome and symmetrical growth of the city in which he lives.—The Standard.

## BISHOP BROOKS ON LAND.

Rev. Phillips Brooks of Boston, just elected Bishop of Massachusetts, in the course of a recent sermon on the subject of the exclusion of foreigners from the territory of the United States, declared that "no nation, as no man, has a right to take possession of a choice bit of God's earth to exclude the foreigner from its territory simply that he may live more comfortably and be a little more at peace." He went on to say that if our nation has been "given the development of a certain part of God's earth for universal purposes" it is its duty to prevent such a flood of immigration as would prevent the proper development of the American type of national character. He thought this would, in the long run, be better for foreign nations as well as our own. The significant thing about his address was his declaration that no man any more than a nation has a "right to take possession of a choice bit of God's earth" for purely selfish purposes. If Bishop Brooks will press this argument to its conclusion he will see that the only condition on which any man can properly be permitted to hold and use a choice bit of earth is that he shall pay to his fellow-men the exact value of whatever advantage such possession gives him over them.—The Standard.

## A Bellamy Experiment.

A Los Angeles gentleman has been investigating, with rather startling results, the Kaweah colony in Tulare county, Cal., which was established some three years ago ostensibly to carry out the community ideas set forth by Mr. Bellamy. Haskell & Martin were the founders of the colony. Martin managed the business on the ground, and Haskell did the advertising and drumming by means of a magazine started by him in the interest of the concern. They set forth that the colony owned 5,000 acres of the best of land, and that any one could become a member by the payment of \$500, \$100 cash and the balance in \$5 monthly instalments. Hundreds of people bit at the tempting bait, and hurried to invest their little all in the model community, where the welfare of each was the care of all. The workers were not paid in money, but in time checks gotten up by Haskell, which entitled the holder to goods bought from the colony store, i.e., from Martin's, at a slight advance over the cost price. Thousands of dollars of this worthless paper has been issued, and many have nothing else to show for their three years' labor. It is estimated that the enterprising originators of the project are clearing \$3,000 a month out of it.

## An Ancient Race.

Of the builders of ancient mounds and other remarkable earthworks found in this country we have no real knowledge, but popular belief and scientific theory alike attribute these works to a race preceding the American Indian. Even the Indians themselves appeared to regard them as the work of some very ancient people. The relics of carved stone, elegantly formed pottery and bronze, silver and copper orna-

ments found in explored mounds indicate a skill and degree of civilization not found among the Indians by the first white settlers of the country. The Inter-Ocean quotes a writer on this subject to the effect that the monuments left by the mound builders "indicate that the ancient population was numerous and widely spread, as shown from the number and magnitude of their works, and the extensive range of their occurrence; that it was essentially homogeneous in customs, habits, religion and government, as appears from the great uniformity which the works display, not only in respect to position and form, but in all minor particulars; and that the features common to all the remains identify them as appertaining to a single grand system, owing its origin to a family of men moving in the same general direction, acting under common impulses and influenced by similar causes." Archaeologists find in the mounds evidence of a very different state of society from that among the Indians. The Indians were a nomadic race, subsisting by hunting; the mound builders were apparently an agricultural people. Many of the mounds seem to have been erected as military works; these would only have been needed by an agricultural people.

## London's Soot and Fogs.

The amount of carbonaceous and other particles deposited upon glass houses is a good indication of what the London atmosphere contains, and in many places it is only possible to procure a due admission of light to the plants by frequently washing the glass roofs. At one establishment recently two tanks, constructed to collect the rain from a house completed a few years since, were cleared out, and no less than ten barrow loads of sooty matter were removed, all of which must have been conveyed into the tanks from the glass.

One scientific gentleman has been engaged in computing the amount of soot deposited from London air, and arrived at the following conclusions: He collected the smoke deposited on a patch of snow in Canonbury one square link about eight inches in extent and obtained from it two grains of soot. As London covers 110 square miles, this would give us for the whole area 1,000 tons. As the quantity measured fell in ten days, a month's allowance would need 1,000 horses to cart it off, and these stretched in line would extend four miles. Hence London's black fog.

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CATTLEBURG, Ky., May 7.—Trouble is again brewing between the Italian laborers employed on the Norfolk & Western Railway in Wayne county, W. Va., and the other laborers on the same work. The Italians are largely in the majority and very over-bearing. For some weeks they have taken special delight in taunting a wagon driver named Woodward. On Tuesday Woodward turned on his tormentors and killed an unknown Italian. Woodward fled, pursued by the Italians. He sought refuge with the civic authorities, who refused to hold him, as the killing was considered justifiable. The Italians are much excited.

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