

many rulers, both ancient and modern, have been imbued; the absurd doctrine of the "Divine Right of Kings," and the subordinate but equally extravagant theory, that the "Common people were made only to be governed," tended largely to generate an element of discord among the masses which, in many cases, proved disastrous to social and national prosperity. When rulers, ignorant or negligent of their peculiar functions, confine their attention chiefly to foreign relations, leaving civil society to take care of itself, they need not feel surprised if it become a prey to every unprincipled demagogue who may feel disposed to fan the smouldering embers of discontent into the lurid glare of revolution. The governments of to-day are, to a remarkable extent, guilty of the same errors and indiscretion as marked the policy of many of their predecessors. Few of them seem to have learned wisdom from the experiences of the ages. Political systems have been swept down, and crushed beneath the relentless heel of social rage; thrones have been overturned, and nations baptized in blood, when civil society, goaded to madness by oppression and misgovernment, rose in its might determined to introduce a better order of things; but apparently blind to the repeated and terrible admonitions of the fact, and heedless of the direful portents of the present, many modern governments, with fatal recklessness, pursue a line of policy similar to that which ended so disastrously to preceding administrations.

If it be true that civilization implies, not only the full development of man as an individual, but also the "utmost attainable perfection in all political and social relations," then even our boasted civilization is sadly defective; as perfection can hardly be said to exist either socially or politically. We need no statesman to inform us that few nations possess a really popular system of home government, nor do we require a profound knowledge of statecraft to perceive that domestic relations are constantly forced to subserve a ruinous system of foreign policy. The

strength of the nation is expended and its resources squandered by gigantic armaments, foreign wars and general extravagance. What wonder then, that the knowledge of these facts—labor misdirected, revenues misapplied, society neglected, should awaken and vivify the slumbering principles of socialism that smoulder beneath the upper stratum of society!

While the re-organization of social affairs on a more equitable basis might be desirable, and would indeed, in many cases, be in accordance with the advancing tide of progressive thought; yet the undertaking of such a project would be disastrous, and consummation impossible, under the leadership of such wild and reckless spirits as the Hoedels, the Hobblings and the incipient Catilines of the day. To embrace the philosophic lunacy of such anarchists would be to open the flood-gates of social chaos and perform a gigantic somersault towards barbarism.

Altogether the question is one of serious import, and deeply concerns the present as well as the future of the race. It puts a premium on crime by instigating men to murder, as a means of advancing its interests. Its traces are detected in the stealthy step of the midnight assassin, and the bloody hand of the regicide. In its darkest form it is a blight, an unsightly stain on the enlightenment of the age. Whatever be the deficiencies and inequalities growing out of our modern civilization, whatever be the excesses of social and political life, there are surely other means of redress than the dagger and the bomb. Concessions obtained through the fear of death are seldom permanent. Terrorism is not the most successful means of securing the triumph of party or principle. It is the child of a barbarous age and is not in keeping with the enlightened opinions of our times. The highwayman-like style of demanding redress so characteristic of socialism defeats its own object. It awakens the deepest prejudices against a system so dangerous to the lives of monarch and statesmen. The crimes which it had committed under the guise of patriotism