

perfect democracy does not insure the New Jerusalem, rather wanders further from it than aristocracy does in this country, where you will find a village governed by an unelected squire and a nominated parson, and farmers who buy their stations, yet where nobody is over-worked, and laborers on twelve shillings a week live to be centenarians, and if brakesmen dropped off the trucks "like flies," the whole country would ring with shrieks of horror and appeals to the law and to mechanical skill for instant and final remedies.

We have no pleasure in such pictures of America. They sadden us rather with the evidence they offer, that even our race, which is the most efficient in the world, when set free from all artificial restraints, can achieve no better result than cities like Chicago. The failure, so far as there is failure—and, of course, there is another side—is ours, and should be reckoned as a counterpoise to the many successes of the English race, but Mr. Burns's pictures do us this service. They help to cool the dreams of our dreamy race. We think of ourselves as the most practical of mankind, and boast that we are unideal; but it is nevertheless true that the greatest difficulty ahead of us is the dreaminess of our people, who are full of hopes of a world in which

corn shall grow unmanured by human sweat, and oxen shall be made beef without beasts being killed, and everybody shall be well-off while nobody works, and the whole world shall be a clean sty, with the pigs whispering contentment to each other, instead of grunting.

The dreamers are, however, like other men in one respect—they cannot help learning, as Mr. Burns is learning, from actual experience, and for them information from America is experience. If the English over there, with all the Utopian conditions granted, perfect equality, perfect freedom, limitless land, splendid means of education, high wages and no squires, can only produce Chicago, and Chicago is hell visible above ground, then perhaps the axioms of socialists are not axioms, and something different is required as a way-bill to Utopia, or even it may be, though that is too ghastly a thought to be accepted, living in a clean sty is not the destiny of mankind. Men, even if they spring from Norse ancestry, may be doomed to strive and to suffer and to share unequally, by a will as irresistible as that which has decreed that they shall be born and shall die in pain, shall pay in torments for their fathers' sins, and shall, even when they are striving to do well, be often sinners themselves.—*Lon. Spectator*—

GEOGRAPHY.

MOUNTAIN-FALLS.—The great landslide which caused the formation of the Gohna Lake, in Gurhwal, in the central Himalayas, has recently attracted much attention. Such landslips are not uncommon in mountain ranges of relatively recent elevation, where strata steeply tilted are in positions of

not very durable equilibrium. Undermining by water, changes of temperature, and the like forces, are constantly at work; and from year to year their activity makes itself apparent. In process of time the amount of rock ready to slide becomes reduced, and the mountain range, as its peaks dimi-