

the frantic episode of Babeuf. Its political object has been gained, though at a price which should warn us against hasty resort to violent revolution. The other element showed its character in the terrible Days of June and the more terrible war of the Commune. The relations between the capitalist and the wage-earner in France do not seem to have been much improved. There has just been another shock of industrial earthquake, happily far milder than the last.

Human society in its general structure and features appears to be an ordinance of Nature, and while it is capable of gradual improvement and is being greatly improved, not to be capable of sudden and violent transformation.

The term Socialism is very loosely used. It is applied to the assumption by the public of the railways, telephones, and street cars, hitherto in the hands of private companies. That policy would be evidently good where the public administration is honest. This, however, is merely a matter of particular policy involving no general change of fundamental principle or of the constitution of society. But when the services have been