

financial prosperity. It is not a far-fetched piece of imagination which gives a close connection between the profit-sharing of the co-operative traders and the non-success of Socialist propaganda. This, moreover, is quite in accordance with the anticipations of the political economist. The readiness of the pitman to endorse the mere sentiment of Socialism would be subject to a severe test when, at the quarter's end, he came to discuss with his "wummun foak" the expropriation of the bonus which has come to be regarded as the peculiar perquisite of the better half, who, in a number of cases, is the actual member of the Co-operative Society. The critic on the hearth is one more formidable opponent with whom Socialism has not yet reckoned. Nor has it taken account of the mere animal instinct of self-preservation, let alone the natural disposition of thrifty Englishmen, and Scotchmen, toward "getting on" in the world. The human Marxian abstraction which your Socialist predicates will be content to run in leading-strings, as the automaton citizen of an automatic Socialist State.

In the simplicity of heart which is induced by much attentive hearing of Socialist professions and diligent reading of the literature of popular Socialism, one does indeed feel disposed to ask of the men of faith, who lack nothing in hope, though they may be a trifle lacking in charity, how far Socialism has reckoned with poor human nature. As the much-belauded experiment of the elimination of private capital is to be tried upon humanity, and not upon the Selenites of Mr. H. G. Wells's "First Men in the Moon," or Bulwer Lytton's "Coming Race," the ordinary mind might have considered the capacity and state of preparedness of the community for the great undertaking which Socialists seek to impose upon it. It may have been observed that this very elementary consideration was stated by M. Clemenceau, in the highly instructive discussion in the French Chamber of Deputies, with striking force and lucidity, and it is equally interesting to note that M. Jaurès, in his reply, judiciously