

The Socialist Campaign.

The socialist campaign against capitalism has taken many different forms. The Utopian socialist sought to persuade all men of the justice of his plans, partly by discussion but chiefly by example, by the founding of model colonies. The Marxian was inclined at first to take a fatalist attitude, waiting for capitalism to dig its own grave. Those who lived in backward lands, like Spain or Russia, and those with an anarchist tinge everywhere, favored force. In later years political action became the favorite instrument, and strong political parties have been built up in many lands. Still more recently there has come a reaction toward syndicalism or revolutionary action by workers grouped in unions.

The Utopian socialists, particularly the followers of Owen and Fourier and Cabet, appealed to all classes of society. They vied in the eagerness with which they recruited disciples and founded new centers of propaganda, corresponded, lectured, edited journals, multiplied pamphlets and popular expositions. Their chief method of propaganda, however, was experiment. The readiest way to convince mankind of the feasibility of the new proposals was to put them into execution on a small scale, to set up "duodecimo editions of the New Jerusalem," as Marx slightly put it later, and by the radiant success these experiments would attain demonstrate the possibilities of wider extension.

The outburst of socialist experiments, all doomed to failure, was a very interesting feature of the middle years of last century. There was no lack of variety; in the half century from 1820 to 1870 hundreds of model communities were established, chiefly in the United States, the home of freedom and cheap land. Owen and Cabet and Considérant themselves headed colonies; Fourier was deprived of this opportunity through the failure of the millionaire for whom he trustingly waited every day from twelve to one for years, to present himself, but his American disciple, Arthur Brisbane, sowed the seed broadcast, sometimes to be astonished at the harvest. Into these experimental colonies there thronged enthusiasts of all degrees, high-souled and high-gifted lovers of their kind, transcendentalists of the traditional type who "dived into the infinite, soared into the illimitable and never paid cash," down to the more commonplace cranks whom Horace Greeley, himself a convert to Fourier in early days, characterized later as "the conceited, the crotchety, the selfish, the headstrong, the pugnacious, the unappreciated, the played-out, the idle and the good-for-nothing generally, who, finding themselves utterly out of place and at a discount in the world as it is, rashly con-