

years ago are accepted commonplaces; we have, perhaps, swallowed some projects in parcels without enquiry, because, like margarine, they have been christened and marked on the paper by authority.

This is, after all, only history repeating itself. Many of you know the history of Chartism. You know how three or four years after the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832 Chartism raised its head out of the unknown sea of the new electorate. It partly justified the warnings of the "stern, unbending Tories" who opposed the Bill, because the people had demands to make, and they made them. Let us look back upon these demands. The six points of the Charter were—

1. Universal suffrage for every man who is of age, sane, and unconvicted of crime.
2. Annual Parliaments.
3. Payment of Members of Parliament.
4. Voting by Ballot.
5. Equal Electoral Districts.
6. Abolition of the qualification of property in land in the case of Parliamentary candidates.

Well, three of these have been fully granted. We have vote by ballot, equal electoral districts, and no landed property qualification for candidates for Parliament. A fourth may almost be said to be granted, in spite of certain defects which are likely to be remedied, connected with registration of electors and so forth, we may say that we have practically secured universal male suffrage. Even the Chartists somehow ungallantly kept the women out of the Charter. In spite of the fiery enthusiasm of Jeremy Bentham for annual Parliaments, as opposed even to a triennial election, this point of the Charter has never caught on to