

ing intimidation. The state authorities, acting between peasant and landowner, would purchase the land from the latter, and put the peasant in possession as absolute proprietor, subject to an annual rent charge, until the total payments equalled the purchase money."

Gladstone proposed to provide funds for the purchase of the land by the issue of 3 per cent stock to the value of £180,000,000, of which £10,000,000 were to be issued in 1887, and £20,000,000 in each succeeding year. A lien would be taken upon the Irish Exchequer to the extent of £2,000,000 per annum. The full text of the bill has not yet been made public in this country; but from the above, our readers will observe that the present proposal will throw a heavy burden of taxation upon the people of Great Britain, and that while Irish peasants will have to pay for the full value of their land, the Irish Government will receive, in the form of rents, a sum sufficient to pay for Ireland's share of the interest upon the purchase money. This, it appears to us, will cause much dissatisfaction in Great Britain, and while, it is true, the greater part of the purchase money will go into the pockets of English landlords, it is also true that the Irish people will become proprietors of the soil, leaving the bulk of the English and Scotch tax-payers to bear an increased burden of taxation without any corresponding benefits. There is another feature in the bill which we think Irishmen would do well to consider before it becomes law. Under the provisions of the new measure, the land is simply transferred from one landlord to another. True, the new landlords are, presumably, Irishmen, but they start out as proprietors with a heavy annual responsibility, which, if we mistake not, will be difficult, if not impossible, for them to discharge. Had the purchase money been funded as an Irish debt, and the Government been empowered to collect the rents to meet the interest thereon, Englishmen would have nothing to complain of, and Irishmen would have some guarantee that the land would remain permanently in the hands of Irishmen. As it is, there is nothing to prevent English capitalists, in time, from taking mortgages upon the lands of the new proprietors, and the Irish people may find that the greed of the money-lender is not less excessive than that of the absentee landlord.

#### THE PRESENT SOCIAL AGITATION.

Recent labor troubles in various countries have given rise in some minds to gloomy forebodings of social revolution; yet a glance at history will reveal many such waves of discontent. From the time when the Helots of Sparta, five centuries before Christ, tried to shake the burden from their shoulders, down to the present, the smouldering embers of envy and dissatisfaction have frequently been fanned into flame. At the time of the Reformation, the Anabaptists, as they are inaccurately called, acting on the belief that all holding of property is unscriptural and unjust, armed themselves in various parts of Central Europe, and fought against the existing order of things. The same theory of property led the English peasants under Wat Tyler to band themselves together in the reign of Richard II, and march against London. At a critical moment, the young king saved himself and the kingdom from violence by riding up to the rebels and declaring that he would be their leader, following this up by the concession of several of their demands.

Thirteen years ago, a very general alarm was caused in England by a movement among agricultural laborers, headed by Joseph Arch. John Morley, at that time a writer for the Press, commented upon the agitation in the graphic and not unsympathetic words:—

"The first current of a strange social movement is passing over the land. The uncouth caryatides who have for generations upborne the immense structure of civilization in which they have no lot have at length made a sign. The huge dumb figure has tried to shift a little from a position of insufferable woe. Little may come of it. The current may soon spend itself; the monstrous burden soon settle down again on the heavy, unconquerable shoulders. The many are so weak, the few are so strong, the conditions of social organization shut effort so fast within an iron circle."

The present distress and murmuring among the laboring masses may be harder to remedy than any previous one; but Mr. Gladstone has probably learned a lesson of wisdom from the stratagem of Richard II. A prominent and able leader of labor organization, Mr. Broadhurst, is now Under Secretary of State. John Morley, the fluent and bold journalist of thirteen years ago, is a Cabinet Minister. Joseph Arch, the leader of that movement of which John Morley wrote, is a member of Parliament. Says the California *Alta*:—

"The scene has shifted like the zones of a dream. The laboring men who could only be compared to the figures cut in stone and planted by the architect to bear the weight of structures whose beauties were above and beyond their sight, have not merely changed the tired shoulder or shifted the arm akimbo. They have stepped out from under the social structure to argue the question with column and capital, with arch and frieze and finial. They do not refuse to bear the weight, but they insist that the weight shall realize that they play Atlas to its burden."

#### CURIOUS MISPRINTS.

Some of our contributors are sometimes inclined to be severe upon compositors and proof-readers. They, no doubt, have had reason more than once to feel aggrieved. But let us see whether we and they are worse off than some that have to do with other well-known journals. The most carefully edited journal, indeed, is fallible in its typography. In the office of the London *Times*, proof-readers are fined for every blunder that eludes them. Those on the staff of the New York *Herald* have, for slips comparatively trivial, been suspended for weeks. Despite this rigorous discipline, the *Herald* once made the astounding announcement that "a long

line of scorpions' feathers filed into the church," but next morning apologized to several priests for calling them "scorpions' feathers," instead of surprised fathers. A reporter on the same journal had occasion last Christmas to quote a verse from a familiar hymn, in which the word "herald"—meaning messenger—occurred. The proof-reader, weary with many hours of night-work, dutifully underscored the word as was his wont, and the verse appeared:—

"Hark! strange tidings do we bring!  
Hark! The Herald angels sing!"

Better, perhaps, than this, was a blunder in the *World's* report of a political demonstration. The word "shouts" was there so ludicrously misprinted as to make famous the part of the report which read: "Simultaneously, the snouts of ten thousand Democrats rent the air." Almost equally good was a Fourth of July leader for another New York paper, by a journalist widely known as "Gath." With fervid eloquence he told how the effete monarchies of Europe tottered in their boots when they read the fearless words penned by Thomas Jefferson. "These dynasties were no longer firm as rock, and enduring as Parian marble. THOMAS reeled, and in tottering extorted our compassion," wrote "Gath"; but in print it read: "His dignities were no longer firm as rock and enduring as in market. THOMAS reeled, and in tottering extorted our compassion." The following little story of the same kind is vouchsafed for by a London paper—*Illustrated News*. Ernest Renan once had occasion to telegraph to London the subject of a proposed lecture of his in Westminster Abbey. He wrote that he would lecture on "The Influence of Rome on the Formation of Christianity." He was not a little astonished to find it announced in handbills that his lecture would be on "The Influence of Rom on the Fortifications of Humanity."

#### BRITAIN'S INTEREST IN THE C. P. R.

When Prof. Seeley stated that Great Britain seemed to have conquered and peopled half the world in a fit of absence of mind, he stated that which everyone knows to be truth. India, Australia, New Zealand, Cape Colony, and Canada, which form the Greater Britain, have become Colonies of the Mother Country, owing to the commercial enterprise and military prowess of the British people, not the far-sighted policy of British Statesmen. The Colonies have experienced the meddlesome interference of British home officials, and have likewise suffered at other periods from the apathy of these officials, concerning their prosperity; but "in this respect it is also true that no change in public opinion is more complete and thorough than that which has taken place in the last twenty, or even fifteen, years as to the value, direct or indirect, of Colonies to the Mother Country."

So far as Canada is concerned, the building and completing of its great trans-continental railway has probably done more to make the young Dominion known to the people of the British Isles, than anything which has hitherto been accomplished. In this railway, Britain has a direct interest, both from a commercial, an imperial and a military point of view. As a means of transit for mails, passengers and light freight from Liverpool to Hong Kong, Japan and China, the route across British America, connected as it would be with the terminus, by swift ocean steamers, has decided advantages over those via the Suez Canal or Cape Horn. From a strategical point of view, the case made out for the adoption of the Canada Pacific Railway is decidedly a strong one. The London *Post*, in a leading article upon our national railways says:—

"On the Atlantic seaboard of Canada lies Halifax, with its dockyard and military stores, within seven or eight days' steam of England. Vancouver, or Burrard Inlet, the Pacific terminus of the railway, is connected with Halifax by a continuous line of rails laid entirely through British territory. It has often been recommended as an easily fortifiable *place d'armes*, and is close to the graving dock at Esquimalt, and the splendid coal mines of Nanaimo. When the next war cloud looms up, it may be for some time doubtful whether it will burst in Europe or India. In the latter case our interests in the Northern Pacific will need especial protection. Now, however useful the Cape route might be for trade, no one would suggest the establishment of a military depot at the Cape for use either in the East or in Europe, as circumstances might decide; but a force quietly collected in the healthy climate of British Columbia could, if need arose, be transferred back to Plymouth in twelve days, whilst on the contrary they could garrison Hong Kong in less than three weeks, or be landed in Calcutta within twenty five days. So much for the purely military features of the new route."

If the military authorities in Britain appreciate the advantages of having an alternative and independent route to China, Japan, India, and Australia, it is probable that British merchants will not be slow in realizing its advantages for the carrying of mails, and of those more valuable classes of merchandise which require quick transit. By "utilizing an accelerated service on the Atlantic, passengers and mails shall be delivered between England and Yokohama in twenty-four to twenty-six days, Shanghai twenty-eight to thirty days, Hong Kong thirty to thirty-two days."

The British Cabinet will, no doubt, give the question of the utilization of our trans-continental railway the consideration it deserves; and should it decide to take advantage of the offer made by the Canada Pacific Company, the outlook both for the railway and Canada will be encouraging.

In addition to the Irish constabulary, there is a force of 20,000 regulars now stationed in Ireland. The question has been asked, whether the red coat is to disappear from the Emerald Isle so soon as Home Rule shall have become an accomplished fact? We think not; but as a Parliament in Dublin is not yet an accomplished fact, the discussion of the question appears to us somewhat premature.