

the new social philosophy which finds favour in the factory. Prophets have arisen, the St. Simons, the Proudhons, the Karl Marxes, the Lassalles, modern counterparts of John Ball, Münzer and John of Leyden, with materialistic science in place of Millenarian religion. Paris under the Commune, and Carthage under the Intransigentes have repeated the history of Munster. The intensity of the movement and the imminence of the danger arising from it vary, of course, with the amount of suffering and discontent. In Germany repressive measures have been tried and failed. Now the Emperor steps forth and says to the Socialists, as Richard II. said to the followers of Wat Tyler, "I will be your leader." Bismarck has conceived the idea of extirpating Socialism by vaccination. The State as it exists, he says, shall be to the working classes what they expect the revolutionary State to be, and do for them what they expect the revolutionary State to do. The *North German Gazette* (Bismarck's organ), in a memorable article, puts forth a theory of the duties of the State, based on the principles of Christian Socialism, and proclaims a general policy in accordance with this theory. Henceforth Government, in the German Empire, is to be to the masses not only a necessity, but a blessing; it is not merely to protect the property of the rich, but actively to foster, by legislative assistance, the well-being of the poor. The first instalment of the new policy is to be a Bill creating an Imperial institution for the insurance of the labourer against accidents, and for the assistance of widows and orphans. If this experiment succeeds others are to follow in the same direction. From the tenor of the article it is evident that Bismarck sees the difficulties which beset the path of a paternal organizer of industry under the economical conditions of the present day. They are great: we suspect insuperable. But the idea of thus taking the wind out of the sails of the Socialistic Revolution is worthy of Bismarck's daring genius, and if the Reichstag adopts his policy, the progress of the experiment will be watched with intense interest.