

limelight—which is skilfully manipulated by the editors and writers in these Socialistic organs. If the readers are not completely blinded, their vision sees things only in the colour of the medium through which they are presented to them. Further than that, it may be said with sufficiently relative accuracy that, with two or three exceptions, the only successful weekly journals in Australia are the Socialistic sheets. And making but one exception, the only successful weekly journals (outside Society journals) in Australia, not dependent on their original daily issues, are the organs of the Socialists. Their press is almost omnipotent within the orbit mentioned. Lane foresaw this result. He, at any rate, was consciously working it out as cause and effect. Every Socialistic journal in Australia is moulded on his original pattern, and is indelibly marked not only with his original impress, but with his original impressionism. Almost all this literature is written in capitals, and intended to be absorbed as such. When future historians ever undertake the task of analysing and assigning the causes and effects and course of the phenomenon of Australian Socialism, Lane's writings in *The Worker* will be found the *fons et origo* from which all further and subsequent explorations must begin.¹

These Socialistic newspapers are the direct progenitors of another class of newspapers, only to be found in Australia. Socialistic newspapers combat the effect of their opponents' replies by that most effective of all weapons, suppression; or where suppression is not wholly possible, by ingenious or malicious distortion. They avoid—often scrupulously—the

¹ He wrote under the pen-name "John Miller."