

Anarchist Literature [Aug, 1887]

Freedom Press

August 1, 1887

There is a sad lack of Anarchist pamphlets in England, and we gladly welcome our comrade Joseph Lane's contribution of 'An Anti-Statist Communist Manifesto' (price 1d., Joseph Lane, 38, Ainsley Street, Bethnal Green Junction, E.), which is an energetic and earnest exposition of Anarchist Socialism from a worker's standpoint. The second portion, which deals with practical politics, is specially interesting. We hope the tract will have a wide circulation. But is it not a pity to use the somewhat clumsy title 'Anti-Statist' rather than the more definite and expressive 'Anarchist'? Why evade the fine old name which for years has rung out in the van of the Socialist movement throughout the world? It is flung at every energetic Socialist, of whatever school, by the privileged classes, just because it expresses so accurately the very climax of their dread. They are willing (under compulsion) to yield sonic of their spoils to keep the workers quiet by improving their material condition; but, resign their authority over them? No, never! And yet it is this very claim to a free life that the people are now preparing to make good. Let us bear our title of Anarchist proudly in the sight of all men, till like the "Birchlegs" of Norway and the "Beggars" of Holland, we transform an epithet of reproach into a badge of victory.

A second article on "The Scientific Bases of Anarchy," by our comrade P. Kropotkin, appear, in the *Nineteenth Century* for this month. Following the line of argument of his previous article on the same subject (February, 1887), he deduces the principles of Anarchism from the existing and growing tendencies of Society.

The Communist-Anarchist circle 'Humanitas,' at Naples, is publishing, besides its newspaper, a series of small pamphlets. We have received the first two, a criticism of the Parliamentary system by Dr. Alerlino, and a manifesto of Anarchist Socialism; both of which are well worth reading. ('Biblioteca Humanitas,' Via S. Libro, 26, 27, Napoli. Price, No. 1, 20c.; No. 2, 10c.

'Holy of Holies, Confessions of an Anarchist,' printed by J. IL Clarke, Chelmsford (priceless). Lamentations of, an Egoist would have been more descriptive. "The Sweet Youth's in Love" and under the influence of this egotistical emotion pours forth with some force and facility a rhymed tirade against things in general and himself in particular, in which he characterizes himself as a, "sightless hulk," a "comet," a "plague wind," a "fenny swamp," and denounces the rest of mankind as "dogs."

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Freedom: A Journal of Anarchist Socialism, Vol. 1 -- No. 11, online source RevoltLib.com.
Freedom Press (London)

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