

Notes from: The Commonwealth, 1866/67

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Technology

1866-09-22: C 004 Edmond Beales Esq., M.A.

became prominent with public for first time when after Garibaldi visit he published defence of meetings in parks

1866-09-22: C 005 Address of the Council of the National Reform League

"Fellow-Countrymen,- The present political crisis is the most important one that has occurred in this generation, and cannot be passed over in silence; for, by the taunts and insults of the ruling classes, by their unjust and cruel opposition to any recognition of the people's rights; a spirit of inquiry is evoked and such a determined demand for a Reform of the present abuses of power that it is dangerous much longer to resist it.

We therefore desire to add our efforts to those of our fellow reformers to remove those abuses and obtain a Reform Bill embodying manhood suffrage, with the utmost legal protection of the voter as a means to obtain our further political and social rights.

Manhood suffrage is the people's right, no man has the right to subject other men to his will or laws, nor to tax them directly or indirectly, without their consent. It is high treason against the nation, even to conceive, much more to realise it.

At the present moment the productive classes are excluded from all positions of honour, emolument, profit, trust, and right. They are outcasts from the constitution; and notwithstanding that they are the source of England's wealth and greatness; they are treated as aliens in their native land and only recognised as the means of obtaining rents, profits, dividends and taxes.

This helpless condition of the people leaves them at the mercy of the monopolists of land and money; who are thereby enabled to absorb nearly all the produce of the people's industry; which is continually being enormously increased by the application of mechanics and chemistry to the creation of wealth; and they obtain by these means such riches as enable them to subsidize [sic] masses of men as soldiers, police, clergy, literary and newspaper writers; to assist them in perpetuating this order of things, whose result to us is continual toil, poverty and degradation, with no other prospect (while the system lasts) but to leave the same inheritance to our children. Therefore it is madness to think of remedying the immense injustice and

wrongs society is suffering from while those classes hold absolute sway; to deprive them of their unjust monopoly of power ought, consequently, to be the primary object of every man devoted to his country and his species.

Let no man believe, then, any social reform possible until the House of Commons is rescued from the domination of those hostile interests, through the enfranchisement of the adult males of the population. Anything short of this is a fraud, a delusion and a snare.

There can be no real liberty, no justice, no religion, no morals or happiness, nor even a safe existence, for any population that is governed by landlords and profitmongers.

To rescue the popular branch of the legislature from the grasp of these usurpers must be therefore the people's first work.

Let the people be honestly told from the outset, that the object of manhood suffrage is to get honest laws passed upon land, credit, currency and exchange.

The absence of this object in previous political agitations has been the chief cause of their failure and of the consequent public apathy. The present agitation is likely to prove also ephemeral unless those objects be avowed and maintained as its end and aim. By order of the Council.

James Murray, Secretary."

1866-09-29: C 001 (Advertisement) Frederick Farah. Wholesale Publisher, Bookseller, and Newsagent. 282 Strand, London.

Reformer's Book of Songs and Recitations. Edited by John Bedford Leno.

Reform speeches by Bright, Beales, J. S. Mill.

A People's National Reform Song.

The Reformers' Book of Songs.

The Reform League's Tri-Color Badge. 1d.

The English Leader. A Weekly Liberal Review.

W. H. White: Extension of the franchise.

G. J. Holyoake: The Liberal Situation.

Books on Hyde Park Demonstration.

1866-09-29: C 001 (Advertisement) J. Davies (established 1810). Die Sinker, Seal Engraver, Press and Stamp Manufacturer to the ASE, ASCJ, Friendly Society of Ironmongers, Operative Bricklayers' Soc., etc.
19 Percival St., Clerkenwell, London.

1866-09-29: C 001 Frederick Farah. Wholesale Publisher, Bookseller, and Newsagent. 282 Strand, London.

Cheap New and Second Hand Works.

1866-09-29: C 001 Reform League

Joint Treasurers: J. A. Nicholay, William Dell

List of the 52 metropolitan branches, among others (with names of Secs.):

Bermondsey: Alfred Street Hall, Grange Road. R. W. Hanford.

Bloomsbury: Windsor Castle, High Holborn. W. Mahoney.

Brixton: Christopher Hill.

Battersea: J. Ratcliffe.

Bromley: Harper Twelvetree's Lecture Hall, Three Mill Lane. Thos. Buffham.

Clerkenwell: Two Brewers, Aylesbury st., C. Blanchard.

Chelsea: Admiral Kepal, Brompton Road. B. Mason.

Chelsea 2: Fountain Tavern, Lower Sloane St.. W. Harry.

Caledonian road: J. K. Gardner.

Camberwell: Princess Charlotte, Albany Road. W. Scott.

Camden Town: James Mare.

City 1: F. Mayhew.

Cobden Branch: Earl of Zetland Tavern, Lee Street, Kingsland Road. W. J. Clarke.

Deptford: Alliance Hall, Union St. George Mulchinock.

East Central: R. Kimber Johns.

Edgware Road: Foresters' Hall, Carlisle St. E. Donoghue.

Euston Road: Deane's Perseverance Coffee-House, 303 Euston Road. T. Jones.

Finsbury: (Cordwainers) Sash and Cocoa Nut, Whitecross Place, Wilson St., Finsbury Sq. R. Chapman.

Fitzroy: Merlin's Cave, Margaret St., F. Dutton.

Greenwich 1: Woodman Tavern, Greenwich Hill. J. Floyd.

Greenwich 2: Spread Eagle, Stockwell St., Sec.: Belbin.

Hoxton: Class Rooms, 101 High St. John Hales.

Haggerston: Rising Sun, Hertford Place. E. Willis.

Hackney: Mr. Brown's Half-Way House, Hackney Road. R. Ferguson.

Holborn: Nag's Head, Leather Lane. Culley.

Kentish Town: at Working Men's Club, 45 Weedington Road. McKenzie McLeod.

Kensall New Town: T. Steadman.

Kensington: Crown Tavern, High St. Thomas G. Owen.

Marylebone: Sir Robert Peel. John Lord and George Barfoot.

Norwood: Park Tavern: Park Tavern, Lower Norwood. W. Dawson.

Norwood, Upper: Woodman Tavern. H. Stanley.

North London: Temperance Hall, Windsor St. W. J. Smith.

Oxford St.: W. E. Clarke.

Paddington: Standard Hotel, Seymour Place. J. Philips.
 Pentonville: Robin Hood, Southampton st., Pentonville Hill. J. H. Longmaid.
 Poplar: East London Stores, Chrisp St. C. Shearman.
 Pimlico: Queen's Arms, Warwick St., Thomas Murden.
 Shoreditch: Swan Inn, Swan Yard. W. Smith.
 South Lambeth: Builders' Arms, Gladstone St. George Henry Sykes.
 Stratford: W. Peckett.
 St. Saviour's, Southwark: The Sun Inn, Union St.
 St. Ann's: Golden Lion, 42 Wardour St., Oxford St. J. Edge.
 St. James's: Fountain Tap House, New St., Golden Square. Geo. Laskey.
 St. Pancras 1: Camden Hall, King St. J. H. Longmaid.
 St. Pancras 2: Temperance Hall, Middlesex St., Somers Town. J. H. Longmaid.
 Stepney: Hope and Anchor, Horseferry Branch Road.
 Sydenham: Talma Assembly Rooms.
 Tower Hamlets Auxiliary: 131 Sidney St., Mile End. W. J. Bland.
 Trinity District: The Good Man Tavern, 75 Bolsover St., Portland Place. W. Eastwood.
 Woolwich, Plumstead, and Charlton: Infant School, Brenan St. Hands.
 Walworth: Temperance Hall, Lock's Field, Walworth. Charles Linn.

1866-09-29: C 003 Great Reform Demonstration at Manchester
 u. a.: Bright spricht gegen Lowe

1866-09-29: C 005 (Letter to the Editor) Frederick Wilson: Reform.

1866-09-29: C 005 (Letter to the Editor) R. Coningsby: The Coming Struggle for Power

1866-10-06: C 004 Mr. John Bedford Leno
 Uxbridge, 29.6.1826.

mother kept a dame school, there his first education, which finished at borough free school at age eleven.

from 11 to 14: "he fought his way as best he could as cow-boy, rural postman, &c.

office of postmaster was held by William Lake, printer, who taught him the business. turning point for Leno: now in contact with men "of far more than average scholarship". Became favourite of Henry Kingsley. At Lake's library, he could read light literature, *Gentleman's Magazine*, song literature of centuries, etc.

left home during second year of his apprenticeship.

After apprenticeship, master became bankrupt, L. compelled to go abroad for work. In consequence of the collapse of the railway mania, hundreds of

printers lost their jobs, so all places overrun with them. Tramped for thousands of miles, making his money by gifts and singing, looking for work. 1848: returned home disheartened and penniless.

Held a benefit at the Town Hall, got 50 pounds out of it, bought press and type with it and in conjunction with Gerald Massey (a brother poet), Edward Farrah (shoemaker) and George Redrup started the *Uxbridge Spirit of Freedom*. This got attention by William Howitt and W. J. Linton, but attacked by local clergyman.

After advances were made to them, they joined Christian Socialists, Massey the working tailors of Castle Street, Leno the working printers of Pemberton Row, "to foster co-operative action on the part of the working men". Both active in political movements and in columns of the *Christian Socialist*.

After break-up of co-operative societies, he again looked for work as journeyman printer. After two years he had offer to go to Boston (USA), sold everything to pay for it, but offer did fail. Spend his money living from it, decided to start again as master-printer, assisted by late Thomas Martin Wheeler and his brother George William Wheeler.

"a recognised prose contributor to democratic journals": The Spirit of Freedom, The Future, The Christian Socialist, The Workman's Advocate, The Commonwealth, etc.

When Eliza Cook retired from the *Dispatch* newspaper, the editor availed himself of the contents of a small volume he had issued under the title of *Herne's Oak*, to supply the weekly instalments of poetry. His "Song of the Spade", first published in the *Dispatch*, attracted the attention of Capern, the Bideford postman, who said it one of best labour songs ever. His 100 Songs of Labour (soon in new edition) sold extensively in Britain and also in USA. Praised by Ernest Jones, *Lloyds* und *Reynolds's*.

The words, with the music by John Lowry, of several poems to be obtained at 282 Strand. Leno also known as writer of essays on Nine Hours Movement, Female Labour, etc.

Example of a Poem given.

1866-10-06: C 005 (Letter to the Editor) Frederick Wilson: The Land Question

1866-10-13: C 005 (The Leaders of the People) No. III.- John Baxter Langley, Esq., M.R.C.S., F.L.S., &c.

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, Fellow of the Linnaean Society, a vice-president of the Reform League and a member of its Executive Committee, etc.

Account based on report by one of his friends.

born in Shrewsbury, father, Rev. John Langley, was the Curate of Church of

St. Chad, now Rector of Wallingford, Berkshire;
 Langley educated at King's School, Sherbourne, intended for the Church;
 subsequently a pupil with Dr. Cowan of Reading, afterwards medical student
 at King's College, London. Examination in 1839 at University of London, took
 honours, standing first in Natural History and third in Chemistry. At Leeds
 School of Medicine he carried off nearly all the prizes, and obtained the silver
 medal for Botany, which he now holds. In 1842, passed examination of Royal
 College of Surgeons in England. Langley afterwards resided as a medical
 practitioner in Blackburn, taking a very active part in the political movements
 of that period, advocating Ten Hours' Bill for the protection of women and
 children in factories. Langley contributed some valuable statistics in support
 of that movement, as the reports in the Times and Lancashire papers of the
 time testify. Richard Oastler once embraced Langley on a platform as his
 'political son'. Lord Shaftesbury quoted Langley on reduction of hours of
 labour in his speeches in the Commons. L. active in agitation against Corn
 Laws, wrote, spoke, contributed essays to the *People's Journal*. 1847/8
 visited Ireland during potato crisis, reported this to Daily News, Manchester
 Times, etc.. Pen name in the North of England: "A Man in the Streets". Also
 under this name writing for London papers.

At a vacancy, L. elected secretary of the Manchester Athenaeum. After
 termination of this, he became editor of the Stockport Mercury, the of the
 Lancaster Guardian, afterwards chief contributor to the Family Friend, and to
 the Family Tutor, "whereby he laid the foundation of a new school of
 domestic and educational literature". Wrote valuable work on Life Assurance.
 When Morning Star newspaper was established, L. selected as its general
 manager, and laid the foundation of its foreign and home connexions. But
 work too much for his health, therefore he accepted less onerous
 appointment and became, jointly with Ernest Jones, proprietor of the
People's Paper, "a weekly publication established for the advocacy of
 advanced Liberal principles". Great pecuniary loss to L.

About same time: public discussion of Sunday Question with Rev. Robert
 Maguire, Incumbent of Clerkenwell (2 nights). Also debate at Glasgow with
 Robert Court, of the Protestant Association of Scotland (3 nights). Printed
 versions of debates attracted wide public interest.

L. is vice-pres. and chairman of the council of the National Sunday League,
 "the object of which is to obtain the opening of the National Educational
 Institutions on Sunday afternoons", the president of which is Sir J. Walmsley
 Bart.

A few years since Langley became "the principal writer" in the Newcastle
 Chronicle, taking up the cause of the pitmen and coal workers upon the

occasion of the explosion at Burradon, making the Sec. of State to interfere for workmen.

1863: L. moved from Newcastle to Preston, became editor of Preston Guardian, lectured on Cotton Famine and its Remedy. Lecture noticed in a leader in the Times, and led to L. being invited to return and settle in London where, with a number of influential merchants and others, he co-operated in an endeavour to obtain a supply of cotton from West Africa.

L. has since taken an old established business in connexion with the medical profession.

1865: elected a Fellow of the Linnaean Society, nominated by Professors Bentley (King's College) and Carpenter (Univ. College).

Last election: candidate for Greenwich. Challenged "sham-radical" Captain Harris. L. holds meeting on Blackheath, speech against "Toryism in general". Enthusiastic crowd takes horses from his carriage and him through the town. Lost election, "but his straightforward earnestness and manly defence of liberal principles have gained for him troops of friends in that quarter, and the admiration of those who were politically opposed to him."

L. active in utilization of sewage, sanitary reform of towns, lecturers on literary, social and biographical subjects in the mechanics institutions and working men's clubs in all parts of England.

Many literary productions. Collection published as "A Literary Sandwich".

Example of poem by L., which has been attributed to Longfellow.

Report was written by L.'s friend H. W. Nicholas.

1866-10-13: C 005 National Sunday League

Baxter Langley in chair, Morrell Hon. Sec.

new branches over London established

1866-10-20: C 004 (Letter to the Editor) A. A. Walton: Brecon Election and

Territorial Domination

has seen domination of landholders in Brecon election; calls upon Reform League to organise the agricultural districts, otherwise landlords will always dominate politics.

1866-10-20: C 004 The Leaders of the People. No. IV.- Dickson, Lieut-Colonel Lothian, Sheffield, K.S.F., F.R.C.S., M.S.A.

born 1806 to a Major; entered army 1825, served in East Indies, 1835 volunteer to British Auxiliary Legion during Carlist rising in Spain, 1842 appointed Civil Commissioner and Magistrate in the colony of the Cape of Good Hope. 1846 appointed Major in Her Majesty's 2nd Tower Hamlets Militia, which position he held until August 1855, when he was promoted to the Lieutenant-Colonelcy of that regiment, and so continued until December

1858, when he was displaced. Afterwards won trial at military court in connection with his dismissal. Resident in Brighton.

1866-10-20: C 005 Great Torchlight Reform Meeting at Stepney

auspices of Poplar branch of Reform League, on Stepney Green.

Finlen moves first resolution: "That this meeting protests most emphatically against the present system of class legislation, and firmly believes that the time has arrived when the whole of the adult male population, not morally or intellectually incapacitated, should have a voice in choosing their own representatives in Parliament. We therefore pledge ourselves to continue the present agitation, and render all the aid in our power to the National Reform League, until they have achieved the success of their patriotic undertakings."

Sherman seconds, Thomas Wright (Birmingham) supports: "In Birmingham they were not asleep, and as in the past, so at the present, it would not be backward in the Reform movement. He was proud that he was one of the constituents of the champion of English democracy - John Bright. They were proud of that great man in Birmingham. The country was proud of him, and Mr. Bright would receive his reward in the gratitude of a nation. No words that he could use could do justice to Mr. Bright, who occupied an unique and exalted position in England. The country knew - the Tories knew - and his friends knew that no man in this country would lay claim to having done more for his fellow countrymen during the last twenty years than Mr. Bright - especially in conjunction with the illustrious Richard Cobden."

Joseph Guedella moves resolution acknowledging "the services rendered to the cause of political freedom" by Bright, Gladstone and Beales and others, "who have persistently and unflinchingly defended the unenfranchised portion of their fellow-countrymen from the unjust and cruel aspersions cast upon them in the British House of Commons".

Lucraft seconds.

Addresses by Howell and Osborne and Cremer.

1866-10-20: C 005 The West Riding Demonstration

Richtigstellung by Leeds Manhood Suffrage Association, Chairman of the Committee: R. M. Alderman Carter.

1866-10-27: C 001 (Letter to the Editor) G. J. Holyoake: English Political Prisoners

Hennessy and Fenians are under wrong impression that only Irish prisoners are treated badly - the same is the case with the English political prisoners.

Thomas Cooper, "though a man of letters", was nearly killed in prison, and Holyoake himself has prison experiences from 1841-42

1866-10-27: C 001 The Leaders of the People. No. V.- Ernest Jones

"Born in the ranks of the aristocracy, nurtured in wealth, with the glittering

prospect of fortune and luxury before him, he hesitated not to sacrifice his personal interests at the shrine of principle, and to devote his energies, comfort, liberty, and almost his life itself, for the benefit of his suffering fellow-countrymen. The people may well be proud of such a champion."

[die politisch Ausgeschlossenen werden toposhaft als suffering hingestellt;

dies war ein verselbständigtes Wort;

Jones' principle wird gerühmt]

1866-10-27: C 005 Hackney-Road

crowded meeting of Reform League branch.

delegates from other branches.

"Mr. Coffey implored all friends of progress at this most important crisis of the people's history, to use all energy to support a movement which is intended to abolish the present shuttlecock system of Government."

1866-10-27: C 005 Reform Meeting at Northampton

with Gurney (Town Council, chairman of United Liberal Association), Gibbs (chairman of Northampton branch of Reform League), Beales, Helsman JC, Gilpin.

Resolution adopted "tendering thanks to Messrs. Gladstone, Bright, and Mill, and all other true friends of Reform"

1866-10-27: C 005 The People's Parliament Association

first public meeting at Coach and Horses, Stratford.

J. Ford of Stratford in chair.

Vane St. John and Dr. Walter J. Smith explain object: people's parliament of electors and non-electors should express public opinion on reform question

Samuels (bricklayer) moves: deputation to Reform League to discuss this.

Cox (Tailor) seconds.

Cox Senior, John Stagg.

1866-10-27: C 005 Union of Manhood Suffrage Reformers

meeting of members of Manchester and Salford Manhood Suffrage League, and of the Northern Department of the Reform League, to unite both organisations.

E. Hooson, pres. of Reform League, in chair.

Thomas Fowe: reads report of Manchester and Salford Manhood Suffrage League, which has been established 3 years ago in Time of "political apathy and indifference"; league first met at Mr. Crossley's, then at E. O. Greening's.

E. O. Greening read report of Reform League, Northern Department had been organised to form branches in Lancashire and other northern counties; would be independent, dispose of its money apart from occasional money for executive in London

T. Evans: moves adoption of reports, "very glad to see so large a number of what he might call representative men there".

Joshua Whiteley seconds.

Chairman: every Reformer is for manhood suffrage, some even for women's.

Greening reads rules of new soc., adoption moved by John Postlethwaite of Rochdale, seconded by John Bowes, adopted.

F. Clayton: moves list of 200 vice presidents, seconded by Crossley.

Greening: moves Councillor T. Warburton as treasurer and Thomas Fowe as sub-treasurer. It had been said they might fail financially, because "wealthy Liberals, being as a rule men who entertained less advanced views than themselves, would be alarmed at the very decided attitude now taken in advocating manhood suffrage and the ballot" and stand aloof; G. thinks this would only be for a short while, "until it was seen that their platform was not an exclusive, but an inclusive one, and that it was quite possible for moderate Reformers to unite with them, and work together as far as their respective roads went."

B. Whiteley seconds.

Hon. Secretaries: F. Clayton and E. Longfield, moved by T. Evans and James Cooper.

Executive Committee (moved by Wm. Macdonald and E. Longfield): E.

Hoosen, Alderman Heywood, Ernest Jones, George Bedson, Greening, Rev. S. A. Steinthal, Rev. J. Morgan, N. J. Ridgway, E. Hoosen, James Crossley, R. P. Ellis, J. H. Salkeld, B. Whiteley, Thomas Evans, William Roche, W. H. Barnesley, Robert Cooper, J. R. Cooper, Thomas Fowe, Joseph Sherlock, R. J. Derfel, E. Johnson, James Cuncliffe, James Robertson.

1866-11-02: C 005 Formation of a Reform Association in Barnsley

Thomas Lingard in chair.

forming a branch of National Reform Union in Barnsley, also to appoint delegates to Manchester Reform Conference on Monday last.

1866-11-10: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P. no. 1

1866-11-10: C 001 letter signed Wat Tyler

1866-11-10: C 001 Political Progress

on Charles James Fox, sixty eight years ago, Committee appointed by Westminster electors

1866-11-10: C 004 (The Leaders of the People) No. VII.- Josiah John Merriman born at Camberwell on 13.11.1824. Brought up in the City of London, where

his family occupied an honourable position for at least four generations. Majority of his family have long been settled in colony of Victoria, Australia. "His father being a printer, he soon became familiar with types and presses, to which circumstance we may probably attribute his early and extensive connection with the periodical press". Commenced as a reporter, elevated to sub-editor, ultimately editor, for example of the *Preston Guardian*. After quitting *Preston Guardian*, he accepted an engagement on *The Manchester Examiner and Times* as leader writer, subsequently the same on *The Manchester Weekly Times*, while for several years he supplied leaders to the *Wigan Observer*, "which engagement he relinquished under the pressure of professional labours just previous to the commencement of his active duties as a solicitor".

Miscellaneous contributions to London papers, so *National Instructor* and *Odd Fellow's Magazine* many years ago, the *Operative* (under initial "M"), to *Eliza Cook's Journal* and *Temple Bar*.

On quitting the *Examiner* he returned to London, when he decided upon entering for the bar, but was ultimately persuaded to article himself to a solicitor with a view of practising in that branch of the profession.

Admitted a solicitor in January 1865, and within a year the necessities of a growing practice obliged him to seek a partner in the person of Francis Buckland, an accomplished lawyer.

Firm with M. as a member has succeeded in acquiring a most extensive practice at both the West-end and the City, which is largely supplemented by that derived from trade and other societies.

M. retained his personal intimacy with the newspaper proprietors for whom he has laboured.

Gained great esteem by well-known cases in Bloomsbury County Court when he showed that poor weekly tenant had a right to compensation if his personal comfort is reduced by demolition of his dwellings. M. also skilfully defended prisoners tried before Mr. Knox of Marlborough St.

M. was "legal agent and conductor" of T. Hughes' election for Lambeth, which he managed skilfully, bringing Hughes to top of poll for much less money than usual.

M. well-known to the readers as a knowledgeable public speaker.

Member of Executive Council of Reform League, "one of its most active, able, and liberal supporters".

1866-11-10: C 004 The Currency Question

deputation of Currency Reform Association "which has for its object the establishment of a Government Bank of Issue, the prevention of panics, advancement of trade, and reduction of taxation", to Stafford Northcote at the

board of Trade.

A. Alison (chairman of assoc.), Edmond Beales (vice-chairman), W. H. Smith, J. Brett, J. R. Taylor (Hon. Sec.)

Alison: criticises that Bank of England is a shareholding enterprise which has to make profit. There is not enough money to buy the gold, therefore Bank of England should be independent both of trade and of government

Beales: working classes deeply interested in the question

J. R. Taylor: "the deep injury inflicted upon the working classes by the operation of the present currency system, because with high discounts and panics came the stoppages of mills and factories. There were no less than 10,000 operatives now out of employment in Deptford and its vicinity, and that arose from the disturbing influence of the recent monetary disasters." Currency reform "would incidentally lead, not only to the advantage of the industrial, but of all classes of society"

1866-11-10: C 005 An Address to the Middle Class from the Chelsea Branch of the Reform League

"We, the Members of the Chelsea Branch of the Reform League, seek to address you, and in the most cordial spirit of friendship we emphatically appeal to your patriotism to co-operate and assist in the forthcoming National struggle for Reform. We do the more so inasmuch as the enemies of Reform seek to insinuate that you as a class are against the enfranchisement of working men, and that an opposite interest, coupled with an obdurate selfishness, alone prevent you joining in, and is an insurmountable obstacle to your union in any great political movement. If such be the truth, and we have no evidence to the contrary, that you are sunk so low in political degradation that your individual gain and love of wealth have so far corroded your patriotism and love of country, that you do not still inherit the same noble love of freedom you once did - if, we say, such be the truth, then have the enemy raised an impenetrable barrier to a good understanding between us, and the work of disunion so far accomplished, and we must fight the glorious battle ourselves. To this we have made up our minds, notwithstanding we are fully aware of the difficulties and the immense array of power we have to contend with; 'we braved it before, and we will brave it again.' But, nevertheless, if you, the middle class, who ought to be the political leaders of the working class, would abnegate all minor considerations, and magnanimously throw the whole weight of your influence on the side of justice, against our united forces there could be no resistance. But if you remain neutral or, what is worse, bring the force of your power against us, then the conflict becomes unequal, and the issue doubtful. Yet under this difficulty we cannot retreat. 'Onward!' is the motto; to go back

impossible. And whatever the consequences either to you or we - whatever be the result in this great struggle for an equality of political rights - let the responsibility rest on those who will oppose it, for if Heaven goes to wreck justice must be done.' We sincerely hope, therefore, that in order to prevent an unhappy result, and that you should preserve your independence and place yourselves in that honourable position in the future which by circumstance you are entitled to, you will take care how you decide. For there are pregnant in the womb of time mighty events as to your existence as a class. Progress demands your immediate action in the matter. Be then prudent, and become the pilots to steer the good ship Reform down the rough tide of opposition, and help us to get her into the haven and harbour of refuge; and amidst the acclamations of a grateful people unfurl the banner of union's victory, with peace, prosperity, and liberty to all. There are various reasons why we impress upon your consideration the absolute necessity of a faithful and honourable union. The opposition factions (Whig and Tory) are arranging their forces in every available form against us, for they are as dead against you as a political party as they are against the people. Will you, therefore, be so neglectful of your duty to yourselves as to let a minor difference of opinion between us sink you into political annihilation? for without the people you are weak - with them you are invincible, as all classes of the people are, by the strongest ties of political affinities and interests united. Let but a just and honourable pride, which a true sense of patriotism and a love of justice can inspire, have full influence over your deliberations, and it must alone be sufficient motive power to determine your policy of action. Rally then, round the standard of democracy; and like the mighty Samson, after you have slain the lion of iniquity and corruption and pulled down the strong pillars of the Temple of Dagon, you may return in peace and quietness to your homes. Do this, and political redemption is at hand. A glorious future of trade, commerce, and industry is before us, and you will receive the blessings of a grateful and confiding [sic] people, and the hearty thanks of yours fraternally in the cause of justice to all, injustice to none, -
The Members of the Chelsea Branch of the Reform League."

1866-11-10: C 005 Death of and Old and Popular Free Trader

obituary for William Augustus Rogers, chemist and wine merchant of Alton, brother of Oxford Prof. Rogers and near relative to Cobden

1866-11-17: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P. no. 3

- 1866-11-17: C 001 The Leaders of the People. No. VIII.- Edward Hooson. President of the Northern Department of the Reform League
born 1825 in Halifax, Yorkshire, business of wire-drawing
"In the year 1845, Edward Hooson became a diligent reader of the *Northern Star* newspaper, and so much was he engrossed by its facts and arguments and with the injustice done to his class, that he resolved at that early day to do all in his power to advance the people's cause." Joined Halifax Chartists.
1849: leaves Yorkshire for Lancashire from business reasons.
1858: Sec. of Manchester Manhood Suffrage Association, which led to formation of Manchester and Salford Manhood Suffrage League.
Active advocate of co-operation.
"Edward Hooson, as a true son of the people, naturally interested himself in, and made himself thoroughly acquainted with, the people's cause everywhere, and it is not, therefore, surprising that he should have taken up the advocacy of Italian liberty and defended the character of Garibaldi."
- 1866-11-24: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
no. 4
- 1866-11-24: C 004 The Leaders of the People. No. IX.- Charles Bradlaugh.
- 1866-12-01: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
no. 4
- 1866-12-01: C 004/5 The Leaders of the People. No. X.- Elijah Dixon.
- 1866-12-08: C 001 The Leaders of the People. No. XI.- Thomas Bayley Potter, Esq., M.P.
praised as member of the party of John Bright, and for his donations to the Union and Emancipation Society, which his money alone kept going, has "always been on the side of freedom and right"
- 1866-12-08: C 005 Correspondence between Ernest Jones and Professor Blackie preparing their discussion on democracy
- 1866-12-22: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
no. 6
- 1866-12-22: C 001 Professor Blackie's Challenge
- 1866-12-29: C 001 The Reform League Colours
- 1866-12-29: C 004 The Leaders of the People. No. XII.- The O'Donoghue, M.P.

- 1867-01-05: C 001 (Letter to the Editor) S. C. Kell, Bradford: Union among Reformers
member both of Reform Union and Reform League, difference "between the two programmes is really very trifling"; urges unity "*against the common enemy*"; "Let all earnest Reformers, then, under whatever flag they fight, regard each other as comrades in one grand army with one single end in view - the transferring from the upper ten thousand to the *whole* nation the power of managing its own affairs."
- 1867-01-05: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P. no. 7
- 1867-01-12: C 004 Mr. Ernest Jones on Democracy
- 1867-01-12: C 004 Professor Blackie on Democracy
- 1867-01-26: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P. no. 8
- 1867-01-26: C 005 The Forthcoming Reform Demonstration in Newcastle preparatory meeting in Gateshead, Jos. Cowen jun. attending on behalf of the Northern Reform League
- 1867-02-02: C 001 (Letter to the Editor) A. A. Walton: Co-operative Self-Employment, Currency, and Credit
- 1867-02-02: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P. no. 9
- 1867-02-02: C 003 Bread Riots at Greenwich and Deptford
- 1867-02-09: C 001 (Letter to the Editor) John Weston on reform
- 1867-02-16: C 001 (Letter to the Editor) S. Morley, Treasurer of the late Conference: The Working Classes and Religious Institutions
"At the recent Conference at the London Coffee House, it was suggested by Mr. George Potter that on some early occasion a special sermon should be preached-if possible, simultaneously - by the clergy of all denominations on the relations of working men to Christianity, made known to the non-church going public. He also expressed his confident belief that thousands of people who rarely go to a place of worship would make a point of attending such special service. The suggestion has found much favour, and I understand

that a number of ministers of the Gospel, including some clergymen of the Church of England, will endeavour to carry it out" on 24th inst.

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1867-02-23: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
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1867-03-02: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
no. 12

1867-03-09: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
no. 13

1867-03-09: C 001 The Cobden Club
long report on its second dinner

1867-03-16: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
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1867-03-23: C 001 (Letter to the Editor) Republican: Equal Electoral Districts

1867-03-23: C 001 J. George Eccarius: A Working Man's Refutation of Some Points of Political Economy endorsed and advocated by John Stuart Mill, Esq., M.P.
no. 14

1867-03-23: C 001 Mr. Applegarth & Mr. Hartwell

1867-07-20: last issue of the Commonwealth