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Your device is "an open shop"
 On the banner you have unfurled.
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 When you give us an open world.
 —The Ariel.

* * *

The Minister of Marine was all things to all men. Once it fell to him to select the warship which should go to the rescue of some missionaries who had become embroiled with the heathen they were saving.

"Send a converted cruiser," said his Excellency, with rare delicacy and tact.—Puck.

* * *

"The trouble with father," said the gilded youth, "is that he has no idea of the value of money."

"You don't mean to imply that he is a spendthrift."
 "Not at all. But he puts his money away and doesn't appear to have any appreciation of all the things he might buy with it."—Washington Star.

BOOKS

VAIL'S SOCIALISM.'

Principles of Scientific Socialism. By Charles H. Vail. Republished by Charles H. Kerr & Co., Chicago; \$1.00.

The reader who ventures far on the sea of socialistic literature is reminded forcibly of what Macaulay said regarding the Catholic church's use of enthusiasts. Whereas, said the great essayist, the Anglican church has no place for the doubter of one of the thirty-nine articles, and drives him forth to establish a new sect, the Roman church finds a place somewhere in the affairs of men, in some part of the world, where, so long as he professes allegiance to the church, he may exercise to the full his irrepressible ardor in the service of man.

It matters not whether the teacher be a Marxian or a Fourierite, a materialist or an idealist, an opportunist or a determinist, whether he appeal to the authority of the Scriptures or the teaching of history, or whether he be an adherent of the scientific or of the utopian school, so long as he flies the banner of socialism he can find somewhere in that vast school of elusive thought a place for his ideals; and though he may find few or none to quote him as an authority, he may rest assured in his own mind that he is a socialist in good standing.

The author of Principles of Scientific Socialism is, however, something more than a zealot led by blind enthusiasm. Though his main force is expended in charging windmills, he nevertheless discovers some real robbers, and belabors them soundly. It would be rash indeed for one without the cult, a mere individualist, to say what is or is not socialism—much less good socialism,—but to the reader, and particularly the American reader, seeking a brief exposition of the tenets of socialism, this book will well repay perusal.—For, whether it be due to the fact that the man himself is an American, or that he really believes in something—he prefixes "Rev." to his name,—he has a directness of purpose

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that appeals to those who see man as he is rather than as we should like him to be.

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In the main Mr. Vail holds to the modern socialist idea of avoiding plans. Capitalism must be destroyed, and it seems safe to infer that the government is to own and operate the means for the production and distribution of wealth; but whether labor is to be paid according to product, or according to time, is left, together with the myriad details of everyday life, to the reader's imagination. Whether this careful avoidance of plans is due to an overweening desire to ape the methods in vogue at the universities, or to the fear of practical criticism, is a matter of doubt. Color might be lent to the latter charge by the instance where Mr. Vail does enter upon the practical and say that the officials or directors of the socialistic commonwealth will be chosen as the leaders are now selected by the labor unions. In view of recent scandals connected with rings in the labor movement this illustration is unfortunate.

As to the principles of political economy Mr. Vail occupies the recognized socialistic position. By treating of value instead of wealth as basic, and calling land "capital," he is able to avoid many of the stubborn facts in the problem. He sees for instance that competition among laborers tends to make them yield up to the capitalist the "surplus-value"; but he does not grasp the fact that competition among capitalists tends to sacrifice earnings to labor; and that the reason why one tendency is stronger than the other is due to the fact of monopoly, to the power of unjust laws that enable the capitalist to collect tribute in addition to interest. Having detected a ligature about one member of the body that restricts the circulation, our socialist author would put ligatures about all other members, instead of restoring the equilibrium by cutting the first one.

STOUGHTON COOLEY.

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