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He Learned What It Is,

A Socialist soap-boxer was agitating the people of Colorado City, Texas, and his challenges to debate were irritating the tender profitabilities of the small skinners. No democrat could be induced to meet the champion of Socialism, and the village banker called on the only republican lawyer in the place to induce him to tackle the job.

"Why don't you get some of your democrat friends to do him up?" asked the republican attorney, F. M. Allee.

"Oh, they say let the fellow howl; that he will tire out in time; and that the doctrine he preaches is only a passing fad. But you can wind him up in a hurry-he's only a windbag."

So Allee agreed to meet the stranger; and, knowing a waggon-maker who was a Socialist, he went down to see him, and said:

"I understand that you Socialist wish to debate?"

"Nothing would please us better; and the argument may be of genera

benefit," was the reply.

"Well, I'll meet him two weeks from next Friday. In the meantime I'd like to read some of your literature; and if you have some pamphlet

that explains what you people advocate, would be pleased to have it." "With pleasure," said the waggenmaker, as he brought out a dozen vol-

umes from behind a curtain in his shop. "But I do n't want all these," said the lawyer. "I have n't time to go through a whole library. Just give me one or two small pamphlets."

He got the pamphlets, and went home to prepare himself for the supposedly easy job of confounding the crazy Socialists and putting them off the streets in shame. Allee had never read a line on the subject, and, as he waded through the unanswerable arguments of the two booklets, found that he was up against something radically different from what he had expected. He could find no flaw or fallacy either in the arguments or in the premises upon which they were based, and he sweat under the humiliation of his predicament.

A fire had just destroyed his library, with all his reference books; but by competition, you virtually confishe borrowed an encyclopedia from a cate his property.

fellow attorney the next morning, and found, to his consternation, that its presentation of Socialism was even more irrefutable than that of the pamphlets. Then he realized that to me. to a man armed with such a force of facts could be nothing else than disastrous to him, and would subject him to the chaffing of the entire community. There was nothing to do but to get out of it.

He had a friend in Sprngfield, Mo., and wrote his friend to wire him two days before the time of the debate to come to Springfield at once on important business. In due time the message was received. Allee took it to' the waggon-maker, and showed him how it would be impossible to meet the agitating adversary, much as he would like to do it; and the attorney took the next train for Springfield, leaving behind his promise that he would meet the Socialist later.

When in Springfield he heard another agitator on the street, bought some more literature, and went deeper into the subject. He returned home, and, two weeks after the time appointed for the debate, arose on the same street corner, in front of the bank where the Socialists had annoyed the money changer, and made his first Socialist speech. He has made others: since, as numerous comrades in Texas: will testify. Of course he was cut by his former republican friends; but he kept on, and is now one of the most effective Socialist speakers and organizers in the Lone Star state.

To hear Alee tell this story on himself is rich. And it is remarkable how many of the very best workers in the movement have been similarly converted. How many have come to scoff and have remained to investigate! No honest opponent dare investigate it. To oppose Socialism you must be ignorant of what it is; and then you will not oppose Socialism, but some vaguer something which you imagine Socialism to be. - Appeul to Reason.

Unable to Escape.

It must be a revelation to the immigrants to this country, who fled from tyranny to what they were told was a land of liberty, to find that all the land, all the food, all the clothing and all the pleasures of life have been locked up by the same kind of humans they left in Europe; and that they can get none of these things without first subjecting them to the will of the masters of the new world. They have fled from one set only to be seized and pent up by another of the same brood, They are as helpless here as they were there. They must either become the servants (slaves) of the rich, or starve. They have no other choice. It is as if one were seized and confined and refused any of the necessaries of life until he had consented to become the slave of his captor. For it is just as enslaving to withhold food in the big prison of the world as to withhold it in the small prison of a cell. One getsjust as hungry in the one as in the other. And this is called Liberty ? This is the condition in a Leautiful world filled with good things, in which those whose work produces the things are denied them. As the majority in Europe uphold the divine right of kings, so the majority here, who suffer, uphold the right of a few to own all the property. Which are the greater fools !- Ibid.

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