

THE A. T. FORERUNNER.

"NOT GREATER WEALTH, BUT SIMPLER PLEASURES."

No. 6

MARCH, 1911.

The "A. T. Forerunner" is published monthly.

Pending future arrangements, all communications should be addressed not later than the 25th of each month to

The Editors,
c.o. Mr. E. W. Harris,
"St. Ive's," The Avenue.

FELLOW MEMBERS,

As was intimated by us in the previous issue, this, the current number is the last of the A.T.F. Although we have found the work at times somewhat irksome, it is with a tinge of regret that we bid adieu to the first estate journal. However, we have every confidence that the wishes expressed by the members at the last monthly meeting, as to the establishment of an estate paper, will have their due weight with the committees. In fact, the S.S.C. have already considered the matter and have generously offered to hold themselves responsible for two-thirds of the cost for the next six months; Mr. Jays, we understand, has been appointed its representative on the staff of the paper. We have every confidence that the G.C. will be willing to subscribe the remaining third of the cost and appoint its representative.

We are now enabled to ask, without any reserve as previously, that members co-operate with the new board for the journal, in making it a thorough success, by sending in such literary contributions as may be suitable. Mr. Hibbett, for instance, might send us interesting sketches of "Local History." Mr. Law could serve us with important economic facts occasionally. "The picturesque in Nature" could be ably dealt with by Mr. Harrott. Mr. Mann may not perhaps be too busy to write us upon the Co-partnership movement. Mr. Riley could fix us up a corner of "Musical Notes" and so on indefinitely. We would desire also that all members take reasonable advantage of the correspondence section to raise any topic of general interest or discuss any topic raised. Let those members who feel they dare not trust their grammar, be not deterred from putting down their thoughts and

ideas, for one of the staff will be allotted for the duty of licking them into shape, and all correspondence will be treated strictly confidential.

The name "Forerunner" as is readily understood, ought to lapse with this number, and we would desire our readers to send us suggestions for a new name before the 25th; but as to whether it retains this name, or another is selected, we must leave to the discretion of the board.

We have felt, although a certain secrecy was necessary, that the withholding of the identity of those actively connected with the A.T.F. has deterred some from taking more active interests in its aims therefore we offer ourselves,

Sincerely yours,

W. MASON.
E. W. HARRIS.
J. T. TAYLOR.

Just previous to going to press we are pleased to learn on good authority, that the results of this year's working of the Society are of a satisfactory character, and that there is a likelihood of the tenants receiving a benefit from the same.

Stop and consider! life is but a day ;
A fragile dewdrop on its perilous way
From a tree's summit ; a poor Indian's sleep,
While his boat hastens to the monstrous steep
Of Montmorence. Why so sad a moan ?
Life is the rose's hope while yet unblown ;
The reading of an ever-changing tale ;
The light uplifting of a maiden's veil :
A pigeon tumbling in clear summer air ;
A laughing schoolboy, without grief or care,
Riding the springy branches of an elm.

—KEATS.

It is feared that the summer trading advantages which should accrue to the new Distributive Society, will be nullified by the lack of shops. What are the G.C. doing in the matter ?

AMBITION.

*"Towns turned to ashes: fanes involved in fire,
These deeds the guilt of rash ambition tell."*

What is Ambition? Without doubt we all have some idea of the general meaning of the term;—that it denotes a desire for something we do not possess, or an aspiration for something higher or nobler, and we feel just a little sorry for the man without an ambition, one who is willing to live "in the present day" only. But an authority states that "it more commonly denotes an inordinate desire of power or eminence often accompanied with indifference as to the means of obtaining it."

In other words, so long as an ambitious man attains his ends he cares not in the least on whom he brings suffering. Take for an example, the life of Napoleon Bonaparte. Dr. R. S. Candlish in his "Formation of Character and the responsibility of Self-Government" writes "The conqueror of a hundred battles, whose ambition vaulted into an imperial throne and aspired to grasp the sceptre of the world could and did command himself. This power of will he had under control. But his spirit formed to lead was itself led by overmastering vanity at last and the votary of ambition became its miserable victim." When his final fall came and he was banished by the Powers to the lonely island of St. Helena it was surely a punishment worse than death to a man with such an implacable ambition.

Then we have the dying words of the historical Cardinal Wolsey, who, when on his way to London summoned by Henry VIII to answer charges of supposed misdoings, died in Leicester Abbey, a broken-hearted man. "I charge thee, fling away thy ambition. By that sin fell the angels. How can man then, the image of his Maker hope to win by it? Love thyself last. Be just and fear not. Let all the ends thou aimest at be thy God's and truth's; then, if thou fallest, thou fallest a blessed martyr. Oh, had I but served my God with half the zeal I served my king, He would not in mine age have left me naked to mine enemies."

Shakespeare, who must have been a great judge of human nature, evidently considered ambition deserved the punishment of death, for in his "Julius Caesar" he puts into the mouth of Mark Antony, who is speaking to the Romans on the assassination of Caesar the following words:

"But Brutus says he was ambitious
"If so 'twas a grievous fault and grievously
"Hath Caesar answered it"

A philosopher of the old school gives it as his opinion that "Small-brained men are generally the most obtrusively ambitious. Who are the men in

Corporation towns who are ever pushing themselves forward to municipal honours? Who are the men in politics who have the strongest aspirations to make the most strenuous efforts for Parliamentary honour? As a rule, small-brained men. Truly, there are exceptions and the exceptions are our social and political salvation. As a rule great men are not ambitious for such distinctions."

In the words of Solomon "Put not forth thyself, and stand not in the place of great men. For better it is that it be said unto thee "Come up hither" than that thou shouldst be put lower."

Shelley says:

Man who man would be
Must rule the empire of himself; in it
Must be supreme, establishing his throne
On vanquished will, quelling the anarchy
Of hopes and fears, being himself alone.

—SIMPLICUS.

REPORTS.

MONTHLY MEETING.

The usual business meeting was held in the Institute on Thursday, the 16th. Mr. Groome presided, and Mr. Hibbett acted as secretary in the absence of Mr. S. Wilford who was busy with the audit. The usual formal business being disposed of, it was announced that two nominations for committee were to hand in addition to the four retiring members, viz: Messrs. Harrott and T. Neal. Voting papers will be subsequently sent to each member and must be returned not later than 3 days prior to the annual meeting. The delegates to the Coventry and Leicester District Joint Conference, Mr. W. Neal and Mr. A. Smith gave their report. A report was also given by the Seed Committee. In general business the question of the fate of the **A.T.F.** was brought forward and it was decided to lay the matter before the G.C. and S.S.C.

HUMBERSTONE SOCIALIST LEAGUE.

A good attendance gathered on Sunday afternoon February 26th. to hear an address from Coun. J. W. Murby, descriptive of his recent tour in Germany. In an interesting speech he gave his impressions of German cities and systems. He eulogised the German Educational System as providing for better results than our own, and recognising the importance of the child, in the State economy, it provided for it being well clad, fed, and educated. He mentioned that three languages were taught, English, French and German, and that after 14 years of age when exempt from school, a portion of the daytime was still devoted to technical

instruction. The outcome of this more complete educational equipment was better systems of organization which made the position of the worker more secure than in this country, so that although poverty and unemployment were prevalent, what with effective voluntary and trade union organization, backed by state insurance against invalidity, there was not the danger of the unemployed man drifting into such hopeless condition as here. Other features of German life were dealt with and a good discussion followed.

CHURCH OF CHRIST.

On Wednesday evening, Feb. 22nd, Mr. Entwistle delivered a lecture in the Meeting House, on the subject of "The Kingdom of God." A goodly number of tenants attended, and some took the opportunity, as on a previous occasion, of questioning the lecturer and discussing his subject. The lecturer in presenting three phases of the Kingdom of God, laid special stress on the necessity for recognizing the one at present established, and pointed out the advisability of complying with the conditions laid down for admission to citizenship.

Items of Interest.

Thanks, Mrs. Gamble, for the beautiful operetta given in the Institute, on Saturday, Feb. 25th. The tenants who were absent from the evening performance missed a treat.

Will members and friends please note the special Concert arranged for March 25th by Messrs. Philpott and Riley to assist the funds of the S.S.C.

It is noticed that there is likely to be a hard fight for the prize, which it is expected will be offered, for the finest show of front garden this summer. Diamonds as well as hearts can be found, but we fancy the Queen of Spades will stand best chance. This is a private matter and does not concern clubs.

We understand the Temperance Hall was crowded on February 16th. Mr. Riley must have found a ready sale for his tickets. No wonder there was an abnormal increase in the takings on the cars that week when 19—yes, nineteen—followers of Orpheus rode all the way to Humberstone terminus by a late car. According to the conductor this was an unprecedented event and the strain must have been terrible.

Following on the previous item we ought to see the "tone" of our Choral Society somewhat raised and that those who have been taking a "breve" rest will cease to "quaver."

Residents on the Anchor Tenants' Estate

READ THIS.

We all desire to increase the facilities

FOR OUR SOCIAL WELFARE!

AND FOR OUR CHILDREN'S EDUCATION!

The way to do this without increasing the cost of commodities to the purchaser, is by trading with the SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE whenever possible.

THE EVENT OF THE MONTH IS

OUR EXHIBITION

ARRANGED FOR US, BY US.

Note the Date:—

**SATURDAY, March 11th, 1911,
3 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

This is the day to invite your friends to visit the Estate and to see our Exhibition.

THE EXHIBITS WILL COMPRISE

Ladies' Dress Goods, Blouses, Corsets, etc.

Men's, Women's and Children's
Boots, Shoes and Slippers.

Men's, Youths' and Boys' Suits.

— ALSO —

Watches and Jewellery,

Brushes and Mats,

Umbrellas, Cutlery, etc.

Manufactured by Societies connected with the
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE FEDERATION.

The Exhibition being for the benefit of ALL, the presence and support of ALL are earnestly requested.

Help to develop the Social Life of the Estate by trading with your Social Service Committee.

Letters to the Editor.

CORRESPONDENCE INVITED.

Letters to the Editor need not be signed. Writer's name and address must accompany letters, but will not be published unless required.

TO THE EDITOR,

Dear Sir,—A few years ago some working men conceived the idea of co-operating to build a Garden-suburb. During the period of developing rules, and buying land, many ideals were bandied about by enthusiasts, both in a jocular and a serious manner. I remember one such remarking "that it would be all right when we all have the Christmas dinner together"; and many other proposals were made of what could be done co-operatively. Some of these, I am pleased to say, are already established, such as the buying collectively, of garden requisites. But, in the main I think, the tenants have moved more on individualistic lines than co-operative lines. Upon our estate has been built a place of worship, for members of the Church of Christ; of course, I know anyone could attend the service and be made welcome. Following that, a Debating Society was formed, having a distinct membership, and I understand, papers are read by members or friends, and discussed by members. Now a Socialist League has been formed, and anyone joining must, of necessity be a Socialist. These three branches of our Estate activities are good and point to brotherhood, but I belong to none, and after much thought I have come to the conclusion that there is no brotherhood in its true sense. Of course I may be wrong, but have we not all gone after our own, which is not co-operation. I think the women are to be congratulated on the conduct of their meeting. As I understand it, all is free and open, and any woman can join regardless of what her opinions may be; I hope the women will continue in this manner. I had hoped, Mr. Editor, to have written this for a previous number of the A.T.F., expecting some ventilation of opinion, and I should be sorry if this were the last of your pleasant little paper.—Yours respectfully,

"One of the Enthusiasts."

TO THE EDITOR,

Dear Sir,—I have been deeply interested in the criticisms expressed by certain visitors regarding the lack of privacy in our garden-city life. It is not surprising to hear such when we realize how tenants have been walled in on the town principle all these years. We should like our visitors to recognise that this is, in our opinion, one of the worst features of town life, and we have accordingly taken care to improve on it. Instead of walling in we think it better to encourage our members to cultivate their gardens not only for use but artistically, so as to be well pleasing to the eye of a visitor. Personally, I think there might, perhaps, be one little improvement made in the way of privacy, just around the side entrance of our houses. I would suggest a privet hedge be planted

close around the trellis. This privet could be planted to form various designs to suit the taste, and in the course of a few years, the trellis may be removed, and the privet would form a substantial fence and add largely to the beauty of the estate. By the way, seeing we have competitions in gardening for the adults of our community, why not encourage the young folks on the same lines? Three prizes might be offered for the best plot of garden, 3 yards by 2, and planted by each boy and girl with, say, a selection of the flowers named in Gardening Notes of Feb. A.T.F.

Yours sincerely, PRIVET.

Gardening Notes.

All planting and pruning of fruit trees which are not yet complete should be hastened along leaving those which have been planted this season to be pruned on the last week of the month; strict attention should be given to keep the branches as near nine inches apart as possible so that the sun and air may play their part in ripening the fruit spurs.

The general crop of broad beans may now be planted.

It is usual for many gardeners to be very anxious to out-pace their neighbours with the earliest crop of peas. To those I would say plant a few of the dwarf wrinkled varieties, but as a rule this is rather disappointing, because, at this time of the year, the grubs and birds appear to be very hungry. The writer always prefers to leave his sowings till April.

Rhubarb may be planted in soil that has been deeply dug with plenty of manure well worked in; Raspberries may also be planted but without manure, a mulching on the surface being more beneficial.

Do not plant general crop of potatoes till first week in May, for fear of late frosts, but have your land thoroughly ready for that date.

Parsnips are best sown this month, and should not be grown less than six inches apart: a good plan is to sow three seeds close together in sets, six or eight inches apart, and when the seedlings are well up, thin out to one, leaving the strongest to grow.

Sow a few cauliflower seeds in a cold frame, an excellent variety for this purpose being Sutton's Magnum-Bonum.

If the onion bed is not already prepared it should be done at once. Deep cultivation is very essential, working in plenty of decayed manure; make a fine surface and sow seeds thinly in drills one foot apart.

—T.R.

Saturday Evening Concerts.

THE SOCIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE
have arranged the following:

- March 4th.—Mr. Ashton and Party.
" 11th.—EXHIBITION.
" 18th.—Children's Cantata.
" 25th.—Special Concert.