

Enrico Malatesta.

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enthusiasts as Utopians and dreamers, and actually lent them the municipal halls free of charge for the holding of their meetings. They no doubt believed that their enthusiasm would soon wear itself out, but in this they were mistaken. The success of the revolutionary movement which had been started by Malatesta and his comrades alarmed the authorities, who withdrew their patronage and commenced a series of prosecutions. The result of this change of front was that Malatesta was obliged to discontinue his studies when in a short time he would have been able to take his degree, and leave his college.

This persecution only intensified Malatesta's ardour, and he at once joined Bakunine and the more violent exponents of Anarchism in a revolutionary agitation which was carried on all over Europe. In 1887 Malatesta, with Stepiak and Count Carlo Caffero, a very wealthy man who devoted his whole fortune to the cause of Anarchism, got together a band of Anarchist desperadoes who succeeded in taking possession of the city of Benevento. Seizing the municipal buildings, they distributed such money and treasure as they contained to the inhabitants. Their triumph was, however, but short-lived, as the Government sent no fewer than 30,000 troops to suppress the "insurrection." As the insurgent army numbered but thirty men all told, the complete assertion of law and order was very easily enforced.

Spain, and as an insurrection happened to break out in Xeres while he was in the country, the Spanish Government naturally connected it with his unwelcome visit and proclaimed him as the prime mover in it. As such he was condemned to death, but he managed to evade arrest, and after some exciting adventures succeeded in making his escape from the country. He sought an asylum in London, where he decided on settling down; a Hobsonian choice in the circumstances, as the government of practically every Continental country was desirous of making his future its especial concern.

In 1897 Malatesta returned to Italy and was unmolested by the Government. He founded a paper called "L'Agitazione," at Ancona, in which he fearlessly expounded his views. In England such a paper would be regarded as harmless, or at all events its existence would not have been hampered by police interference, for it steered clear of any incitement to outrage; and it seemed as if a similar tolerant attitude would be adopted by the Italian authorities; but on the outbreak of yet another insurrection Malatesta was held to have been guilty of incitement and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment by the Correctional Court. He was transported to the Island of Lampedusa to serve this term, and from there he managed to escape to Tunis. From there he made his way to Malta, and from thence he once more reached his English asylum in safety.

The career of Malatesta represents all that is best in Anarchism. His pamphlets in advocacy of its principles are published in almost every known language, including those so widely apart as Armenian and Japanese. He has never recanted a single statement he

Home Rule Again.

REMINISCENCES OF EARLIER MEASURES.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

LONDON, April 12.

More than twenty-six years have passed since Mr. Gladstone introduced the Irish Home Rule Bill that destroyed the old Liberal party. To many who to-day are taking the keenest possible interest in matters political the tremendous beginnings of that passionate political controversy are dim or unknown. Since then the face of English politics has completely changed. Before another Home Rule Bill was introduced, Lord Randolph Churchill had run his meteoric career and vanished, Mr. Parnell had fallen into utter ruin, Mr. Bright had passed away, and Mr. Chamberlain, who had been denounced by the Tories as a veritable Jack Cade of predatory Radicalism, had blossomed forth as the chief hope of Tory democracy.

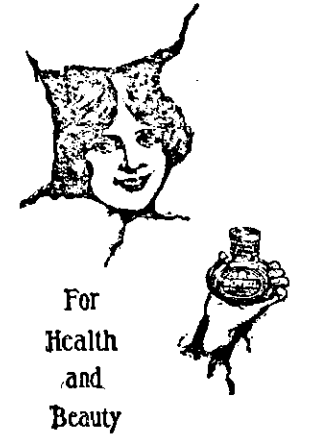
It was on April 8, 1886, that Mr. Gladstone introduced the first Home Rule Bill, and it was read a first time without a division.

The debate on the second reading began on May 10, and continued until the morning of June 3, when the division was taken, with the following result:—

For the bill	313
Against the bill	343
Majority against	30

Lord Hartington, who had moved the rejection of the measure, found 94 supporters amongst the Liberal party, about

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The little band of revolutionists were kept in prison for over a year without being brought to trial; but on the death of Victor Emanuel, in 1878, a general amnesty was proclaimed by King Humbert and they were set at liberty.

Malatesta never desisted from revolutionary agitation, and was in consequence frequently prosecuted, and many times found it expedient to seek shelter in other countries. During one of these absences he was sentenced to a long term of imprisonment, which practically closed Italy against him, except at the risk of losing his freedom. Notwithstanding this risk he returned to Naples during the epidemic of cholera in 1884 to render what assistance he could. His authorities rewarded his courage and disinterestedness by suspending the sentence against him and by granting him the provisional degree of doctor, so that he might utilise his medical knowledge in the work of relief.

When the cholera scourge was got under, Malatesta went to South America, where he engaged in newspaper work. In fact, not until 1893 was he actively concerned in the Anarchistic movement, although then, as now, every specially violent act associated with it, no matter in what part of the world it took place, was ascribed to him. In 1893 he happened to be in

Spain, and he has lived up to what he has advocated. Although he inherited considerable landed property from his father, he has always steadfastly refused to accept a penny from this source and has all through his life worked for his living. To most people such a decision must appear quixotic and absurd, but they must confess that it is magnificent.

When he returned a few years since to his estates in Italy, the peasants who had been living for so many years free from the incubus of a landlord were much perturbed. Even Anarchists may get cured of their quixotism, and they feared that Malatesta had returned to assert his legal rights. He quickly reassured them, and they have continued ever since in undisturbed possession of their holdings, blessing Providence, no doubt, that Anarchism had been invented to give them such a landlord.

He has been many times requested to accept a seat in the Italian Parliament, but to all such overtures he has turned a deaf ear, as the acceptance of any such position would be entirely opposed to Anarchism.

Even in his choice of a vocation he has invoked Anarchism and acted in accordance with its principles. Highly educated, and with an extensive knowledge of the world, many and easy

one-third of the full Radical strength from the constituencies of Great Britain.

For six years the Liberals remained out of power, and then in 1893 Mr. Gladstone's second bill was brought forward. The once united and powerful Liberal party had been rent in twain, and many of its leading members had formed themselves into a Liberal Unionist party, and had joined forces with the Conservatives in resisting the policy of their old chief; but the residuum, solidly backed by the Nationalists, were more of a compact body than previously, and if the normal

means of earning a lucrative livelihood are open to him, but he has chosen to earn his living by the sweat of his brow and the labour of his hands as engineer, electrician and smith.

Such is the man Enrico Malatesta—the real Malatesta, differing in every essential particular from the unreal Malatesta, the sinister figure behind every Anarchist crime and outrage, which is a mere bogey invented by the penny-linger, who is free to misrepresent, malign and abuse a man who will not defend himself by the only methods which such liars could appreciate or understand.