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EDITORIAL

A CHANCE FOR “PUNCH.”

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“At 4 o’clock this morning the military fired on a mob of hooligans in the streets.”—Liverpool despatch of August 15.

IN the days of the Chartist Movement for the suffrage and other political rights, as well as economic improvements, demanded by the working class and other progressive elements of England, several of which political demands have since been granted, clashes between the agencies of the British Ruling Class with the insurgent Chartists being frequent, as now in Liverpool, and, as now in Liverpool, many of the latter being killed by the former, the *London Punch* had a cartoon representing a Chartist and a Constable glowering at each other, and the Constable said:

“If you kill me it is murder; if I kill you it is law.”

Now, when the more fully orbed “Chartist” Movement is in the field in England, in the shape of the “Labor Movement,” and the Peterloo scene—at Peterloo there was the bloodiest massacre of Chartists—is being re-enacted at Liverpool, it is reasonable for *Punch* to repeat the philosophic sermon preached by its cartoon of Chartist days, and, representing a striking workingman and the commander of the Yorkshire regiment who “fired at the mob of hooligans,” glowering at each other, have the latter say to the former:

If you people gather you are a mob of hooligans; if my people gather we are a regiment.”

The sooner a Class, that is nothing unless it is revolutionary, with a revolutionary mission to fulfill, grasps the fact, the better for society.

The fact once grasped, the proper organization and plan of campaign follow, and then the label of “murder,” of “mob,” of “hooligan” settles of itself on the right side of the fence of history.

The fact left ungrasped, then the tide, which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune, washes society back to the shallows and the miseries of disorder.

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