

SIR,—As Professor F.W. Newman's remarks in endorsing the principles of this society were somewhat sharply referred to by Mr. T. S. Leadam in, I believe, his penultimate letter to the *Mark Lane Express*, you might perhaps deem it courteous at least to publish an extract from Prof. Newman's letter to me regarding those remarks. He says :—

“Concerning Mr. Leadam's letter, it may be remarked : (1) That he overlooks or disguises the cardinal fact that Parliament, which he calls the State, consisted of landowners and abused its power to play into its own purse, defrauding the nation. (2) That the worst usurpation dates, not from 200 years ago (that was the later stage), but from the time of Henry VIII. Colonel Duvery, speaking in the name of Mr. J. Stuart Mill's Land Tenure Reform, developed the facts in a speech which I heard from him at Bristol ten or more years ago. He called it the *Second Conquest* of England ; the first being by William the Bastard, the second by the landlords. Arrangements imposed by violence must not be accounted sacred. (3) Mr. Leadam says the State imposed burdens, and the 'State removed them.' Nay, but feudal kings made conditional grants to barons and baronets (to use a modern term) ; and when kings ceased to be leaders of armies, and cared not whence money came, the landlords eased themselves of burdens and put them on the people's industry (the feudal kings did not impose burdens, but made conditional grants). May we not reply, when the mass of the nation gets the power, it has a right, under name of the 'State,' to tax landlords on the same scale as they have taxed industry ?

“These are matters of history that will have to be discussed, and *will* be discussed over the breadth of the land. I cannot understand why no more was heard of Colonel Duvery's remarkable speech. I at once wrote to the Secretary and said that, in order to get a foundation for reform, the first business evidently was to diffuse the knowledge of the violent behaviour of the great lords, who, not without the aid of foreign troops, crushed the farmers and labourers and hanged them by thousands, though a Royal Commission had pronounced the farmers in the right. I got no reply but that my letter was sent to J. S. Mill, in France. I suppose Colonel Duvery is alive. His facts ought to be guaranteed. I am told that a record is kept of all the proceedings of Royal Commissions from that date, though not of Parliament.

“To establish the truth on these matters is not a short or easy work, nor one for me to undertake who receive my knowledge of historical facts second-hand. I do not admit to Mr. Leadam that to diffuse truth is demoralising. That the landlords have entirely changed their own position from being political officers with heavy duties and limited right over the land into private proprietors with scarcely a single duty and with ownership of the land, is quite plain.”—  
A. C. SWINTON, Hon. Treasurer, Land Nationalisation Society, 62, Ludgate Hill (Benson's Chambers No. 8), Nov. 18.