

THE QUINTESSENCE OF SOCIALISM

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The Quintessence of Socialism by Albert Schäffle

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ALBERT SCHÄFFLE

**THE QUINTESSENCE
OF SOCIALISM**

PREFACE TO THE ENGLISH
EDITION.

DR. SCHÄFFLE'S "Quintessenz des Socialismus" is referred to by M. de Laveleye ("Socialism of To-day," Eng. tr., p. 260) as the only publication, of which he is aware, that explains the scheme of collectivism and treats it in a scientific way.

Dr. Albert Schäffle, former minister of finance in Austria, and author of "Bau und Leben des Socialen Körpers," and other important works, is one of the most eminent of German economists. His "Quintessence," though popular in form, is the work of a thorough expert, and is even now, to the best of my knowledge, the clearest account of Socialism that can be obtained in anything like the same

compass. The author's criticisms are distinctly separated from his description, so that his private views can be allowed for by the reader. The pamphlet is now presented to the English public in the spirit in which the opening pages declare it to have been written,—“ Truth before all things !”

BERNARD BOSANQUET.

PREFACE TO THE FIRST GERMAN
EDITION.

THE following pages first appeared in 1874 in *Deutsche Blätter*, and were written at the express wish of the Editors of that magazine for the purpose of laying before a mixed public (consisting largely of theologians) a scientific and yet popular picture of the economic consequences of the newest form of Socialism. The work attracted some attention when it appeared in *Deutsche Blätter*, and it is by the wish of the Publishers that it is offered in its present form to a wider circle of readers. In this form it contains but few alterations, which have been made for the sake of greater clearness, the chief of which is a more careful arrangement of the matter. Its actual contents needed no modification.

PREFACE TO THE EIGHTH
GERMAN EDITION.

THIS Edition again contains no material alteration in the eight main divisions of the work. But the conclusion (ch. ix.) contains a few fresh explanations, which have been rendered necessary by the advance which has been made since the appearance of the last edition towards a policy of positive Socialism, and by my own scientific participation in the movements connected with it.

A. SCHAFFLE.

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S O C I A L I S M .

I.

SINCE the last elections to the German Diet, the "red spectre" of Socialism has found its way into every ale-house. But it is remarkable that not only in the world of the pot-house orators, but far up in the ranks of the "propertied and cultured classes," and to a great extent among the supporters of socialism themselves, the kernel and aim of the socialistic propaganda is still almost unknown. We have daily evidence that an absurd amount of false representations, of exaggerated fears, and of no less immoderate hopes, grows rankly in this field of enquiry. Not only those who oppose and scorn the new gospel, but also even many of those who are