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EDITORIAL

REFERRED TO NEAL DOW AND ANANIAS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN pursuit of the wise policy of periodically making the rounds of the so-called press of the so-called Socialist, alias Social Democratic party, we come to-day to the Milwaukee (Wis.) *Social Democratic Herald*. Seeing the smallness of the circulation of these “presses,” it is unlikely that the public is well informed upon them. These periodical rounds serve a general purpose. The public may learn and the Socialist Labor Party will feel encouraged.

The *Social Democratic Herald* of the 19th instant has among its editorial items the following two squibs:

“A writer in the ‘Alliance of the Rockies,’ who does not sign his name, makes the proposal that the Socialists make no presidential nomination, as, ‘in the transformation from our present state to Socialism, the president and the presidency can be legally and utterly ignored.’ If De Leon doesn’t get jealous of our people before long, it will be a wonder!”

Can anyone make head or tail of the “reasoning” of this conclusion? Or is there any wit in it?

The passage is reverently referred to the shades of Neal Dow, the father and founder of Prohibitionism. He, who sounded all the depths and shoals of alcoholism, he may be able to explain the meaning of such maudlin “argument.”

The second passage is this:

“A communication from the secretary of the International Socialist Bureau at Brussels was read at the recent convention of the Italian Socialists in Hoboken, N.J., in which it was stated that the Socialist party was its American representative, and that the S.L.P. was not recognized.”

With a deep reverence this morsel is referred to the shades of Ananias. No such letter was read at any such convention. The letter there read from the International

Socialist Bureau was to the effect that the Bureau was in weekly receipt of communications from the Socialist party, but had so far received none from the Socialist Labor Party. Who but Ananias, who sounded all the depths and shoals of mendacity, is equal to the task of bestowing proper appreciation upon such an editorial paragraph?

The above two paragraphs from the *Social Democratic Herald* illustrate not merely the mental calibre of the private owners of the so-called Socialist party; the paragraphs also illustrate the mental attitude of the gentlemen towards the Socialist Labor Party. Theirs is the mental attitude of Macbeth towards Banquo. The fraudulent usurper never felt at ease; there was that within him that told him the days of his usurpation were numbered, and Banquo sat heavy on his brain. As in Banquo's, so in the S.L.P.'s royalty of nature reigns that which the gentlemen fear. They know 'tis much it dares, and, that, to that dauntless temper of its mind, it hath a wisdom that doeth guide its valour to act in safety. Under the S.L.P., their genius is rebuked. The only difference is that Macbeth did kill Banquo, whereas when the day of killing shall come, it is the triumphant S.L.P. that will wield, not the midnight assassin's dagger, but the historic executioner's axe. Conscience is a wondrous element. No wonder the Bogus Socialist Party, like another Macbeth, can, in its self-reproaching and heated brain, only see the S.L.P., and is driven to aim aimless blows at the invulnerable body.

In the meantime, let the shades of Neal Dow and Ananias take charge.

[P.S.—Preliminary to completer information, the preliminary information may be here imparted that two shining lights of the Social Democratic party—Boudin, alias Budjianoff, and Pollock—have just got out, as lawyer and notary public, an injunction for an employer against his employes, the Ladies' Waistmakers' Union in this city. The details, tho' attempted to be suppressed by that scabby party will be given in full.]

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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