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EDITORIAL

THE M'CARREN STRUGGLE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

DURING the Mayoralty or Henry George campaign of 1886, and when the tidal wave of the Labor vote seemed to portend inevitable doom to both the capitalist candidates, the Tammanyite, Fatty Walsh, remained serene. "Why," said he, "them labor men are crazy! They can't win. They haint got no election inspectors!"—and he was right, both in his premises and the full measure of his conclusions, and the overflowing measure of what his premises implied. Nearly six years have since elapsed and we now find State Senator M'Carren, of Brooklyn, in a fierce fight, not for delegates that may approve this, that or the other principle, but for the control of the election inspectors. From Fatty Walsh to M'Carren the line is uninterrupted. The cribbage motto, "It all lies in the counting," is the motto of the capitalist game called politics.

The fierceness of the M'Carren fight should not be wasted upon the thinking. A delusion is quite rampant that the thing to do is "to get votes," and well-meaning people not a few have succumbed to it. They little realize that votes do not "count" unless they can assert themselves, and that in order to assert themselves they must either be counted, or must be of a temper and fiber to resist being counted out. As to the former alternative, what may be called the illustrious hierarchy that extends from Fatty Walsh down to M'Carren demonstrates that, in order to have votes counted off-hand the class principles which polls them must be able to man the hustings with its own election inspectors, and that in order to have the power of so manning the hustings the corresponding class principle must previously have possession of the government, consequently, that the votes which proceed from a class principle that is not in possession of the government and is struggling for such possession, has not a ghost of a show of being counted off-hand. The Fatty Walsh-M'Carren demonstration leads to conclusions of prime importance. They are these:

That the only alternative left a class principle that is struggling for the possession of government to resist being counted out, is that its vote be so heated in the furnace of knowledge, so beaten hard on the anvil of conviction, so fortified in the sizzling waters of experience, that it becomes unbendable, unbreakable and irresistible, a compound of well-tempered enthusiasm and audacity, and so well tempered that the counting out be impossible—or futile.

This pregnant fact once grasped, “votes” and “vote-getting” fall into proper perspective; they are seen to be, not the aim but a bridge for the revolutionary army to march over; in other words, seeing that bridges may be temporary and frail and only of transitory use, but a revolutionary army must be sound, the thing to do is to drill that army, otherwise a mob and not an army will cross the bridge, and be scattered by the drilled forces in possession during or after the bridge is crossed,—in politics that “scattering” is called “counting out.”

One would not think so from looking at them, and yet the Fatty Walshes and the M'Carrens are preaching a mighty lesson—educate—EDUCATE—EDUCATE—on things and men, on principle and on practice!

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