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## Rendering Homage to the S.L.P.

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**T**he organization, like the man, whose conduct is correct will find that even where seeming difficulties beset its or his path, what happens is bound in the end to redound to its and his favor. Every incident that happens is tributary to such organization's or man's success. Thus the law of cause and effect is inevitably on the side of Right, and furnishes recruits against Wrong. Of this fact a recent circumstance, not intended to favor the Socialist Labor party organization, furnishes a striking illustration.

In various parts of the country the whine is now heard about "bossism" in the S.L.P."; from sotto basso to chorus treble the song is heard from a variety of throats. Let it be watched carefully and the complaint will be found to be a well merited homage, rendered to the sturdy democracy of the S.L.P.

Even outsiders, unacquainted with the details of our party's mechanism, but furnished with thinking powers, know that bossism is an impossibility in the S.L.P. for the reason that the party lacks the indispensable tool for bossism. No patronage; no boss. The political boss holds himself through his power to dispense livings. As the S.L.P. has no patronage to bestow, bossism in its ranks is out of the question. But, furthermore, those who know anything about the party are well aware that the system of its organization directly guards against such danger. As nothing of any importance can be done in the party without a referendum vote, such a thing as rule from above has no ground to stand on. Every intelligent man knows that. So far, the very fact that assault against the S.L.P. must proceed from lack of intelligence or lack of veracity is a source of strength to the S.L.P. Stupidity makes no progress, and the legs that lies walk on are proverbially worn out. The end of it all is increased prestige for the attacked. But there is more in this matter that redounds to the honor of the S.L.P.

Among those who are just now loudest in the outcry we see certain figures worth looking at more closely. When this is done an interesting fact is discovered.

About two years ago a party member in Lynn conceived an estimate of his own merits that neither his Section nor the party at large shared; he strove to override the party's constitution; was called down, and finally expelled by an overwhelming majority of the party vote. On that occasion, a hysterical lady friend of his, at that time also a member of the party, swung to his side, declaring that he was "greater than the party," and she is among those now "democratically" raising the cry of "bossism" against the S.L.P.

Nor is she alone. In unison with her we find the cry of "bossism" raised against the S.L.P. by quite a coterie of women of both sexes who are on their knees before "The Chief," "The Leader," "The Jupiter" of the "Social Democracy" of Chicago—a gentleman, who, were he to disappear from the scene, would carry along with him all that there is of the "Social Democracy"; who frames its "laws," enforces them, etc., without being accountable to anyone for what he does, says, etc.

It is not our purpose here to weigh the merits or demerits of these two gentlemen. Let them be all that they and their worshipers think they are. What we and the history of the movement are here interested in is the psychology of those who charge the S.L.P. with bossism and who themselves are the praise-singers of the individuals above referred to. What does their conduct betray? A love for democracy? A hatred of bossism? No. Their conduct betrays the fetich worshippers who justly rebel against an organization so sturdily democratic as the S.L.P. that it will not tolerate any idols within its camp, and is only too glad to be rid of the idolaters who would impose their Mumbo Jumbos upon a movement that needs men, and not sheep, to fulfill its historic mission.

The revolutionary organization of the proletariat is larger, greater, nobler, wiser than any man, be he who he may; and it, and no man or minority set, must control its own destiny. The cry of "bossism" raised against it is borne by the S.L.P. as a badge of honor. It is proof that the democracy it preaches is not the cant of demagogues to catch flies with; is democracy indeed, whose cardinal principle is that power comes from below.

As the S.L.P. owes a debt of gratitude to the Goulds, who hasten the development of capital and thereby furnish object lessons to Socialist economics; as it owes a debt of gratitude to the political parties of the silver and gold mine barons, who by their acts of unconscionable cruelty to the proletariat furnish object lessons to the Socialist theory of the class struggle; so does the S.L.P. owe a debt of gratitude to the idolatrous worshipers of one man power, who by their denunciations of the S.L.P. render homage to its genuine democracy, by contrast promote the wise organic principles on which the

S.L.P. is built, and on which a truly revolutionary proletarian movement must be built if it is to be successful.

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