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EDITORIAL

TRULY EMBLEMATIC.

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THE Seventy-first Regiment Armory is a heap of ruins. Up to midnight of the 21st instant, it stood, an “imposing, awe-inspiring mass.” Within an hour after that, it crashed down with a great crash, and was no more. The spectacle is truly emblematic.

Armories are, of course, centers from which armed forces are to be let loose, at the command of the class whose headquarters are in Wall Street, upon the Working Class, to subjugate them. True, also, Armories are centers where the above-named forces are to acquire the requisite skill to do the above-named subjugating. But over and above all that, Armories, of late, have been designed for another purpose, besides. In all the large industrial centers, especially in New York, Armories have recently been built with the ulterior and express end in view of “impressing” the Working Class. The Working Class was, by the mute eloquence of these structures, to be inspired with a sense of awe for the strength, the power, the formidableness, the solidity, and indestructibility of Capitalism and the fleeing Capitalist Class. Accordingly, the architecture of the Armories became unique. They actually frowned at all corners: turrets of redoubtable appearance, bastions that seemed to cry out “run!”, dead walls that yelled “touch not me!”, scarps and counterscarps, glacis and buttresses bristled on all sides. All this, of course, presented an aspect of solidity and reserve energy that was meant to be forbidding, awe-inspiring to look at. The Working Class was, from that spectacle, to form its opinion of the power of the class that oppresses the workers; it was from that sight to form its opinion of what it had to “stack up against” if it ever tried conclusions with its oppressors. It is to be hoped that the fate of the redoubtable-looking Seventy-first Regiment Armory will have supplemented all such impressions.

The Armories that are going up are, indeed, emblematic of what the Working

Class has to “stack up against” in its conflict with the Capitalist Class. Like these Armories, the “strength” and “power” and “solidity” of Capitalism are mere external show, hollow pretences, intended to humbug the humbugable. The smouldering heap of ruins to which the “massive granite structure” of the Seventy-first Regiment Armory was converted by a conflagration that did not last an hour is all-around emblematic.

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