

EDITORIAL

SOCIALISM COMPLIMENTED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

A CLEVELAND, O., correspondent sends to this office a copy of the *Catholic Universe* of that city, with date of May 24. An editorial “The Church and Politics” is marked; specifically the following paragraph in the editorial:

“As we have said before, we do not favor a Clerical party in this country. We are afraid that it may come as the only convenient and effective offset to a rising tide of Socialism.”

Our correspondent, indignant at the clerical presumption of expressing itself against Socialism of which clergymen know nothing, asks: “How is this for high!”

To us, the editorial and the paragraph are a compliment, more than a compliment, a homage to Socialism:

“Catholic” means universal. The Roman organization being “Catholic” is universal. What it is in one place it is in another. Being avowedly a political party in several countries—Germany and Belgium, for instance, it must be the same everywhere else. Accordingly, in this country, as elsewhere the Roman Catholic machine is a political machine.

Political strife is a strife of reasoning. Where political strife is liveliest discussion is most general. Political activity and blind submission are incompatible. Political activity repels authoritarianism. Adverse political parties regard one another as peers, much the same as the contending lawyers before a jury; and just as these, political parties endeavor to win over the jury—the voters. “Argument” is the weapon in politics—the only effective one, to-day.

The weapon of the Roman Catholic machine, is, however, not Argument. In this country we have had a sample thereof.

When Father Edward McGlynn declared himself the partisan of a Single Tax

political movement, it was logical enough for the Roman Catholic political machine to denounce him. The Single Tax, though far from being an emancipator of the proletariat, certainly was a menace to the landlord class, a class in which the Roman machine is a star member. But while denunciation—argument can not always be distinguished from denunciation—was in order from the Roman political machine, it resorted to something else besides denunciation. That something else was a weapon inherited from the Dark and feudal Ages when the Roman machine, tho' a political machine, was the sole one allowed or allowable. That weapon was Anathema.

In order that the many-sided features of this weapon be fully appreciated, we here reproduce the Anathema or excommunication of Father McGlynn, officially read to the people in Latin on July 8, 1887, under Leo XIII, Michael Augustine, Archbishop in Christ Corrigan. Here it is in full, as published by the Central News Co., Philadelphia, a copy of which can be found in the 42nd Street Library, bound together with about 20 other documents on different subjects in a fat green book. Here it is:

By the authority of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost, and of the undefiled Virgin Mary, mother and patroness of our Savior, and of all the celestial virtues, angels, archangels, thrones, dominions, powers, cherubim, seraphim, and of all the holy patriarchs, prophets, and of the holy innocents, who in the sight of the Holy Lamb are found worthy to sing the new song of the holy martyrs and holy confessors, and of the holy virgins, and of all the saints together, with the holy and elect of God, We excommunicate and anathematize this malefactor, Edward McGlynn, and from the thresholds of the holy church of God Almighty we sequester him, that he may be tormented, disposed and delivered over to Dathan, and Abiram, and with those who say unto the Lord God, "Depart from us, we desire none of thy ways." And as fire is quenched with water, so let the light of him be put out forevermore, unless he shall repent "and make satisfaction." Amen.

May the Father who created man, curse him!

May the Son who suffered for us, curse him!

May the Holy Ghost, who was given to us in baptism, curse him!

May the Holy Cross, which Christ, for our salvation, triumphing over his enemies, ascended, curse him!

May St. Michael, the advocate of holy souls, curse him!

May all the angels, and archangels, principalities and powers, and all the heavenly armies, curse him!

May St. John the Praecursor, and St. John the Baptist, and St. Peter, and St. Paul, and St. Andrew, and all other Christ's apostles, together curse him!

And may the rest of his disciples and four evangelists, who by their preaching converted the universal world, and may the holy and wonderful company of martyrs and confessors, who by their holy works are found pleasing to God Almighty, curse him!

May the choir of holy virgins, who for the honor of Christ have despised the things of the world, curse him!

May all the saints, who, from the beginning of the world to everlasting ages are found to be beloved of God, curse him!

May the heavens, and earth, and all the holy things remaining therein, curse him!

May he be cursed, wherever he be—whether in the house or in the stables, the garden or the field, or the highway, or in the path, or in the wood, or in the water or in the church!

May he be cursed in living, in dying, in eating or drinking, in being hungry, in being thirsty, in fasting, in sleeping, in slumbering, in waking, in walking, in standing, in sitting, in lying, in working, in resting, in urinating, in going to stool, and in blood letting!

May he be cursed in all the faculties of his body!

May he be cursed inwardly and outwardly!

May he be cursed in the hair of his head!

May he be cursed in his brains!

May he be cursed in his vertex, in his temples, in his forehead, in his ears, in his eyebrows, in his cheeks, in his jawbones, in his nostrils, in his foreteeth and grinders, in his lips, in his throat, in his shoulders, in his wrists, in his arms, in his hands, in his fingers, in his mouth, in his breast, in his heart, and in his bottomest stomach, and its appurtenances, in his reins, in his groin, in his thighs, in his genitals, and in his hips, his legs, his feet, and his toe nails!

May he be cursed in all the joints and articulations of his members, from the top of his head to the sole of his foot!—May there be no soundness in him!

May the son of the living God, with all the glory of his majesty, curse him! and may heaven, with all the powers which move therein rise up against him, and DAMN him, unless he repents and make satisfaction! Amen.

So be it, So be it! Amen.

Whence we hold, What greater compliment, or homage, can be paid to the soundness of Socialist reasoning by the usurping class than by its fetching out of the armory of the dark and dreary Dark Ages, and as its last resort against Socialism, a political party whose main weapon is an actual declaration of intellectual bank-

ruptcy? What greater compliment, or homage, to Socialism than for modern Usurpation to feel driven back to the Dark Ages, and push and pull the Roman Catholic political machine to step forward in its true colors—the autocratically secular?

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