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EDITORIAL

A SECOND MIRACLE.

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AN exceptionally remarkable article was that recently reproduced in these columns from *Roma*, the semi-official journal of the Vatican, in which, after reviewing the nations of Europe, Turkey included, and also mentioning England and the United States, all of which are being more and more violently rocked by the surging waves of Socialism, the paper proceeds:

“What is drawing them [the workingmen]? Putting it broadly it seems to us that the multitudes are being influenced chiefly by two sentiments—one of discontent with the present economic structure of society, the other of a desire for a practical recognition of the brotherhood of man, and for the abolition of barriers which prevent this recognition.”

This is coming quite close to the fact, and in language, which, tho' lacking scientific precision, conveys the fairly correct idea.

Undoubtedly the multitude are discontented with {the} present structure of society—as discontented as an adult grows in clothes that he has outgrown. The capitalist social structure is to modern society like a lad's jacket and knee pants, ripped and burst apart in many places by the ampler proportions which the wearer has attained. To admit the fact of specific discontent, of discontent that is not vague, but is sufficiently concrete to center itself against “the present economic structure of society”—such an admission sounds very differently from the pasteboard reason of “irreligion,” otherwise assigned by mouthpieces of the Roman Catholic political regimen.

Nor can any real fault be found with the estimate that the discontent is fired with a desire for “a practical recognition of the brotherhood of man.” The higher the hill upon which a man stands all the broader is his horizon. The higher elevation of the material possibilities for general wellbeing, upon which this generation stands,

raises also man's aspirations by broadening his horizon. The wider sweep enables him to perceive that the brotherhood of man is to-day hampered, and it also enables him to conclude that, in order to reach the ideal striven after by the healthiest minds of all ages, it is first necessary to change the material, that is, the economic structure of things.

The recognition of these two facts, in the order that they are recognized, by the organ of a political regimen which has claimed the promotion of the brotherhood of man to be its, and only its specialty, is to admit both the soundness of the methods which that regimen has all along condemned as "grovelling materialism," and to admit that another body has taken the lead as the pathfinder for "peace on earth"; that another body, Socialism, has seized the sceptre of the march of Civilization.

Already quite recently the miracle was recorded of an organ of the Roman Catholic political regimen uttering itself, in point of fact and conclusions, with such unusual accuracy and soundness regarding things in the Socialist Movement, as to entitle its words to a place in these columns. The miracle has repeated itself, if anything, still more conspicuously in this than in the first instance.

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