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EDITORIAL

MULHALL & CO.

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The Mulhall “disclosures” are a bursted bladder. But how ridiculous his gulls look!—New York *Sun*.

THE estimate is substantially correct as to Mulhall. Altho’ not a little of what he revealed was true, and is valuable to know, the actual wool bears no relation to the noise it made. The Colonel is a “bursted bladder.”

Absolutely, unqualifiedly, correct is the estimate as to Mulhall’s Cos. They stand exposed as “gulls,” ridiculous gulls at that.

Repeatedly does Marx in the course, at times even in the midst, of some profoundly scientific treatment of an economic principle, break off to throw a side-light upon the psychology of the bourgeois. The side-lights are no digressions. They assist in grasping, if not the economic principle itself, at any rate the sociologic manifestation of the principle. Inestimable, for instance, are the side-lights that expose the bourgeois as an upstart, or as a constitutional cheat, or as a lump of vulgarity, or as a hypocrite, or as a dullard. The Mulhall “disclosures” disclose the gent as a duped duper.

The money-making faculty is extolled by the bourgeois as a faculty so supreme as to entitle him to social-over-lordship. The Mulhall disclosures disclose the faculty for what it is—a faculty that accurately reflects the bourgeois economic concept that wealth comes, not from labor, but from “cleverness.”

“Cleverness” being in the bourgeois mind the source of wealth, it must follow as day follows night that the bourgeois is himself extensively “clevered,” that is, leg-pulled. Careful observers did not need Mulhall to tell them that. They saw the phenomenon before, every time a “reformer” spoke; every time a “detective” caught “one of the worst” criminals; every time a “eugenicist” elaborated his social panacea; every

time a “Professor” tooted an anti-Marxist trumpet blast; every time—but why go through the long list of parasitic degenerates whom bourgeoisdom breeds, and who, in turn, feed upon the heathen altar that they serve! Mulhall was one of these parasites.

Every animal, observes Seton Thompson, has some great strength or he could not live, and some great weakness or other animals could not live. The “weakness” and the “strength” are obverse and reverse of the same medal. The social jungle, in which the Van Cleaves, the Kirbys and the Posts roam, also breeds the Mulhalls to “roam” upon the Posts, the Kirbys and the Van Cleaves.

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