

EDITORIAL

PROTECTION CARRIES OFF THE PALM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

MY Lord Protection and his lordship's virtuous spouse, My Lady Free-trade, have been jointly holding a series of receptions in their parlor, the Ways and Means Committee. It is on all sides admitted that each of the hosts excelled in his and her peculiar charms. But the palm must be given to one; it cannot be handed to both. To whom shall the award be made? Opinion is divided upon this. A sense of gallantry inclines some to ornament the palpitating bosom of My Lady with the trophy. Unswayed by any such sentimental motive, and while admitting that the contest is close, an impartial public is bound to decorate the lapel of My Lord's coat with the emblem of excellence.

"There can be no labor until there are mills." This jewel dropped from My Lord Protection's lips in the person of Chairman Payne. Many sparkling jewels dropped from My Lady Free-trade's rosy lips. None, however, is of the "water" of this one of My Lord's. A candid arbitrator must admit that this particular capitalist jewel out-sparkles all capitalist jewels—yet.

"There can be no labor until there are mills"—this is the enunciation of a new Genesis; it also is the enunciation of a new theory of biology.

Genesis teaches that God created man and that He did so after His own image.—Protection gives short shrift to the orthodox theory: the MILL created man, and it did so, not after its own image, but after an image invented by itself—the image of the wage-slave.

Biology pretends that man was not created but evolved from inferior vertebrate formations.—Protection sniffs at the fine spun theory of Science: man was not evolved; he was "turned out" by the mill, just as the mill turns out yards of cloth, or tons of pig iron.

"There can be no labor until there are mills"—this is an enunciation that

revolutionizes Genesis and upsets Science even more radically than in the matter of man's creation, or evolution.

Genesis teaches that in the beginning there was only the will of God, who created all things out of nothing, culminating in man.—Protection teaches that in the beginning there was a MILL. From the mill all else came, man included.

Biology pretends that in the beginning there was an incandescent nebula, from which, by gradual condensation, this world and all the things upon it appeared in successive order.—“Pooh!” says Protection; “Nebula nothing! In the beginning there was a solid thing, the MILL, from whose teeming ‘inards’ man was projected.”

That My Lord Protection—a pillar of “Law,” “Order,” and “Religion”—pays scant respect to Science is in the order of things; that, however, the identical pillar play{s} revolution with Genesis, that is not quite in the order of things. Off and on, true to the orthodox conception of the inherent iniquity of woman, My Lady Free Trade indulges in society-reversive rantings. At one leap his lordship distances his consort by a full length—and carries off the palm.

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

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