

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 10, NO. 334.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, MAY 30, 1910.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## CLERICAL BOURBONISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ONE should think that Massachusetts would be, of all States, and Boston, of all cities, the last ones in which the gentlemen of the Roman Catholic political machine of this country would seek to attack Socialism on the stupid charge of its “menacing the ties of matrimony” One should think that whatever State and city these gentlemen would choose in which to air their spavined one-legged hobby about “Socialism’s smashing the home,” Massachusetts and Boston would be the particular State and city they would be silent in on that subject, seeing the charge is nowhere such a fresh boomerang as in that particular State and city.

It was in the city of New Bedford, located in the State of Massachusetts, that only a year ago Father Travassos, a Roman Catholic prelate, was mulcted in damages, in a suit by an aggrieved husband, Anuncio by name, whose home the Father had attempted to smash, and succeeded for a while to disrupt, by falsely stating to a penitent in the confessional, the wife of the husband aforementioned, that she, having been married by the civil law only and not by the church, lived in concubinage, and that her husband could go to any other city and be married again. The distracted woman, believing the priest to be truthful, and, of course, a “bulwark of the sanctity of the marriage tie,” deserted her husband, but later, discovering that she had been imposed upon, returned to her husband and explained to him her conduct, whereupon he brought the action for damages, and won, the wife’s testimony concerning what the priest had told her in the confessional being correctly admitted by the Court.

Nor is this all. It was in the city of Boston that the superiors of the said Father Travassos, instead of repudiating the prelate’s blow at the sanctity of the home, approved of the same, and, seeking to prevent, not a recurrence of the misdeed, but

its being punished, strove this very year to secure the passage of a law whereby a penitent would not be allowed to testify in court as to anything that the priest might tell him, or her; in other words, while all other people living in the State were held responsible for their criminal acts, the priest was to be raised above the law, and kept exempt, whatever iniquity he might suggest to his penitent. The proposed law was called the Confessional Law; and it was defeated, and, by its defeat checked Father Travassosism.

With two such recent and palpitating instances—first, of the fact that the Roman Catholic machine is a political organization operating in the ambush of religion to upset the laws of the land; and, second, of the fact that it was caught red-handed in the attempt to smash a happy home—despite two such fresh instances, a number of Roman Catholic prelates foregathered in Boston on the first of this month, and, led by Mgr. Splaine, had the impudence to refer to Socialism as “a force that is working for the destruction of the family.”

Bourbonism never learns. Whatever it be that dense dullness manifests itself in, 'tis not bravery.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded May 2011

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)