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EDITORIAL

THE “TRIAL” OF FERRER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WITH this issue we start the publication of a review made by Jaime de Angulo, a member of Section Baltimore, Socialist Labor Party, of the distinguished Madrid professor of psychology L. Simarro’s two-volumed work on *The Trial of Ferrer and European Public Opinion*.

The exhaustive and conscientious work, done by the reviewer of Prof. Simarro’s eminently critical, and equally exhaustive and conscientious production, is a service of prime magnitude rendered to the English speaking world on a great contemporaneous event, of interest the world over.

The Dark Affair of Ferrer’s death is generally known only by scraps of information. The scraps are in many instances luminous; yet their very scrappiness furnishes the world-over political machine which encompassed Ferrer’s assassination with opportunities to double and twist, and to seek to acquit itself.

Prof. Simarro’s production is the first attempt at a critical and historic unveiling of the latest tragedy of the many that have come down the Ages—historic tragedies enacting on a world-wide stage the world-wide conflict between Light and Darkness. Even so Prof. Simarro’s work is accessible only to those blessed with leisure enough to read a book, and gifted with the Spanish language.

De Angulo, by reviewing, condenses Prof. Simarro’s book, and at once places its contents within reach of the English reading public.

Like all Knowledge, History imparts foresight. What is not known does not exist to him who knows not. He who does not know history is doubly blind—blind as to the Past; hence, still blinder as to the Present; and blinder still as to the Future.

While a knowledge of the Ferrer tragedy may well impel a cry of agony—“Are we still in the days of Poe’s ‘The Pit and the Pendulum’; or, worse yet, in the Dark Ages!”—nevertheless, the fact that this latest Felony against the Human Mind,

differently from those of the Ages of Mental Slavery, was quickly followed, and on the spot, by its bold exposure, is cause for joy. The fact measures the distance Man has traveled since—and it gilds the Future, a Future that is at hand.

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