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EDITORIAL

WAT-TYLERING THE PEOPLE.

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Mr. **Abram S. Hewitt**, a life-long fleecer of the working class; the man who barely fourteen years ago threw himself at the head of a Mayoralty campaign in this city for the purpose of arresting the aspirations of the workers; the man who on that occasion met the indictment of the workers against the present social system with insults to the toilers; the man who then derided the toilers' complaints of inequality, with the idiotic argument that "some men are tall and some are short, and some are stout and some are lean; inequality is the law of nature,"—that man, to-day turns up at public meetings and rushes into print pronouncing anathema upon modern society for "bringing on conditions which make it an absolute impossibility for some people to live decent, respectable lives," despite the "advance of industry which has brought wealth beyond the wildest dreams of avarice."

Has the Social Movement gained a convert? Has it captured a new recruit? No! A new danger is gathering in the path of the Working Class! A conspiracy is ripening to **Wat-Tyler** the Movement of Emancipation!

When, in the days of Richard II., the discontent of the masses had reached the danger point, special treatment was applied. Before then, the complaints of wrongs, the cries for redress, the arguments of the masses were treated by the ruling class with the Hewittian derision and contumely of fourteen years ago; just as soon, however, as these complaints, cries and arguments crystallized into organization, just as soon, accordingly, as the sense of Wrong ceased to evaporate into air, but converged to a point, and began to take shape in action, the ruling class suddenly changed its tactics. The head of the nation, Richard II., the King, rode out unarmed and accompanied by his minions, likewise unarmed, to meet the angry hosts that were marching against him. At sight of the King unarmed, the marchers cheered; they cheered still louder when he was through addressing them, and then?—their voices went out with a sudden jerk. Richard II. admitted, in the Hewittian style of

to-day, the wrongs complained of; swore, like Hewitt now does, that rather should the State perish than such criminal conditions continue;—and (this was the objective point) offered himself as the leader of his “beloved people.” His “beloved people” were taken in; they accepted his leadership; and he led them to the gallows. The insurrection, named after its leader, Wat Tyler, was thus hung up high to dry.

Elsewhere in this issue will be found the magnificent speech of **Jules Guesde**, delivered in Lille, France, against a similar, perhaps even more insidious, attempt in France than that of the Hewitts in America—the attempt of the “Intellectuals” to Wat-Tyler the onward march of the Workers towards their emancipation. So long as the modern movement of the workers had gathered no consistency, it was treated, in France as well as here, to the contumely and derision bestowed to the rumblings that preceded the movement of Wat Tyler. Now, however, that it has gathered consistency through organization, and that it has been given direction by the Socialist Labor Party, the Hewitts in America, like the Money Bags in France with their lackeys, the “Intellectuals,” are changing their tunes, and making ready to play the old game. Guesde’s great speech may well be taken as the warning uttered by the combined Revolutionary forces of society against this gathering danger.

He who, tho’ of the exploiting class, would share in the crowning work of all the Ages—the establishment of the Socialist Republic—must give evidence of his trustworthiness. The test is not phrases; even the days for crumbs are gone by. The emancipation of the Working Class, full and unqualified, the surrender of the Capitalist Class, absolute and unconditional, is the sole rallying cry of the modern Proletariat, and the Struggle of Classes, irrepressible and unremitting, is the loadstar by which alone to march.

The Proletariat of the XX Century will not be Wat-Tylered.

Let the Hewitts take notice.

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

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