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EDITORIAL

## IS THE RACE DEGENERATING?

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**T**HE financial statement of the Int'l Cigarmakers' Union, on the recent strike in New York, is out in a 10x7, pale-blue, 31-paged document. It is thrilling enough for yellow covers. But not its thrillingness is what deserves real notice. The production is valuable mainly on a head that it is wholly innocent of. Without meaning to, it contributes a mighty share towards answering the vexed question, Is the race degenerating?

"Diana is great!" "Great is Diana!"—such were some of the protests, that, nearly 2,000 years ago, smote the face of a politico-economic movement that, next in the order of social development, was then rising above the horizon. That Movement—generically termed Christianity, and usually considered religious—, had to beat its way across volumes of slander hurled in its path. The cry, "Diana is great! Great is Diana!" was an incautious betrayal of the source of the opposition. The sculptors of statues of Diana at Ephesus, and of effigies of other Olympian deities, instinctively felt their material interests assailed by the rising Movement. It was the pockets, or be it the stomachs, that spoke in protests, slanderous and hypocritical.

"The Union is great! Great is the Union!"—such are some of the protests, that, in this generation, are smiting the face of another politico-economic movement, which, in its turn, has risen above the horizon of social development, and is, in turn, destined to sway the race. This Movement—known as Socialism—, has, like Christianity of yore, to beat its way to-day across volumes of slander hurled in its path. The cry, "The Union is great! Great is the Union!" corresponds to-day to the old cry, "Diana is great! Great is Diana!" It is an incautious betrayal of the source of the opposition. The drawers of revenue as officers of "pure and simple" Unions instinctively feel their private material interests assailed by the rising Movement. It is their pockets, or be it their stomachs, that speak in protests, slanderous and hypocritical.

Two points establish the direction of a line. Here we have two identical social apparitions, separated by the wide stretch of 2,000 years. Surely, the line drawn from the first to the second must establish the trend of the human race. Does it drop? Does it rise?

Let the two apparitions be measured, contrasted.

Through both, Nature emits the same thought—Material Interests; but, as the same vibrations of the air, forced through a cornet and a penny-whistle, resound with different timbre, so likewise is the timbre of the thought that strikes the ear to-day a very different timbre from the one emitted 2,000 years ago.

The sculptors of Diana and other Olympian statues were the product of a period of human spiritual elevation to which the world owes its Seven Wonders, the Ephesian Temple of Diana among them. Grovelingly material as was the source of their outcry against Christianity, it is nevertheless undeniable that heart and mind, with them, were colored and fired with the splendors of Greek art, that they imagined assailed by the early austerity of a creed that carried in its womb the Michel Angelos and Albrecht Duerers. The criers of “Diana is great; great is Diana!” may not without historic injustice be denied some little meed of mental, moral and spiritual elevation.

How stands the case with their successors of to-day, the criers of “The Union is great; great is the Union!” the drawers of revenue as officers of “pure and simple” Unions? The “Financial Statement,” above mentioned, makes answer: Palpably doctored tho’ the figures and items are, they throw up the fact that the strike was wrongfully prolonged through thirty-six dreary weeks of suffering to the men; in other words, that the rank and file, engaged in the struggle, and the rank and file that was made to back them, were cruelly bled for the purpose of throwing revenue in the shape of jobs into the hands of the Negendanks, the Simons, the Raphaels, the Karaseks, the Marouseks, the Browns, the Modests, the Bennetts, with whose names the columns of the “Statement” are fly-blown, besides untold others of that ilk, lumped together and covered under the term “pickets,”—all of them loud-mouthed yellers of: “The Union is great; great is the Union!” Not a spark here of either mental, moral, or spiritual nobility!

The line drawn from the anti-Christian sculptors of deities dips on its course until, when it strikes the anti-Socialist Organized Scabbery, it runs into the ditch.

Is the race degenerating? No! Be of good heart, all ye whose breasts heave with the Socialist afflatus! Degeneracy stamps, not the race, it stamps the obstructionists

who rear their heads against the onward march of civilization. They are declining; they are growing weaker. The race's future is upward, hastened by the waning morale of the dead-walls in its path.

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