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EDITORIAL

HERE AND THERE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

ELSEWHERE in this issue, the review of the Dresden Congress—long delayed by reason of the delay of the official report of the Congress in arriving—will be found at last, yet not too late. As times grow hotter, a correct and either way dispassionate estimate of things is as essential for safety as for progress.

None but the visionary—that dangerous element at all critical times, the present above all, and upon whom the warning, drawn by Marx and Engels from the disaster of the Paris Commune, is lost—will feel disheartened at the picture that the review unveils. The thinking element whose thought and activity the Socialist Labor Party is enlisting, who are training themselves for the man's work that is at hand, and to whom the materialist conception of historic evolution is no hollow phrase, but a living, guiding Truth, will only gather strength from its contemplation.

The German Social Democracy is doing brilliantly, the best it can,—but that best is not Socialism. As outlined in the review, the path of “Reform” that it treads is imperative. No fault may be found with it for having abandoned that of “Revolution,” least of all for clinging, as it does, to its Socialist reminiscences and thus to an appearance not warranted by the facts. If fault is at all to be found, it is on the score of its leaders failing to post themselves upon America, to recognize that leadership has passed from Germany, and thus to aid rather than retard the Movement in America. But men, facing the arduous task set to the German Social Democracy, and staggering under the alp of their feudal monarchy, may not be criticized too rigidly.

On the other hand the review will serve to cover with shame the motleys, who, parading in America under the stolen feathers of Socialism, as the “Socialist,” alias

Social Democratic party, are deporting themselves like Indians who have found a watch, and, in the instinctive consciousness of their own weakness, seek for support abroad, though by doing so their conduct could ONLY TEND TO HOLD BACK THE MOVEMENT EVERYWHERE ELSE through the lowering of its tone here, where, differently from all other nations, the path for the Revolutionary Movement has been paved smooth by the utter overthrow of the last vestiges of feudalism and where no geographical complications exist to retard our march, or lame our blows.

Accordingly, the review—where every fact of importance is furnished by the official report itself of the Dresden Congress—will serve to quicken the pulse of the militant Socialist Labor Party, that, alive to the mission placed by economic and political evolution in the hands of the people of America, never has trailed the banner of the Socialist Revolution, and never will; and that, placed by social and political evolution at the post of danger, at the vanguard of the Revolution, will be true to itself and its trust, and, however the shots may rain, fight the battle upon which depends, not only our own, but the emancipation of our less favored and favorably situated fellow-men of other lands and other climes.

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