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SECOND EDITORIAL

More Old Foes Reconciling

By DANIEL DE LEON

In a previous issue, we showed how the old foes of Rebels and “Union men” were now shaking hands across the bloody chasm of the Civil War, and how the Copperhead slave-holder of yore is now working hand in hand with the Northern wage-slaveholder to enthral the people and betray the country to the princes and lordlings of Europe. We have now another instance of a similar reconciliation.

Professor (God save the mark!) Moses Coit Tyler of Cornell University just comes forward with an article in the *American Historical Review* in which he, a descendant of an American Revolutionary patriot, sings the praises of the traitor “Tories” of those days. Our Tories hung on to the rear and flanks of Washington’s army; impaired every victory he won; increased the disastrousness of every encounter in which he was worsted; and so pestiferously traitorous were they that Washington had to grace many a sour apple tree along the Jersey roads with their pendent bodies.

That, those days being so far behind, the descendants of the patriots should harbor no ill-feeling towards the descendants of the traitors, especially if these be loyal to-day, were praiseworthy. The significance and the deep damnation of the love that is now cropping up between the two lies in the fact that the capitalist descendant of the patriots has wheeled around and now stands on the old traitor Tory’s ground.

As the cause of the reconciliation between the Southern Bourbon and the Northern wage-slaveholder, is that the former now perceives the Northern capitalist was an abolitionist for revenue only, and is equipped with an improved system of slavery, so is the cause of the warmth that now glows from the heart of a capitalist descendant of a patriot toward the traitor Tories of yore that the former now perceives the latter was right, and that capitalist “patriotism” is synonymous with the Judas kiss.

Whatever visionary divisions there may have been until recently among our exploiters, the scales of ideology are dropping from their eyes, and they are singing one another’s

praises; Southern Confederates and Northern capitalists, “patriot” capitalists and old-time Tory traitors are shaking hands and combining.

And well they may! The proletariat of America is dropping its superstitions; with eyes cleared, they are uniting into one solid mass that by far outnumbers and outweighs all their fleecers combined. If, even united, the scurvy class that now despoils the American toilers and oppresses them is no match for their combined physical, moral and intellectual strength, disunited, their impotence would still be greater. Instinct makes these worthies one to-day.

The sight of capitalist descendants of an American patriot shaking hands with Toryism, across the chasm of over a century, possibly over the tomb of an ancestor waylaid by a Tory, is one of the great sights of our day. It is a sight that ranks among the most significant and the most encouraging withal.

Fasten your eyes upon it, ye long mesmerized workers of America; study the picture; it will soon present itself to your mind’s eye as a sign post that imperatively orders you to join the Socialist Labor party, vote its ticket straight and thus strike the blow for your deliverance!

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

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