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EDITORIAL

NO FLIES ON TAMMANY.

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THE sensational conduct of the patrolmen in two of the Police districts of this city last Sunday, continues to be the subject of more or less silly articles in the Republican and Fusion press. Fact is these papers, together with the Administration that they have boosted into power, are as disconcerted as disconcerted can be. Tammany has punctured their bubble.

“Reform” went into power under false pretences. Next to the Socialists, perhaps even more fully than the Socialists, Tammany knew that the Low brigade was holding out false promises during the campaign. The fraud of the Low campaign “took.” A sufficient majority was humbugged, and Low, together with his Partridges, got in. The policy of the new Administration soon began to manifest itself. It trimmed its sails so as to catch the wind both ways. It talked goody-goody, removed some slight external things that were objectionable, and composed its features into the canting hypocrite’s cast: that was intended to keep the visionaries in among its camp followers. At the same time, it knew that the Visionaries were not enough to carry elections with. The “Independent” voters had to be coddled. As a rule, their very “Independence” renders them hard game for second hunt. Indeed, they love to show their “Independence” by never being found in the same place for two consecutive campaigns. This element had to be discounted. The “Reform” Administration was well aware of that. There remained a third element, the saloon element and its wide-spreading ramifications. The Low Administration set its sails to catch that vote. Accordingly, it closed its eyes to the violation of the Excise laws. When called to account for doing so, the Mayor answered with the stereotyped Tammany answer that he could not “concentrate all his forces against one crime,” and was doing all he could with the forces at his command. This was thought to be a strong wink and hint to the Saloon Element. With the pumpkin of the Visionaries

on one side of the saddle, and the pumpkin of the Saloon Element on the other, the “washed” Organized Crime of the City, now in power, hoped to be able to land there safely again in 1904. Such were the calculations. Needless to say they did not suit Tammany. Whereupon Tammany, the “unwashed” Organized Crime, infinitely cleverer than its “washed” competitor, determined to puncture the bubble. And it did so in masterly style.

Through its numerous connections, Tammany caused a “revolt” among the patrolmen; these made a large number of arrests for Sunday violations; and, as if to leave no doubt whose head was the target, one of these patrolmen said:

“We have shown the Commissioner and the Mayor that the excise law can be enforced. We have proved, too, we believe, that the fault lies, not with us, but with our superior officers. Now what becomes of the protestation of the Mayor that this law is ‘being enforced up to the very limit of what is practicable’? It isn’t necessary to neglect other laws in order to close saloons on Sunday; that much the people of New York, I think, realize already. The question is: What are Low and Partridge going to do about it?”

“The Commissioner’s chief comment on our action appears to be that he is pleased to see us do our duty. That isn’t very far for him to go. Why doesn’t he take steps to find out why the law has been openly violated heretofore and by what means we have been kept from doing our duty?”

Thus, while incidentally covering the pool-rooms, the Tammany brigade has thoroughly disconcerted the Low crew. No wonder the latter is “holding conferences.”

Let justice be done where justice is due. There are no flies on Tammany. And what is more Tammany has earned its spurs as an instrument of education: By its move it has caught many, who could not otherwise be reached, that hypocrisy is the only real distinctive mark of “Reform.” The issue becomes clear between the two: Either Tammanyism, frankly, bluntly and undisguised, or Tammanyism cloaked with the fraudulent cloak of Lowism. He who wants Tammanyism will certainly prefer the genuine article.

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

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