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EDITORIAL

IMPRESSIVE UP TO THE HILT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE funeral services, held in St. Patrick's Cathedral, for the late Archbishop Corrigan have been pronounced impressive by all the reports. And the descriptions bear out the statement. The services were impressive; impressive up to the hilt.

There, in the ample vaults of the imposing structure; the atmosphere pregnant with the fumes of incense; in the presence of an enthroned Cardinal; in the presence of ten Archbishops, eighteen Bishops, twenty-five Monsignors and heads of religious orders, and over 700 priests; moreover, in the presence of full delegations from the government, and a throng of about 7,000 people; and, above all, tone and solemnity being added by the catafalque, that rose in the midst of that vast assemblage;—there, under such circumstances, in full sight of the organized forces—lay and clerical—of modern society, arrayed in the full panoply of their office;—there, among the very first words that fell from the lips of Archbishop Ryan of Philadelphia, who pronounced the eulogy on the departed, were these words:

“But yesterday, I may say, he proclaimed the great conservative Christian truths, which alone can preserve society from Socialism and anarchy.”

! ! ! ! !

In the broad range of impressive homages rendered to Socialism, we can recall none to compare with this.

It is a homage to a Movement whose central idea has so completely resisted all attacks, that the lay and clerical officerdom of Capitalism has it uppermost upon their mind, and when gathered, even tho' the occasion be a requiem mass, forces itself upon their lips.

It is a homage to the soundness of Socialist philosophy, a soundness that has so

completely routed all its adversaries as to throw them back, the way the identical late Archbishop Corrigan was thrown back, upon the fabrication of such nursery tales as that “Marx just before dying recanted his theory of values.”

It is a homage to the high moral character of Socialist principles, a moral character so high that, as always happens when the immoral attack the moral, its adversaries are driven to slander and insinuation, as Archbishop Ryan was driven when he coupled Anarchy to Socialism.

It is, in fine, an unparalleled homage to the power that lies in lofty aspirations, grounded on science, and advanced by practical, intelligent, intrepid methods. Capitalism—a social system that breeds tears and immorality; that breaks up the family by dragging father and mother and children from their homes into the capitalist slave-pens of the factory; that sanctifies rapine; that blossoms into Philippine “water cures” and Boer massacres;—detects its death-knell in Socialism; and its representatives at Archbishop Corrigan’s pompous funeral services betrayed the fact through the mouth of Archbishop Ryan. And well they may. Despite all the physical powers they are now in possession of, they realize their impotence; they feel themselves in the hollow of the hand of an awakening and long trepanned Humanity.

Impressive, indeed; impressive up to the hilt was the funeral service of Archbishop Corrigan. It was an advance dirge to Capitalism; an advance Hosanna to Socialism.

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