

# The People.

VOL. VI, NO. 49

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1897

PRICE 3 CENTS

THIRD EDITORIAL

## Our New Baroness.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**e take pleasure in introducing to the proletariat of America in general and to those of Detroit, Mich., in particular, the new titled heiresses of the country, who will help to illustrate the juiciness of the American worker, the internationally of the leech class, and the oneness of the class of the proletariat—the Baroness von Ketteler. Incidentally she will help to illustrate other points.

The Baroness von Ketteler was, down to last February 23, Miss Mathilda Cass Ledyard. She is of Detroit, the identical city from which hails that other American heiress, Clara Ward, now notoriously known as the Princess of Chimay. The new Baroness is the daughter of Henry B. Ledyard, President of the Michigan Central Railroad. On the 23d of last month, Mathilda married the German Baron V. August von Ketteler and will retire with him to the Imperial precincts of the German Emperor, where she will find other American heiresses basking in the Imperial Sun, and one of them setting the pace for all the others as courtesan of His Majesty, by the Grace of God Emperor of Germany and King of Prussia.

The American workingmen must be indeed juicy mutton chops. To think of a German Baron traveling all the way over here to acquire by wedlock the privilege to live on the American workers certainly is a compliment to the juiciness of our workers, whatever it may be to their intellect.

On the other hand, the Baron is not a pauper exactly. By marrying him Mathilda gets in return an opportunity to season her American meat with German sweat. Thus the two will patriotically exchange favors—she by letting him taste the live-blood {life-blood?} of her American wage slaves, he by letting her smack her lips with the sweat of his German ditto, ditto.

While this precious couple will, in the idleness of their class, prove the soundness of Capitalist economics that idleness is the source of all wealth, or that wealth is the

reward of idleness, the European and the American proletariat are offered a fresh opportunity to learn that their exploiters are truly international, that they are divided only in appearance by national boundaries, but are in fact mutual allies and “pals” in the international game of holding up the working class and rifling its pockets, and that, consequently, the workers of all countries have but one enemy, to wit, the Capitalist class.

We wish the Baroness Mathilda von Ketteler success in helping to teach this lesson, and wish our fellow proletarians progress in the learning of it.

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

Uploaded August 27, 2003