

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 4, NO. 78.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE NEW WOULD-BE PRIESTHOOD.

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A GOOD deal of fustian is being dealt out over the retail counters of the Republican and Democratic papers on the subject of the "Typo's Oath." One of those papers declares that "before public opinion can sanction such a pretension it must trample the love of country under foot and abandon government by ballot-box," etc., etc. All fustian dealt out over the retail counter is dealt out for profit: 'tis the search for profit that starts the business and the hope of profit that continues it. So in this instance.

In a previous article it has been shown why the Catholic Hierarchy may justly object: it stands on the principle of immutability. Hence it is that the Republican and Democratic objections are false: the U.S. Government does not stand on any such principle. The principle it stands on is acknowledged mutability. Do these papers know the facts? Do they not know them? It matters not. Making ample allowance for the thoroughly trained ignorance of the capitalist "diffusers of knowledge," there still remains an ample sediment of conscious fact. There is no organ of capitalism in America that is not aware of the genesis of our Government sufficiently to be alive to the danger to its system. Boiled down to the actual state of things, what the capitalist organs are intent upon is to draw the constitution of the United States from the domain of political science, and place it on the domain of theology. They are trying to make out of capitalism a deity, whom to touch is blasphemy. They are trying to make out the existing social system an immutable affair.

One may commiserate the Father Baarts for the pickle they find themselves in; none but laughter can there be for the capitalist mouthpieces in this matter. To seek to place the constitution of the United States on the same plane as the deities of theology is like trying to place a clown's bell and motley garb on the body of a

philosopher. The constitution of the United States is a growth from below, not an award from above. As there is but one step from the sublime to the ridiculous, there is but one from the distressed condition of capitalism to its ludicrous attempts to turn human legislation to an act emanating from the Holy of Holies, and the stock-watering shoddyocracy of capitalism into ordained and consecrated acolytes of a newly-revealed deity.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded January 2007