

EDITORIAL

FEUDALIST AND BOURGEOIS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE bellows of the Roosevelt-Taft conflict tend to drown the ragings of another clapperclaw that is going on in the country, or, rather, that is coming to a head—the conflict between the feudalist Roman Catholic political body and the bourgeois Protestant (we shall call it “Protest” for lack of a better name at present) polity.

The latest incident in this fray was the exchange of amenities between the feudal patriot Edward J. Cooney and the bourgeois patriot Gen. Nelson A. Miles.

Mr. Cooney, as president of the “Catholic Press Association,” an agency of the feudal Roman Catholic political hierarchy, wrote to Gen. Miles, a leading figure in the “Guardians of Liberty,” a bourgeois concern, severely finding fault with the “Guardians” and the General. Mr. Cooney planted himself upon patriotism. It was as a patriot that he assailed the General and the Guardians;—nor did the letter miss any of the pious political phrases familiar to those who are familiar with the Dark Ages politico-pious phraseology of the feudal creed. “Hissing snakes” and all were trotted out in Mr. Cooney’s letter.

Gen. Miles, as the leading figure in the “Guardians of Liberty,” aforementioned, answered in kind;—nor were from his letter absent any of the earmarks that characterize the self-immolating “patriotism” of the bourgeois.

There is much to learn from this particular clapperclaw, especially by those who imagine that, because hostility to the Roman Catholic feudal polity marked the progress in civilization wrought by the bourgeois or Protestant revolution, therefore, bourgeois hostility to the Roman Catholic feudal polity, to-day, entitles the bourgeois brand to the sympathy of the Socialist.

As to the claims to “patriotism” made by Roman Catholic feudality through its mouthpiece Mr. Cooney, that has been exposed, or illustrated, in the course of his-

tory so completely that much time is not needed to brush it aside.

The American and the Spanish “patriotism,” the German and the French “patriotism,” etc., etc., of the Roman Catholic feudalist means readiness to sacrifice the local interests of any or all of those countries to the interests of the Papal territorial supremacy. The Roman Catholic feudalist of Germany, France, America, Spain, etc., etc., will, it is true, ever place the flag of those countries beside the white and yellow flag of feudal Rome, but the flags of those different countries are ever in his mind subservient to the Papal colors—the flag of another temporality. Accordingly, “patriotism” for America, on the lips of the Roman Catholic feudalist, is a word of double meaning—hence no “patriotism” at all. That it well established by history.

Does it not, then, follow that the bourgeois claim to “patriotism” is sincere? Not at all—at least not to-day.

When the bourgeois started his revolt against Roman Catholic feudalism he was sincere enough—in a way. The bourgeois of each country loved his own country as a man loves his own horse; consequently, he was jealous not to allow the bourgeois of another country, the Roman Catholic feudal overlord, of course, included, to share the seat on the animal’s back.

So stood things at the beginning of the reign of the bourgeois—but things have since changed.

With the development of capitalism, the bourgeois’ horse-conception of their respective countries gained the ascendancy, until to-day, with Capitalism internationally grown, the bourgeois of all countries have yoked all the horses into one many-tandemed team, with themselves in the chariot holding the reins for their common advantage, and under a common flag—the flag with the \$ coat of arms. Accordingly, “patriotism,” on the lips of the bourgeois, is, exactly as on the lips of the Catholic feudalist, a word of double meaning, or, rather, a word to juggle with. The recent elections in Belgium illustrate the point. Rather than the risk of having the Socialists going further and unhitch the nation from the international carriage of Capitalism, the bourgeois of Belgium, they are there called “Liberals,” withheld their support from the Socialist or Working Class, that is, the real Belgian candidates, in their effort to cut the reins held by the Roman Catholic hierarchy.

The feudalist Mooney, the bourgeois Gen. Miles are competitors for a seat on

the back of the American Nation, with “patriotism” only as a lure to pull in customers, i.e., pluckees.

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