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EDITORIAL

## AN IDLE HOPE.

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**T**HE *Christian Endeavor World* of the 3d instant, in commenting favorably upon the proposed "School of Journalism," has this to say:

"A would-be physician is not told to go out among the sick and pick up his medical skill by such doctoring as he can get to do. Young lawyers are not allowed to learn from the school of experience, but must obtain acceptable degrees. The journalist's work is quite as important in the community as the doctor's or the lawyer's, and we believe that some day the public will be guarded against callow, vicious, ignorant, bungling journalists in the same way that it now is protected against quacks and pettifoggers."

Considering the fact that only last year, the *Christian Endeavor World* spewed its venom upon the wretched miners on strike, the above utterance is significant, as coming from a spokesman of capitalism. It helps to understand the "latest move."

Lawyers and doctors can not practice without a diploma. The diploma is not a matter of right: it is granted or withheld at discretion. And who are the grantors? Why, colleges, that is, private corporations and judges. In other words, none may today practice either law or medicine without the consent of capitalist bodies, organizations reared, kept up and watchfully trained to preserve a social system that pronounces and treats stolen property more precious than life. The light thrown by the *Christian Endeavor World* upon the projected "School of Journalism" indicates that nothing short of a suppression of the free press is in contemplation. None would receive an editor's diploma whom capitalist organizations disapprove of. Needless to say that all applicants would be rejected who hold life more precious than property, and who can, with irrefutable facts and reasoning, demonstrate that the capitalist social system degrades mankind, is obsolete, and is rotten-ripe for extinction, needing only the bold stroke of the working class at the ballot box to end

it once for all. Needless to say that all such applicants would be rejected as “callow, vicious, ignorant and bungling,” while those applicants only would go through, and “summa cum laude,” who hold it just that the idler should live in luxury and the toiler in misery; that it is to “the greater glory of God” that mothers be forced into the factory; that it is a positive evidence of prosperity that children have to work before they can read; and that the greatness of the country depends upon the number of Duchesses May Goelet, Consuelo Vanderbilt, Anna Gould, etc., supported in palaces abroad by the sweat of the brow of the plantation wage slaves on the great American Republic plantation.

Time was when a class, as criminal as that which to-day rules the world, burnt at the stake writers and their products that seared the brow of Ignorance and Crime and heralded a New Era: these writers were termed “heretics”; more recently, in our own country, editors were tarred-and-feathered because they printed the gospel of the liberation of the chattel slave: they were termed “un-American,” “un-Christian,” and “subverters of the country’s institutions.” But the lie fell. The liberty of speech and press triumphed. It triumphed even in those days of old. No danger, none the least, that the more than “vicious,” “callow,” and “ignorant” spokesmen of the capitalist class will be able in this twentieth century to throttle free speech under the same hypocritical pretenses worn to a thread by their predecessors.

Except for a few sycophants who will get jobs in the “School,” the scheme will be a flat failure. Pulitzer, alias Pollitzer, alias heavens only knows what, will waste his million, and the *Christian Endeavor World* will die in the despair of those who live in hope—the press will not be muzzled: its flaming sword, wielded by the land’s nobility, the class-conscious working class marshaled under the standard of the Socialist Labor Party, will never down, except to do execution upon the beast of capitalism.

For all that, the hint given by the *Christian Endeavor World* is valuable and interesting.

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