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EDITORIAL

SETTING UP MASKS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE news from Washington is that the Republicans and the Democrats are busily engaged in settling who are to be the respective temporary and permanent chairmen of their national conventions, and that in making their selections the two parties seek to pick out men who have no Trust record. In this way, many a gentleman thought to be available was laid aside—his intimacy with the Trusts was considered to settle his disqualification.

In what way disqualification?

Was it considered a wrongful thing on his part, so wrongful that his party refused to identify itself with it?

Not at all! His disqualification lay in his being unable to conceal what his party is after. If placed conspicuously forward, the Trust feature of both the Democratic and the Republican party {parties?} would be too obvious.

It will go hard if during the whole Presidential campaign the Republican and the Democratic party {parties?} furnish any better illustration of the inherent fraudulency of their being. They will both pronounce against the Trust somehow or other, they will both push forward men who are not identified with the Trust in the public eye, they will do all the things that are necessary not to allow the mouse of the voter to see the trap qualities of the concern inside of which is the bit of cheese, and they will bait the approaches of the trap so as to please the heart of the itinerant mouse,—they will do all these things, but none of them or all combined can compare with the significance of the manoeuvres for temporary and permanent chairman.

These are offices that are much coveted for the distinction that they offer. The applicants for them are not a few, but even these candidates, according to the reports, are the first to express the opinion that their names should be dropped the

moment the fact of their Trust affiliations are known,—not that they should drop their affiliations, not that, but that they should lie low in order, of course to be all the better able to profit by their said affiliation!

The old political parties are practicing at a mask game. The pending campaign, more so than any other of recent date will be conducted behind masks by Democrats and Republicans.

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