

EDITORIAL

## GLEANINGS FROM CONGRESS— TRAINING COURTIERS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE House of Representatives having under consideration the bill making appropriations for the naval service, the Hon. John A. Kelliher {Keliher} of Massachusetts delivered an extensive speech—rhetorical, historic and statistical. For all these many-sided features of the speech, Mr. Kelliher, who obtained leave “to extend his remarks in the *Record*,” chose as the keynote of his address no statement made by him under the head of rhetoric, history nor statistics. The device he chose to fly at the head of his speech, as it appears extended in the *Congressional Record*, is: “The Government should utilize its navy-yards for the construction of A PART OF ITS BATTLE SHIPS.”

The choice is significant. It is a straw that shows the drift of the training that the Plutocracy is putting its politicians to. It is training them into courtiers.

The rhetorical part of Mr. Kelliher’s speech was purely Jingoic; the historic part was scappily encyclopedic; the statistical part was ostentatious. What sentence from any of these parts could have allayed the animosity of the Crown, that is, the Plutocracy? None. Unfortunately for the Plutocracy, that is, the Crown in our bourgeois society, rhetoric, however cautious; history, however circumspectly cited; statistics, however jumbled, leave an anti-Plutocratic, that is, an anti-Crown, taste. The only safety of the politician declaimer is shortness. Mr. Kelliher was all but short. A speech of any length, even if not “extended,” cannot choose but furnish handles innumerable against private plants for articles of public use. How, then, indulge the politician’s bent for a splurge, and yet incur not the disfavor of the “Crown,” whose frown can make and unmake any politician? Here steps in the courtier’s trick. Mr. Kelliher singles out one sentence, places it where it must catch the eye of the “Crown,” and with a courtliness that promises volumes for the

gentleman's future suppleness of physical and mental spine says in substance:

“Nothing that I have said contemplates interference with the Crown's privileges. Only PART of its battleships should be constructed by the Government. His Majesty is entitled to retain the vested right to construct the bulk of our Navy, that is, to pluck the Government, henceforth as hereafter.”

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