

EDITORIAL

THE CRASH IN PORTUGAL

By DANIEL DE LEON

HOWEVER confused and confusing were yesterday's hurried despatches from Lisbon, a few leading facts stand out unmistakable.

A weak throne is going down.

It is going down, crushed between the nether millstone of a reactionary Clerical party, to whom the throne was too liberal, and the upper millstone of a progressive Republican party, to whom the throne was too conservative.

It is going down in the cross-fire between the Clericalists, on the one side, whose methods are the beastly feudal methods of brutal assassination, as committed by them upon the distinguished Portuguese scientist and Republican Prof. Bombarda, and, on the opposite side, the Republicans, whose methods are the bourgeois methods of up-to-date bombardment from Navy and Army.

It is going down as an Impossibility—the impossibility of a half-measure's maintaining itself at a season when the recrudescence of Feudalism, seeking to soar with the decrepit wings of the Vatican, and young Capitalism, deploying its new and powerful pinions, lashed the political and social atmosphere of Portugal in a struggle for supremacy.

As unmistakable as these facts stand out in the present, the outlines of another category of facts loom up on the future social horizon of Portugal.

Intent upon first clearing the field of the feudal encumbrance, Portugal had not yet given birth to a Socialist Movement—that Movement is the real chick, the present probable triumph of Capitalism being but the egg within which the chick is to develop.

Intent upon keeping the Socialist chick from bursting the capitalist shell, the now probably triumphant bourgeois of Portugal, triumphant by Revolution, will presently be seen fluttering distracted; and, as the Clerical party now says of the

Republican, howl denunciations at the “revolutionary, law and order subversiveness” of Socialism.

Finally, the identical evolutionary process, by which Feudalism in its cloak of clerical mystification was thrown off by Capitalism in its cloak of hypocrisy, will bring about the casting off of Capitalism by Socialism, and the existence in Portugal of free men and women under the International banner of the Industrial Commonwealth

The despatches from Lisbon are not half as confused as they look. To him who has eyes to see they almost read as a map.

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