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EDITORIAL

## ADMIRAL TOGO.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE greatest living historic figure is the guest from Japan—Admiral Togo. There are those who think that the message of Togo to the world consists in the “matchless naval strategy displayed in the Sea of Japan, whereby a country, until then comparatively obscure, was raised abreast of the foremost.”

This mistaken opinion, held by admirers of destructive exploits, may be cause for puling sentimentalists to fly to the opposite extreme with sweeping contempt for “the butcher of Tsushima Strait.”

It is true that the act which drew the world’s eye upon Togo was an act delivered by the “mailed fist,” accordingly, and act of force, squanderous of humanly life. But such are the limitations of most of mankind, that it will learn only through suffering: suffering only will attune its senses to receptiveness for any Message. If most, or barely one-half, of human kind consisted of Marxes, Jules Guesdes, Pablo Iglesias, of Herves, the Socialist or Industrial Republic would now be an established fact, the horrors of Capitalism a thing of the past. The mind’s ear of mankind can be reached only by and through the wails of men.

Through such a medium Togo delivered his Message—the refutation of the conceit-engendered and progress-retarding theory of “Backward Races.”

Although, like all warfare, a perversion of the conquests of science, naval warfare makes by far the heavier drafts upon the intelligence, the moral and physical fibre of the combatant. From the Admiral down to the trainer of the marine gun, the naval warrior ranks higher than the correspondent land soldier. To conquer, with modern instruments of nautical warfare, by the strategy that Togo did, bespeaks a high order of man, and not merely of the man who chieftained the conquest and of those associated with him, but of the nation that produced him and them. Togo’s

fleet, differently from that of any other nation, surely different from ours, was officered and manned exclusively by Japanese. It was the achievement of the Japanese race.

Referring, enviously referring in the House of Lords, to the victory of Japan over Russia, topnotched by Togo, Lord Curzon said of that event that it “was a thunderclap that reverberated through the whispering galleries of Asia.” Laden with meaning though Lord Curzon’s words were, they fell far short of the fact in the premises. The victory of Japan, insured by Togo’s mental and physical prowess, was a Message thundered to “Superior Races,” loud enough to shatter the superstition concerning “Backward Races.” As such it was a Message that rolled up one Era, and marked another; it was a Message of Humankind; a contributor to the International; one of the cornerstones upon which the structure is to be reared from the cupola of which is to be unfurled the Red Flag of Human Brotherhood, the emblem of the Socialist Movement.

It matters not that Togo “built better than he knew.” The trumpets, through which Social Evolution trumpets its Messages, are no “penny-whistles”; they are instruments of choicest metal forged on the anvils of Time.

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