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EDITORIAL

WHERE EXTREMES MEET.

By DANIEL DE LEON

RUSSIA, everybody will admit, is primitive in its ways—it has no responsible Government, and, submitting the country to the test of its criminal jurisprudence, a test considered infallible, it is still in the state of barbarism.

America, everybody will as quickly admit, is up-to-date in its ways—from top to bottom its Executives and Legislatures are the products of universal suffrage, at least adult male; and again, submitting the country to the test of its criminal jurisprudence, it is jealously guardful of the civic rights of a prisoner, at least normally.

Russia and America present, accordingly, two pictures that would be off-hand disposed of as exact opposites. This notwithstanding, or perhaps, for that very reason, the two countries meet at a point that is typical. What point that is it took a foreigner, a third party, so to speak, the subject of a country that stands midway, to detect and to point out in his own way.

In his work *From Sea to Sea*, Kipling gives a shipboard conversation between two American passengers closing with an observation by himself. The passage is the following, opening with the words of one of the American passengers:

“You can’t persuade the mob of any country to become decent citizens. If they misbehave themselves, shoot them. I saw the bombs thrown at Chicago when our police were blown to bits. I saw the banners in the procession that threw the bombs. All the mottoes on them were in German. The men were aliens in our midst, and they were shot down like dogs. I’ve been in labor riots and seen the militia go through a crowd like a finger through tissue-paper.”

“I was in the riots at New Orleans,” said the man from Louisiana. “We turned the Gatling on the other crowd, and they were sick.”

“Whew! I wonder what would have happened if a Gatling had been

used when the West End riots were in full swing?” said an Englishman, “If a single rioter were killed in an English town by the police, the chances are that the policeman would have to stand his trial for murder and the Ministry of the day would go out.”

Czar and “American passenger,” “American passenger” and Czar, which is which?

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