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EDITORIAL

LO, A SOMERSAULT!

By DANIEL DE LEON

THESE many years have the foes of Progress been seeking to stem the onward march of Socialism with the false cry of "Religion!" Their "economic," "statistical" and "sociologic" weapons being broken like reeds by the superior science of Socialism, these foes invariably fell back upon hocus-pocus, and sought support from the unthinking. "Socialism is against Christianity!" became the favorite twaddle behind which capitalism, routed by Reason, sought shelter.

These many years has Socialism, with the serenity of conscious ascendancy, answered, and proved the answer, that Socialism, no more than astronomy, concerns it self with Christian or any other theology.

But ever, again, these many years, the hard-pressed spokesmen of Capitalism—its professors, politicians, press and pulpiteers—would return to their vomit, and raise against Socialism, the cry of "Anti-Christian," with the implication that Capitalism is "Pro-Christian."

Suddenly, lo, a somersault! A frantic, jerky, hysterical effort from capitalist quarters to run away from their previous attitude. The somersault cuts its completest caper, so far, in the *New York Times* of June 5, wherein the following declaration is made editorially:

"They [Socialism and Christianity] are not necessarily inconsistent, but they can not possibly be identical. Socialism is purely economic, and Christianity has the same relation to Socialism that it has to bi-metallism or free trade. It is an ill day for Christianity when it entangles itself with such subjects."

A completer somersault no clown ever turned on the rink of Barnum's. Formerly, the capitalist pundits strove with might and main to "tangle Christianity

with such subjects”; formerly, the capitalist press spilt ink regardless of expense to prove that Capitalism spelt Christianity and, therefore, Socialism spelt Anti-Christ. Now, all of a sudden, the *Times* steals a page from Socialist reasoning, and declares with Socialist accuracy that, Socialism being purely economic, Christianity has no more relation to Socialism than it has to bi-metallism or free trade. Why this sudden revulsion? Whence this sudden new departure to disentangle Christianity from economics?

The reason will be found in the recent launching of the Christian Fellowship; and will be found explained among the reasons, stated in these columns, why despite the error of the claim of the Christian Fellowship that Jesus proclaimed Socialism, the Fellowship deserves to {be} encouraged in the performance of its special mission—the Christian Fellowship being in the nature of a petard of class-rule get-up with which capitalist chicanery is now itself being hoisted.

Who would not turn, and quickly, too, a somersault back to escape being hoisted by the petard he had been nursing for others? Hence the exhilarating somersault on the part of the *Times* somersaulters.

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