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EDITORIAL

## GLEANINGS FROM CONGRESS— THE ROW OVER GEN. LEE.

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**W**ELCOME to those who oppose it must be the proposition to place a statue of the ex-Confederate General Robert E. Lee in the Hall of Fame at Washington. Heyburn in the Senate, the Heyburns in the House, and the economic interests that use Grand Army Posts as tubes to toot through have been raising the hue and cry against the “desecration” of a statue to the man “who strove to destroy this nation” in the same hall where there is now a statue of Washington “who gave the best efforts of his life in building up this nation.” The proposition must be welcome to the protesters.

At this age, in the country’s history, “the South” has “the North” on the hip as far as the intellectual conflict of ante-Civil War days is concerned. Noticeable is the fact that Northern Senators and Representatives avoid all allusion to the slavery question. One time they carried chips on their shoulders, daring the Southrons to knock them off. Now no more. The Slavery Question can not now be broached without it broaches the Labor Question. The Southrons know this, and in the hide of the Northrons rankles many a shaft shot from the Southron camp. Hence allusions to “Confederate Brigadiers” and waving of the “Bloody Shirt,” once favorite sports with our Northrons, are now avoided.

Under such circumstances the Gen. Lee proposed monument is a god-send. In a way, it is a two-edged sword. It opens the door for Southron declamation regarding Labor in New York, Chicago, Boston, etc., that would not be at all palatable to Northron capitalists. Nevertheless, properly steered, the issue of the Lee monument may afford opportunities to inflame smoldering passions, and by so doing cause sight to be lost of the unpalatable, and decidedly bitter issue of Labor involved in Slavery, and now no longer concealable.

Hence the “protests”; hence the “resolutions”; hence the speeches, jingoistic and gunpowdery, that are being ground out of the mill of the “Loyal North” enraged at the Lee-contemplated desecration.

As the next best thing to a new war, the stirring up of reminiscences of an old one is a most aidful diversion to the Burning Question of the day—Capitalism-Socialism.

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