

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 11, NO. 350.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## A CHARITABLE ADVICE.

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**T**HE “special Anti-Socialist and Industrial” edition issued by the organ of the Roman Catholic Political hierarchy, the Providence, R.I., *Visitor* on last May 19 has a double leaded editorial entitled “A Live Question” which says of Socialism that it relies “entirely upon the discontent of the working classes.”

To judge from the make-up of the *Visitor's* Anti-Socialist edition the paper is pretty well scared, and it desires to impart its scare to its pious readers in order that they may be rescued before the devouring lion swallow(s) them up.

It is not the ignoble desire to “chuck a worse scare” into the *Visitor* that prompts this article. It is, on the contrary, a Christian spirit towards a brother human in distress that prompts us to warn the *Visitor* that it is looking with only one eye when it apprehends danger “entirely from the discontent of the working classes.” We would warn the *Visitor* to open 'tother eye, and look out for danger from another quarter also—the quarter of the middle class, whose bills nursery tales don't pay.

The *Visitor's* error of believing that Socialism relies entirely upon the working class is a pardonable error. The error proceeds from the fact that Socialism is planted entirely upon the CLASS INTERESTS of the working class. The fact is a guard against bourgeois interests being foisted upon Socialism by stray bourgeois who may stray into the Socialist camp. The fact determines the goal—the Industrial Commonwealth. The fact does not, however, exclude non-working class elements from participation in the Socialist Movement, and contributing their share in overthrowing the capitalist system of social rapine. On the contrary. The fact that Socialism is planted squarely and relies entirely upon working class interests is an invitation to join, loud and eloquent, addressed to all those elements, who, though not being of the working class themselves, have had special opportunities for the

acquisition of some kinds of knowledge that the working class is deprived of, and yet needs to guide it in the march to its emancipation.

In this respect Socialism differs not from other social revolutions that have preceded it.

In America, the bourgeois revolution which overthrew feudality in the land attracted from across the waters German and French feudalists, such as Baron Steuben and the marquises of Lafayette and Rochambeau.

In France the bourgeois revolution received mighty aid from feudal quarters, such as the Mirabeaus and the counts of Talleyrand.

Before that, in England, not all the feudal lords were “Cavaliers,” a powerful number joined Cromwell’s “rabble-rout of tapsters and tinkers.”

And, long before that, when the social revolution, known as Christianity, was organized into a political force the patriciate of Rome in large numbers made common cause with, and flashed their swords in behalf of, the lowly.

This is as it should be, and natural enough. Not all the members of a ruling, or usurping class, are class blind. The special opportunities they enjoy impart to many, to the most intelligent among them, information that clarifies their vision. It is so now with the pending Socialist Revolution; and it is so to a degree by far greater than in all previous instances. In the pending social crisis ’tis not education only that enlightens non-working class elements. Economic evolution does so especially. The economic laws, that no incantations can stop, are making havoc in the ranks of the bourgeoisie. It is unavoidable that the economic evolution which smites, first of all the workers, and thereby gives the tone and strikes the keynote to the program of Socialism, should, when it smites non-working class quarters, set in motion from those quarters, revolutionary contingents for the Socialist army.

Let the *Visitor* keep, not one, but both its weather eyes open. It needs them both—and more too. If what we take to be impossible, to wit, successful resistance to the Socialist tidal wave, has any chance whatever, then the chance can not but be impaired if the pickets of Capitalism look out for the foe from one quarter only, whereas he is coming from two.

Therefore, out of charity for the capitalist picket the *Visitor*, we say, Pin not thy faith, brother, on the error that thou wilt have to do with the working class only.

Thou wilt have to do with them mainly. But get ready for a large contingent of one-time bourgeois. They also will be upon thee—as the magnificent Modernist Movement in thy own Catholic Church should give thee sufficient notice of.

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Uploaded April 2012

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