

EDITORIAL

WHEN BALLOTS BECOME “JIMMIES.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE January 12th sermon, pronounced at Atlanta by Bishop Warren Candler of the Southern Methodist Church, and already touched upon in these columns during the week¹ deserves to be returned to.

The Rev. gentleman was of the opinion that “A band of thieves, using the ballot for ends of injustice, is no better morally than a band of burglars with their jimmys.”

This is a novel doctrine. Stripped of its prelatical luridness, the doctrine involves the abolition of the ballot.

He who says “ballot” implies thereby an instrument provided for by constitution and laws. The implication cannot be escaped in the Rev. Candler’s words. Their context leaves room for no other interpretation. The passage occurs in a reference to a political party, in this instance the party of Col. Roosevelt.

Again, he who says “jimmys,” especially in connection with “burglars,” implies an instrument of crime, consequently, a thing condemned of constitution and laws.

It follows that the two terms—“ballot” and “jimmys,” are irreconcilable. By what process of reasoning can “jimmys” be raised to the category of “ballot,” or the “ballot” be lowered to the level of “jimmys”? The miraculous performance is, obviously, not beyond the prelatical power of the Rev. Candler.

The performance being an accomplished fact there is but one way left open by

¹ [De Leon refers to the following untitled editorial paragraph from the *Daily People* of January 17, 1913:

“It is quite possible,’ says Bishop Warren Candler of the Southern Methodist Church, “that there are overgrown fortunes in some sections of our country.’ Seems, mother, nay it is; I know not seems. To the Bishop of a clerico-political-business organization such as the organized Methodist Church, which originally had in its catechism a prohibition of usury, and then, when the concern had grown wealthy, expunged the anti-usury clause—to such a Bishop the glaring fact of overgrown fortunes is a possibility only; only seems so.”]

Candlerism. It is to tolerate the “jimmy” of the “ballot” in the hands of Candlerites only. In all other hands the “ballot” is a “jimmy, in the hands of Candlerites the “jimmy” is a “ballot.”

Not for nothing has prelatism earned the title of arrogance; and theocracy earned the condemnation of civilization.

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