Regeneracion.

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Plutocracy's Dilemma

"They toil in the fields, those ninety and nine,
For the fruitage of Mother Earth;
They dig and delve in her dusky mines,
Bringing her treasures forth;
But the wealth that responds to their sturdy blows
To the coffers of one for ever flows."

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If ever there was a country to which the foregoing verse applies that country is Mexico, and it is impossible to express more clearly or concisely what the present fighting is about. For, to speak correctly, this is not so much the Mexican Revolution as the Social Revolution in Mexico; breaking out for the moment there as it has broken out and will continue to break out elsewhere, until the injustice voiced by the poet is abolished. Madero, electoral reforms, changes of officials—these are but the flies upon the wheel; here today swept away tomorrow; momentary factors in the working out of a problem mankind must solve but dreads to face.

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The basic facts in the case are known to all; every one admits them; every one shirks them. No one in his senses supposes that such slavery as exists on the hemp, the tobacco or the rubber plantations of Mexico is just, and no one supposes that the victims of that slavery endure it willingly. No one in his senses doubts that, sooner or later, the slave will throw off his yoke, and no one supposes that when he does so it will be with kid gloves and courteous expressions of regret. Every one in his senses knows that violence begets violence, and that those who have been held down by force will reciprocate in kind. In Mexico finance, knowing no law but profits, has been sowing this storm for a generation past. Now a veritable hurricane has burst upon it.

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Of course, as always, both parties to the quarrel suffer; the poor paying with their lives, the rich with their money bags and that sleepless anxiety which the possibility of ruin brings to those who know only how to live on others. Thousands of financiers are trembling today for their imperilled investments, and you may rely on it that nowhere is the news from Mexico canvassed so keenly and constantly as in the banking parlors.

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Capitalism itself cannot fight, for it has neither the numbers nor the hardy habits needed for the soldier's life. But fighters it must get, at all and every cost, or capitalism will die. Somehow the millionaire must convince the pauper that they have a common couse; somehow he must hocus-pocus the proletariat into believing that without monopoly, and the huge inequalities monopoly, and the it could not exist; somehow he must work the antiquated religious and patriotic gags until the poor man reverentially doffs his cap and begs permission to enlist. All this capitalism must do if it is to survive; but the task is growing harder and capitalism knows it. Hence the millions spent on misleading literature; the fortunes expended in retainers for lawyers, preachers, politicians, all who, by word of mouth or pen, can prolong the delusion that without Dives at the banquet table there would be no crust for Lazarus. But the task grows harder.

Particularly in Mexico, where life is simpler than with us and where the people know, therefore, more exactly what they want and do not want. What they most emphatically do not want is to be forced into such slavery hells as the Valle Nacional or the Rio Blanco mills; what they know is that they have been driven into such hells by having their lands stolen from beneath their feet. They have not read Karl Marx or Henry George, but they understand that very well.

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An instance in point. A week or so ago 8000 Yaquia Indians offered their services to the revolution. They made just one stipulation, viz., that if the revolution should prove successful they should be given back their lands. Ignorant Indians, you say; although they are admittedly a most sturdy, industrious and courageous race. The point is that these simple people knew exactly what they wanted. So does the Mexican nation as a whole, and we believe they mean to get it.

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What will plutocracy—the Morgans, the Rockefellers, the Harrimans and the other financial pirates who have been congratulating themselves on having gobbled up Mexico—do in the face of this national uprising? Intervention is accompanied by dangers that well may make them hesitate; for not only will it unite against them the Latin races from Arizona, New Mexico and Texas to Cape Horn, but their own military adviser, Gen. Leonard Wood, tells them they will need, at least, 200,000 soldiers. How are 200,000 soldiers to be got? The enforcement of the Dick law is tantamount to conscription, and what will the discontented element in the United States be doing while plutocracy is trying to enforce that bitterly hated law? What will happen in the Philippines, which Japan is watching like a hawk? What will happen to their own agents resident in Mexico? No wonder plutocracy hesitates.

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On the other hand dare plutocracy sit idly by while what it calls its properties are being confiscated by the hundreds of millions? To do so would be to give the coming social revolution—the spectre that haunts capitalism day and night, and is regarded by it as ultimately inevitable—the most enormous encouragement it ever has received. Inactivity seems even more dangerous than intervention, but on one or the other of these horns capitalism is impaled. The situation is most distressing.

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What it prays for is that Diaz and Madero may join hands; that there may be a large contingent of conservative, timid and "respectable" insurrectos whom Madero will be able to carry into Diaz' camp; that between them they may be able to suppress the radicals, who will be branded as common brigands, murderers and robbers, and against whom all prejudice possible will be aroused. That is the game already clearly outlined by the great American dailies, for they are busy patting Madero's followers on the back and contrasting them with the riff-raff alleged as composing the Mexican Liberal Party.

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Madero's troops grew disgusted with their everlasting talker, and rushed Juarez despite all his efforts to prevent them. It was indeed a healthy sign, but did you notice how the United States papers handled the matter? Cuts of Madero were everywhere in evidence, and from the headline you would have imagined he was the hero of the day. They are playing up Madero, and when plutocracy's organs are doing that sensible friends of the common people will begin to look a little out.

Gives Substantial Aid

Emma Goldman has thrown herself enthusiastically into Mexico's fight for freedom, and has turned over to the Junta's treasurer $113.94. Of this sum $15.25 was realized by collections taken up incidentally in connection with two lectures given at Denver and Salt Lake City; $50.60 came from a collection made in connection with her lecture on "The eternal spirit of revolution," delivered in Los Angeles, and $48.09 was netted by a social held in Los Angeles for the benefit of the revolution. At both the two latter Emma Goldman made powerful appeals on behalf of the Mexican Liberal Party, urging her audience to leave no stone unturned to assist it in its present struggle, which, as she showed most clearly, is one for economic emancipation and concerns most closely every worker.

Standing room was at a premium during the lecture on the Spirit of Revolution and the social drew a large, essentially international and intensely earnest crowd. Short addresses were made in English, Spanish, Italian and Jewish, the utmost good will being manifested throughout.

The Junta is also in receipt of $9.75 collected in the course of a lecture delivered by Emma Goldman in San Diego.

Read "WAR!" by Walter C. Smith, 20 cents per hundred, $1.50 per thousand. Address Local 26, I. W. W., 715 West Eleventh St., Denver, Colo.

True Solidarity

The circular letter, given below, with a subscription list appended, is being sent by the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party to labor organizations throughout the country. It is believed that when American labor understands the true merits of the Mexican Revolution as the Latin races already understand it, the response will be as prompt and generous as it has been from the Spaniards, the Italians and the French.

International conferences will be held shortly in New York and Chicago, having for their object the education of American labor into the true merits of Mexico's struggle for economic independence. The letter is as follows:

The Mexican Revolution is Labor's Revolution, for the Mexicans have been stripped to the bone by the very powers which Labor is organized to fight. It is a war of men vs. money, the workers vs. alien landlords and financial leeches, the people vs. Wall Street.

The profits wrung from American labor have been taken across the Mexican border and used to grind out even vaster fortunes, by slavery of the grossest type and the fraudulent appropriation of huge landed estates, literally given away to foreign millionaires and corporations by the corrupt financial ring that has ruled Mexico.

Forced from the land, driven into exile and compelled to work at starvation wages, the Mexicans have been used by capital as a club. Now the Mexicans have revolted and the club is turned against the oppressor. Help us to use it effectively, striking off our chains and yours.

Help the Mexican Revolution! It is your revolution, and its triumphant issue will mean your redemption; for American labor will not remain enborder, have won their economic freedom.

Help the Mexicans to win! Help them with your dollars, as they, less fortunately situated, are helping you by giving up their lives, their all.

Don't let Wall Street plunge your country into Civil War by forcing on it armed intervention. Don't be Wall Street's catspaw. It is not Wall Street but you that will have to pay the awful bill. Not the Morgans and the Rockefellers but you will be the food for powder.

Capital is straining every nerve to win this fight. Defeat it; score a victory for labor that will be decisive throughout the world.

We Mexican revolutionists have suffered everything—exile, imprisonment, the gallows. We have not flinched; we are not flinching. We are fighting; laying down our lives; living as only those who have a great cause at stake can live. Every cent you contribute will be used, and used economically, to win this fight. If we wished it we should not dare to be false to our financial trust.

We send you copies of our manifesto, since we wish you to know where we stand. You can assist greatly by urging your trade and labor papers to publish or comment on it, for publicity is the life of every moment. We have nothing to conceal. Moreover, we beg you to correspond with us, that we may give you information on any points respecting which you may be in doubt.

Unless requested not to do so we shall publish in our official organ, "Regeneracion," the names of contributors, with the amounts contributed or pledged. (Signed)

ORGANIZING JUNTA, MEXICAN LIBERAL PARTY.
Per R. FLORES MAGON.

OUR LETTER BOX.

The editor of this section is in receipt of numerous letters which hitherto it has been impossible to answer. He hopes to notice them in an early issue. The distinguishing mark of practically every one of them is denunciation of the apathy displayed toward the Mexican revolution by the A. F. of L. and the Socialist Party, writers insisting that in this struggle professedly labor organizations are bound, both in honor and from self-interest, to take a hand. In many of these letters the influence exercised in labor councils by lawyers and preachers is censured with extraordinary vehemence.

William Thurston Brown

a noted lecturer and friend of freedom, speaks this, Saturday evening at Mammoth Hall, 517 S. Broadway on "Reform or Revolution, Which?" He is in hearty sympathy with all struggles for emancipation and friends of the Mexican Revolution and Liberty should avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing him. Sunday afternoon and evening and Monday evening he will lecture at the same hall on "Evolutionary Science and Modern Thought." "Does America need the Modern School?" and "Ibsen's Message to Women." Admission 15 cents.

Across the Border

All the world knows that Juarez has fallen to the rebels, but unhappily all the world will not remember that it fell in spite of Madero. That everlasting talking machine did his utmost to procure another armistice, and when his own troops insisted on advancing strove frantically to head them off. You have read all about it, but now that the capitalist press is playing up Madero you may forget.

Note the statement issued by Madero, in which he says: "The forces which defended the town fought valiantly. They owe their defeat to the fact that our forces were inspired in this fight by the spirit to win POLITICAL liberty." That is all there is to Madero; politics. Not one word concerning economic liberty ever issues from his lips, and for this reason the plutocratic press pats him continually on the back. Why should he not prove as friendly to monopoly as Diaz has been? Why not indeed?

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"I wish to announce to all soldiers who are prisoners that I will set them free.....The majority of the prisoners will swell MY forces..... Some of the officers, I am sure, will enter MY army." So the statement runs, with constant repetition of "I" and "MY." The special correspondent of the "Los Angeles Examiner" describes Madero's triumphant entrance into Juarez in an automobile, he being "the last insurrecto to enter the town," and speaks of him as "a smiling figure and very dapper in a khaki uniform and gray helmet." We can assure our readers positively that Madero was not wounded. More than one report has it that when the fighting was at its hottest he enjoyed his customary siesta.

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The capture of Juarez, with its custom house, is most important, for it enables the rebels to import arms, ammunition and supplies. Similarly the following ports of entry, counting from West to East, are now under the control of the insurrectionary forces:—Tia Juana, Mexicali, Sasabe, Nogales, Naco and Agua Prieta. The fighting that won the first three was conducted exclusively by enthusiastic supporters of the Mexican Liberal Party. Passing farther East the streams became intermingled and the last three places named were captured by a combination of Maderist and Mexican Liberal Party forces. Let us not forget, however, that Juarez itself, which was taken contrary to orders, owes its capture to that spirit of revolt which animates the Liberal Party.

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Mexico City is feeling much as Los Angeles would feel if it was known that San Pedro, Pasadena, Santa Ana and a number of smaller outlying points were in the hands of revolutionists. Xochimilco, capital of the county of that name, is probably the rebel stronghold. April 30 the entire male population rose in arms and declared for the revolution. The same day the rebels captured Tulyehualco, San Juan Ixtayopan, Tecomitl, Santa Cecilia and San Pablo Oxtotepec, all in the county previously mentioned.

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The capture of Tia Juana doubtless means the immediate investment of Ensenada, to the relief of which Col. Mayol, who retreated from Mexicali, is said to be hurrying. A brief official report sent to the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party by Gen. Pryce states that his force attacked Tia Juana at daybreak, May 9, and captured it after two hours of hard fighting. The report continues: "Unfortunately my force was insufficient to completely surround the place, and they nearly all got away. Some 28 surrendered across the line. The remaining few got clear away. Our killed are: Capt. F. L. Wood, Lieut. J. C. Smith, Sgt. Penkowsky, Privates R. E. Smith and one whose name I have not yet ascertained." Gen. Price reports that, as far as he had been able to learn, 14 federals were killed.

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According to all reports the rich agricultural and cattle State of Chihuahua is entirely in the hands of the revolutionists, who also control the greater part of the important mining State of Sonora. In the States of Aguas Calientes, Zacatecas and Durango they are said to outnumber the federals two to one. Tamaulipas—an important State, being rich in mines, agriculture and cattle, and having the two valuable ports of Matamoros and Tampico; Nuevo Leon, which is largely desert, and the poor and comparatively small State of Queretaro, bordering on the State of Mexico, are today the only ones in which the federal forces have decidedly the upper hand. You never would have guessed it from the reports given out by the plutocratic press until events disrupted their conspiracy of silence, some three weeks ago.

The Army of Discontent

Once again, in "The Coming Nation," Charles Edward Russell returns to the attack on intervention. His leading, front-page article begins: "Since internal disturbances began to shake Mexico and United States troops were ordered into the field, it has been no part for any Socialist, for any lover of liberty, for any American, to hesitate over the significance of the revolt." He continues with these stirring words: "The important thing, the instant thing, the only imperative thing, has been constant and vigorous protest against the presence of the troops and the obvious determination of The Putterer to mix in somehow for the benefit of international capitalism. The truth still holds, and must hold as a moment against the damnable fact that our troops are under arms and ready to become embroiled. They must be withdrawn."

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"La Commune," (Philadelphia) gives much and prominent space to the Mexican Liberal Party's manifesto, reproducing much of it verbatim. long as American bayonets hover on the edge of the fray. Nothing counts It also prints a lengthy and powerful appeal by our indefatigable Los Angeles comrade, Victor Cravello, and announces that the Francisco Ferrer circle will hold a public meeting to press the claims of the Mexican Revolution. How all these radical movements work together! From the very first the Italian workers have set a magnificent example of international solidarity and have been unswervingly faithful and generous in their support.

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Despite its naturally overwhelming interest in the "Los Angeles Times" prosecutions "Solidarity," (New Castle, Pa.) again finds much space for notices of the Mexican Revolution, printing a rousing poem by Laura Emerson, and calling special attention to the work of the San Diego Anti-Interference League, which is making a general anti-military propaganda.

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"Cultura Proletaria," (New York) publishes a powerful appeal to the Mexican federal army, calling on Diaz' soldiers to be true, not to the tyrant who has brought such ruin on their country, but to their own consciences and the toilers from whose ranks they spring. This paper carries a weekly list of money contributions "for the Mexican rebels."

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"Revolt" is the title of a new weekly in San Francisco, edited by Cloudlesley Johns, with Austin Lewis, William McDevitt and Nathan L. Griest, all well known Socialists, as contributing editors. It expresses profound distrust of Madero, whom it regards as "the active representative of the slowly dying feudalism in that unhappy country." We quarrel with those last two words, believing that Mexico in revolt against economic slavery is far happier than the United States in the stupor of indifference. The article considers that Diaz and Madero will join hands, and says: "The most interesting thing of all, to be revealed by the unfolding of events in the next few months, will be the answer to the question: 'Can Francisco Madero employ his army for any such purpose?'" Events are moving fast and we suggest that Juarez has settled that conundrum.

Among the notable communications published in this initial number is a letter from Jack London, who writes: "The time for fooling is past. No more of the parlor-socialism and the philandering with reform bourgeois notions. The revolution is a revolution. It is a fight to the finish, and those who are not with us are against us."

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"Novatore," (New York) contains a magnificent article entitled "Heroic Mexico," by the well known Italian writer and orator, Libero Tancredi; and also one by Victor Cravello, previously mentioned, in which he explains most lucidly the fundamental differences between the Mexican Liberal Party and Madero.

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Despite the pressure on its columns caused by the "Times" prosecutions and other events of direct importance to the I. W. W., "The Industrial worker," (Spokane) reprints the Mexican Liberal Party's manifesto and a set of most sturdy resolutions passed by the Industrial Workers of the World, at Detroit, Mich. After declaring that the wealth of Mexico is owned almost exclusively by Wall Street speculators, the resolutions state that the Detroit organization solemnly protests against the army being used by Taft in the interest of the capitalist class of the United States to keep the working class of Mexico in subjection." They conclude with a pledge of "moral and financial support to the limit of our resources to assist our fellow workers in that plutocrat-cursed country to not only win their present struggle but to win their final emancipation."

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In direct contrast to the attitude of the I. W. W. organs is the dense silence of "The American Feedrationist," which contains a twenty-six page article by Samuel Gompers on "Hostile Employers," and a lengthy editorial, also by him, looking toward cooperation with the Socialist Party. Gompers gave the Mexican Liberal Party a pretty smooth talk in his answer to Magon, and apparently considered that he thereby closed the matter. That is not our view by any means.

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L'Era Nuova, (Paterson, N. J.), devotes more than six columns of its latest issue to a detailed account of the rapid progress made by the revolution throughout Mexico. It also gives a column and a half to an article headed, "The treason of Madero. He arrests eight comrades and disarms 147 other rebels." Furthermore it calls special attention to the enormous propaganda being made in Los Angeles among the Latin-speaking races, as evidenced by the sale of "Regeneracion," "Cultura Proletaria," "Tierra" and other radical papers. This we ourselves noted in a recent issue.

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"Il Proletario," an eight-page New York weekly most excellently got up, reprints verbatim the manifesto of the Mexican Liberal Party.

* * *

"Les Temps Nouveaux," (Paris)—noted as we have said before, for the excellence of its literary matter and comments on international affairs—is devoting increasing space to the Mexican Revolution. In its issue of April 22 it explains with great clearness the differences between the Mexican Liberal Party and Madero, drawing largely on an article published in "The Agitator," at Home, Wash.

* * *

"Escuela Moderna, (Valencia, Spain) published recently in "Cultura Prole- published reecntly in "Cultura Proletaria," which ends with these words: "Let us aid this grand movement; let us aid it. Above all, let us make the people, the workers of the world, understand; for when they understand they will not fail to give arms, financial support and men. Let our papers publish details of the Mexican revolution; let them publish manifestos, hold mass meetings and reunions; and let us work, every one of us, so that on the day when Liberals and Conservatives meet face to face the former may be able to count on the co-operation of revolutionists throughout the world. But to accomplish this we must work."

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"What will Gompers do?" is the heading put by "L'Emancipation," (Lawrence, Mass.), official organ of the Franco-Belgian Federation of the I. W. W., to a reproduction of Magon's letter to Samuel Gompers. Editorially it adds: "The Mexican rebels are deceiving themselves greatly if they fancy that Sam Gompers and his acolytes are going to get up a movement of protest against the sending of United States troops to the Mexican frontiers. The Mexican Liberals may be massacred to a man without Gompers, Mitchell and their consorts turning either hot or cold, and it is not a little thing like that which will trouble their digestions when they sit at table with the Carnegies, Belmonts and Rockefellers of Wall Street." Perhaps we think that way ourselves, but it is just as well to make the record clear and unmistakable.

* * *

"Tierra," (Havana, Cuba) devotes its entire front page to an account of the mass meeting recently held in Havana on behalf of the Mexican Revolution, gives a detailed account of the progress being made, reproduces the fine manifesto by the comrades in Milwaukee, which it urges its exchanges to publish, and gives in full Ricardo Flores Magon's article "Impossible," an English translation of which has been given in this section. "Tierra" is one of the papers that carries every week a list of those who are subscribing funds in aid of the revolution, and the list is always a long one.

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Three different writers make forcible contributions to "Cronaca Sovversiva," (Barre, Vt.), distinguishing clearly between the political aims of Madero and the economic struggle in which the Mexican Liberal Party is engaged, applauding the courage displayed by the rebel forces, and denouncing the part played by the United States government as an attempt to suffocate by brutal force the just uprising of the proletariat.

* * *

Did space permit we could quote indefinitely from Spanish, French and Italian periodicals, which are still far in advance of their American and English colleagues both in comprehension of and sympathy with the Mexican Revolution. But the American and English papers are waking up; the most noted writers, as usual, being the first to grasp the situation. Nevertheless it is evident that the battle with indifference will be hardest there, which is all the more reason for tackling it without delay and never letting up. Both England and the United States have magnificent revolutionary records, and when they move it will be effectively. The I. W. W. fighters have shown us that.

There lies the Strength

"We will fight until our people cease to be exploited by foreign money kings. That is our answer to talk of peace by Francisco Madero, and any agreement Madero may enter into with Diaz will not bind us or the Liberal Party." Thus A. Gonzales Lerma, member of the Junta of the Mexican Liberal Party, is quoted in an interview in "The Chicago Daily Socialist" of May 4.

It goes without saying that the Mexican Liberal Party is just as bitterly opposed to land monopoly by Mexicans as by foreigners, its motto being "Land and Liberty" for all; and of course this is well known both to the Socialist and Single Tax press, which latter professes to teach the doctrine of land confiscation with which Henry George set the world aflame thirty-five years ago. Nevertheless a great portion of the Socialist and Single Tax press is silent on the gigantic struggle for the overthrow of land monopoly in progress at our very gates.

For myself, in propaganda as in business, I judge solely by results. If I thought, for example, that the Single Taxers, who have been doing business under that title some twenty-five years, had aroused the United States to indignation over the continued existonce of land monopoly; if the Single Taxers could show this as the result of all their years of work I should applaud them to the echo. But I know they cannot show it, and I think they cannot show it because they themselves are land speculators and steeped to the lips in paralyzing politics.

On the other hand, I applaud the Mexican Liberals with all my heart and soul because they show results; wonderful results; such results as no other set of men has given me in an experience that covers more than thirty years.

Consider what these men have done; consider that within less than six months the Mexican question—the Mexican Revolution for economic independence—has become the question of the day; and consider that this work has been done by men with the prison brand upon them, without a dollar in their pockets, with courage and self-sacrifice for their only capital.

The secret lies in their fearlessness; in their contempt of political intrigue and scorn of personal advancement; in their heedlessness of danger. Magon, Rivera, Arauho, man after man among them has stepped from jail to continue undismayed the very work that threw them into jail. They have not flinched; they do not flinch; they are not quitters; they do not whine that they have done their share and that it is time for other fellows to take up the job; the dread of poverty or loss of respectability and social prestige does not appall them. Therefore they are strong; therefore they have a following powerful not only in numbers but in conviction; a following certain to go much farther than is dreamed of in the dressing gown and slippers philosophy of the elocutionists who hitherto have monopolized the public ear.

Once more I quote from the article already mentioned. The writer has been describing the busy life of the Junta's headquarters, and he says: "But through all the activity there could be seen the gaunt wolf of poverty. It showed in the dress of the men and the furnishings of the room." That strikes every visitor, and to its truth I, who live among them, gladly testify.

Ordinarily I do not think it desirable to sign the articles I write as editor. On this occasion I add my signature, to show how positive are the convictions I have endeavored to express.

WILLIAM C. OWEN.