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FIRST EDITORIAL

Whither They are Drifting.

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With the stench of British ruffianism in South Africa still fresh under the public nostrils, with the recollection of British infamy in India and in China on the public mind, and with the fervid denunciation of British oppression by our own Declaration of Independence fresh in the public ear, Mr. Seth Low, President of Columbia University, uttered himself this wise upon the Government of England at a recent meeting:

“What is the influence of England upon the world to-day? She has planted colonies that have become self-governing on every shore. She is governing hundreds of millions of men in India and in Egypt, replacing disorder by order. England is uplifting men in all parts of the world by replacing disorder by order, and carrying everywhere the spirit of English law.”

The next thing we may look to see is history books used at Columbia University teaching that the affair of '76 was all a mistake.

President Low this time was sincerely giving expression to his own and the views of the idle, plundering capitalist class of the land. He and his class are sincere admirers of that Government that earliest of all developed into a national committee of the buccaneer class, and has carried everywhere the spirit of capitalist rapine. At a time when such a committee has not yet been evolved in this country, the British Government and governing class were condemned by the American people; but now that we too have given birth to a similar class and a similar committee, the feelings have been changed, and the two committees have undertaken to cover each other with bouquets.

Mr. Low's speech is one of the best gauges by which to estimate the evolution of the “patriotic” American capitalist class. Fortunately, while these several buccaneers are assuring each other that they admire each other and that they express the views of their respective countries, the people who really are the country are drawing together

upon very different lines and are preparing the day when, these buccaneers being thrown overboard, the path will be opened for a civilization very different from that which now enchants Mr. Low.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.

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