

The People.

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SECOND EDITORIAL

Veiling Their Purpose.

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The Warrenton, Va., *True Index*, an organ of the Southern ruling class, has a one-column article that purports to be a talk to the negro. He who is taken in with the anti-negro appearance of the article will miss its main point and its main feature, and will thereby fail to draw the information the article really conveys. From beginning to end the article is an expression, not of the sentiment and purposes of the white against the negro, but of the sentiment and purposes of the capitalist class against the working class. The anti-negro phraseology, used in the article, is only the drapery in which the Editor veils, because at present he feels he still must veil, the views that the ruling class of the land—North and South—seek to make dominant. What views are these?

“Have you no discrimination, no gratitude?”, asks the article in question, ostensibly speaking for the whites and ostensibly addressing the negro; and it proceeds to enumerate the grounds for the gratitude demanded: “We give you schools”; “we furnish you with board, warmth and shelter in the jails”; “we pay the taxes for your schools”; etc., etc.; and then, mingling friendship with threats, it proceeds: “We are your best friends,” submit to us because, if you don’t and you give a willing ear to teachings that are pregnant with “anarchy and bloodshed in their flippant utterances,” then, we “will rise and demand at the muzzle of the gun white supremacy.”

Time was when the “negro” and “white” phraseology of such outpourings might have been literally, and, therefore, honestly meant; by the sight and sound, however, of things happening and heard in all parts of the country, the “white” and “negro” phraseology will be readily peered through as a drapery too thin to veil the real intent. Not a thing, threats included, uttered by this “white” Editor to the “negro” is not throughout the country being uttered by the Capitalist Class to the Working Class. Replace in the above quotations “capitalists” for “whites,” “workingmen” for “negroes,” and we have the attitude of the Capitalist class towards the Working Class.

The Working Class is everywhere charged by the Capitalist Class with base

ingratitude; it is told the Capitalist Class “gives” it wages, bread, shelter, warmth, schooling; it is everywhere admonished that its “best friends” are the Capitalists, that the teachings which increasing numbers of its class are giving “a willing ear to” are redolent of “anarchy and bloodshed,” and that, if that sort of thing continues, the Capitalist Class “will rise and demand at the muzzle of the gun capitalist supremacy.”

Every intelligent man who is a decent man, every decent man who is intelligent, knows that the whites give to the negro no more than the capitalist gives to the workingman; that the workingman, whether negro or white, is he who does all the giving, while the capitalist, whether Southern or Northern white, is he who does all the “receiving” and should display gratitude. This ruling or “receiving,” or, to be more accurate, this plundering class, is ill at ease. Its long submissive subjects—the Working Class—are becoming restive. Cajolery is to be tried upon them if that does not work, they are to be intimidated.

It is of prime importance for the working class of all colors, races, creeds and nationalities to catch the central note of all capitalist utterances of to-day. That central note will teach them that they, as workingmen, are assailed, and the teaching will prevent their being played upon to the extent of dividing them, so that each can be turned against the other, until, successively beaten, they all lie prostrate at the feet of their common tyrants.

The Southern plunderer is veiling his purpose; and so is his Northern compeer.

Rend the veil!

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

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