

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 234.

NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1905.

TWO CENTS.

EDITORIAL

EXCHANGING COMPLIMENTS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE love-note of grape shot and canister issued to the working people of Russia by the Russian class of the plunderers, has been answered at Moscow by the love-note of a bomb that blew the grand Duke Sergius into fragments.

Where free speech and free press are interdicted, the subterranean conspiracy is born; where free assemblage is a crime, the barricade springs up crisp and hot; where the ballot is denied, or tampered with, the bomb asserts itself.

Things act and re-act in equal measure. As a mild word turneth away wrath, so the deed of violence invites the deed of rage. It is out of one and the same quiver that opposing internal factions draw their arrows, and the quiver ever is the choice of the ruler, not of the ruled; of the oppressor not of the oppressed.

The love-note returned to the camp of the Sergiuses is not essentially peculiar to Russia. We have seen it in America on two notable occasions, the only two occasions that the country's history has so far offered. It was seen in the days of the American Revolution when the love-note from the British Crown was the clash of arms, caught in advance by the experienced ears of Patrick Henry and announced by his inspired lips: it was answered in kind and successfully, too. It was again seen when the Bourbon slave-holder sought to thwart the fiat of the ballot: and again it was answered in kind, and again the answer was successful. The days we are now travelling forward to will ere long tell whether the usurper in the present issue before the country has learned the lesson taught by history, or whether he again will resort to the chicanery and violence that will call for the mailed hand of Labor to return blow with blow, and again forcibly clear the path for progress.

Love-note ever answered love-note: It has ever been so: It will be so to the end of time.

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

Uploaded November 2007

slpns@slp.org