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EDITORIAL

## RELIGION, PILLARS, AND THE REST OF THE PARAPHERNALIA.

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**I**F it is true that one understands a foreign language better by first translating it into the language that he knows, it is equally true that one is all the better able to understand his own language by putting it in the corresponding foreign expression. The “foreign expression” in the Manifesto issued by the Czar on the 3rd instant is of this nature. It is pre-eminently qualified to bring home to us in America the meaning of words and terms that are familiar to our ears.

Whenever the working class of America—with its finger upon the ulcerous immorality of the capitalist class, its confiscatory practices against Labor, its ever more brutal treatment of the workingmen, its reckless disregard of the worker’s life—whenever, with its finger upon these facts, the American working class bestirs itself, forthwith a paraphernalia of stereotyped invectives are hurled at its head. The criminal capitalist class pronounces its agencies “pillars of society,” and it denounces the workers as foes of “Religion,” disturbers of “law and of order,” interferers with “prosperity,” smashers of “freedom.” Many have come to understand the terms for just what they stand. The Czar of Russia, speaking Russian, a foreign language, has just contributed his mite to render the terms more generally understood.

There, in Russia, we have the most reactionary, brutal and blood-thirsty system of government within the pale of civilization. From top to bottom, morality is a by-word. Prosperity exists only for the Grand-Ducal establishment; the masses are held down in abject poverty. Religion is used as a mask to cow the people. Law and order mean the silence of intimidation produced by the cossacks’ knout. The pillars of society are a coterie that is steeped in crime, and that upholds only raw-boned Wrong. Against such a net-work of injustice the Russian masses have risen, at last.

And what is the language held towards them by the head and front of the offending? It is a manifesto that strings out the words “religion,” “pillars of society,” “law and order” and “prosperity”—identically, with the exception of just one word, the “family,” as our own American Grand-Ducal establishment is wont to do. The omission of the word “family” in the Czar’s manifesto must be a mere oversight. People whose family life is a myth, ever charge the Labor Movement with a design to smash the family.

And so we have the whole paraphernalia trotted out and placed under the lime light in self-exposure.

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