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## BUTCHERS AND ANTI-SEMITISM.

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**A**n item in a press despatch from Paris last week must have looked odd to many.

Jules Guérin, the President of the Anti-Semitic League, being besieged by the Police and Military of Paris at the League's headquarters, a big demonstration was held in its behalf in the Boulevard de Magenta and the Rue Lafayette. The press despatch gives the matter very much in detail, and somewhere throws in the astounding information: "The affair was organized by the butchers in favor of Guérin."

By the butchers? What special relation is there between the butchers' trade and Anti-Semitism? Anti-Semitism is upheld by its upholders as something supremely ethereal and spiritual; the most enthusiastic butcher will hardly claim that much for his profession; where do the two come together?

To look for the point of contact between the two on the surface of things would be going on the hunt for a mare's nest. The two DO come together, there IS a point of contact between them; there IS a spot where they do run into one. To find that, however, one must be armed with the key of Socialist science, that enables one to see below the surface of things. The vulgar bourgeois caricature of science, with the topsy-turvy get-up, claps the blinkers over the eyes; Socialism tears the blinkers off and enables one to see.

The butchers, mostly, overwhelmingly so, have long had a grievance against that part of Semitism that their business runs up against. Gentile, as well as Semitic physicians, recommend with greater frequency than is agreeable to the Gentile butcher, that their patients patronize the Jewish butcher shop. What through the Mosaic prescriptions and the traditions of old, that have resisted the inroads that

capitalism usually makes upon principle, the meat, sold in Jewish shops, has the reputation of being more wholesome. Keenly competing one with all, the Gentile butcher finds his Semitic competitor equipped with a power of attraction that renders the Gentile's advertisement less effective, and his pulling-in schemes considerably weaker. The material interests of the Gentile butchers exhale Anti-Semitic breaths. A demonstration in favor of the President of the Anti-Semitic League, organized by the butchers of Paris, is, accordingly, a thing that, however much it will puzzle the non-Socialist, is as natural a phenomenon as ducks taking to mill-ponds.

The incident of the butchers' demonstration in favor of Mr. Guérin may be too trifling for much importance to be attached to the capacity of seeing thro' it. Nevertheless the fundamental principle that enables those equipped therewith, to penetrate that trifling mystery, enables them also to penetrate mysteries of greater pith and moment. It builds up the class-conscious proletarian; it blossoms into the pride of the age that completest man—the SOCIALIST; it is a corner stone of that grandest of organisms, big with all the glories of Civilization,—the SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

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

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