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FIRST EDITORIAL

UNDIVIDED ALLEGIANCE.

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On the long ridge that the Socialist Labor Party captured last election, none of the hill-tops now occupied by its victorious hosts is of greater, even equal, importance, in point of effectiveness of internal organization, than that which establishes the principle of UNDIVIDED ALLEGIANCE.

The Socialist Labor Party is or is not the head of the column that is to storm the citadel of Privilege, and once for all rear the Social structure of Freedom. If it is not; if this, that, or the other organization, or form of organization, might, could, would or should crystallize the requisite forces for the great feat, then that devotion to its colors—a devotion that, by concentrating effort upon one point produces invincible force—would be neither attainable nor desirable. If, however, the S.L.P. is what it claims and has proven itself to be, then it cannot, neither may it, brook a divided allegiance. The conclusion is irrefutable: that organization, whose principles or tactics are in any essential particular at variance with the Party, is wrong. The same person cannot belong to both. If his heartstrings at all bind him to the wrong, he must either sunder them or wholly go over to it.

Not slight is the gain in point of intellectual clearness on this subject. Sentimentalism, seeking Harmony, blurs the view; it little imagines how its weak compromising and cajoling methods defeat its own end. There can be no Harmony without oneness of insight; nor is oneness of insight ever possible if the units are not clear upon their mutual standpoints. The surest way to insure dissension, with resulting disintegration and disharmony, is for men to blur the lines that divide them. The ERROR, on which either, or both, may build, would thus never be discovered; nor the TRUTH, that either may hold, become apparent to the other. The path to Harmony lies across the sharpest demarcation of differences. The sharper the dividing line, the clearer will both ERROR and TRUTH transpire. Thus what seems to be the course of DIVISION is in fact the course of UNION, what seems to be

the course of DISRUPTION is in fact the course of HARMONY.

The seizing of this important principle, and acting up to it, is not the work of a day. It requires time, experience; often bitter experience. But no progress is possible before that point is reached, because no organization is imaginable, if it is to be effective, without it squarely plants itself upon that eminence.

Socialism—the verification of the Biblical dove, that flew into the Ark with the olive-twig in its bill, as evidence that the waters of the Deluge had sufficiently receded to allow vegetation to spring up—Socialism wings its flight into the tempest-tossed Ark of modern society, a symbol that the storm of economic conflict has at least turned the point where Peace is possible. Socialism is the veritable harbinger of HARMONY. Dissension, disruption, disharmony—all of these are aims essentially foreign to Socialism. But neither is modern Socialism a Utopian vision. With its heart beating for the ultimate aim of Peace, its steps are guided by that positive knowledge that human experience has treasured up. Drinking deep at that well, Socialism draws sharp and deep the line that divides its principles from all others, and in pursuit of such wise course, its organization, the Socialist Labor Party, demands an undivided allegiance from its supporters.

The country's acres are wide; its opportunities for untrammelled organization are matchless. Let him who disagrees with its stand, clearly state his point; clearly draw up the edifice of the organization he prefers; and—join that in peace. From the opposing camps shot and shell may, should, fall upon each other. Such conflict is but additional light thrown upon the dividing lines, and that is but the surest means to HARMONY—if HARMONY should follow.

The Socialist Labor Party holds ground essential to progress and Harmony:—NO DIVIDED ALLEGIANCE.

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

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