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EDITORIAL

SHADOWS OF EACH OTHER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

BEFORE us lies a copy of the Richmond, Va., *Times* for Sunday the 2d of last month. The day of the week of the issue is certainly no accident. The articles therein contained were evidently picked with an eye to the sanctity of the day. One of these articles bears a heading that runs across four columns:

“Views of *Times* Readers on the Issues of the Day.”

Under this heading are signed contributions. The leading place is given to one inscribed: “A Bible View of the Negro Problem.” Under cover of the “Negro Problem,” the writer, one M. Jeter, extends his observations to the “Labor Problem,” and says:

“Of what use to a day laborer, either white or black, is education? It would be utterly useless to him. What he needs most is morality and industry—the two things hardest to teach him, for he is by nature destitute of both, and these he must have to make himself respected and self-sustaining.”

Addressing his flock of wolves under the bunting of “Ethical Culture,” one Felix Adler said in this city on that identical Sunday of February 2:

“We in America must pay the penalties for crimes of oppression committed in Europe centuries ago.”

And under cover of the unquestionable fact that many a mental, moral or physical cripple—crippled by European oppression of centuries of standing—has migrated to America, and by his mental, moral or physical deformity thus traceable to foreign oppression, does render more arduous the burden of our own people, the ethical-culturist above-named proceeded to ease the consciences of his wolfish flock

for the acts of oppression spontaneously committed by themselves pursuant to their capitalist wolf-instincts.

Ethical-culturist Felix Adler of New York and “Bible-view” M. Jeter of Richmond, Va., are shadows of each other. The latter, as the former, seeks to justify wrong; the former, as the latter, seeks to ease the consciences of the wolf capitalist class in the practice of its crimes. To both a suffering humanity is a requisite pedestal to stand on: to the former, so that he may utter ethical speeches, to the latter, so that he may give vent to his Biblical information. The only question that remains is which of the two is more directly descended from the “European oppression” by which they both continue to thrive on.

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