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EDITORIAL

THE CONFLICT IN SPAIN.

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FULL of matter, as an egg is of meat, the correspondence published elsewhere in this issue regarding matters in Spain,¹ runs the risk of bewildering the mind. It seems too much to digest at once. In that, however, may lie an advantage in that the letter will compel reading over several times.

To aid in digesting it, and thereby obtain a clear bird's-eye view of things in Spain, the following analysis will be found helpful.

When the United States war with Spain took place there was not a ripple anywhere on the Peninsula. The United States was plucking Spain of one after another her valuable insular colonies—the Philippines on the Pacific were seized, and on the Atlantic Cuba was torn from her and Porto Rico annexed. The senile Castelar sputtered some phrases; the Court mumbled something or other; but from the masses of the people not a sound went up. Utter indifference marked their posture. Now, with a little war in Africa, it is all the other way. Court and countries are holding their breath; while, as to the people, they present the appearance of a seething mass. Why the radical difference?

The first information of importance furnished by our correspondent is that, much tho' the Anarchists are claiming the manifestation is of their making, they actually have no hand in it. The conflict in Spain owes its impetus to the clash of two opposing principles—one, the barbarous principle of Conquest, the other the new and civilizing principle of Peace, which received its forceful impulse from the Anti-Militarist Resolution adopted at the International Socialist Congress in Stuttgart two years ago, amid the jubilant plaudits of a vast concourse of delegates from both hemispheres.

¹ [To be appended.—R.B.]

Accordingly, the conflict in Spain is not a national affair: it is not a local affair: it is international—international in every sense. It is international in the sense that all nations have contributed to bring it on: it is international also in the sense that the only two nations, really in existence,—the Capitalist and the Socialist—are fighting it out, on Spanish ground, just now, to be continued on a world-wide ground, presently.

This is THE feature of the conflict in Spain. All the other features, of the numerous ones recited by our correspondent, interesting though they are, are but of secondary importance.

It had to be, as a matter of course, that a conflict, involving such an issue, should separate the sheep and the goats. The alignment with the Crown of the clerical, labor-duping, bigotry fomenting elements, was inevitable. These have no choice but to merge with the central force that raised the standard of brutish conquest; on the other hand, the passing over of the democratic and republican elements to the Socialist side, and their aligning with the central force that raised the standard of Peace on Earth was in the order of things. The Socialist standard shelters all the noble aspirations of the age.

The fight is certainly on—he who doubts it, look to Spain and Sweden.

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

Uploaded by Donna Bills, October 2010

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