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EDITORIAL

“THE SOCIALISTIC FALLACY.”

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THE New York *Evening Sun* of the 8th instant is wroth at the Socialist language of William D. Haywood’s letter of acceptance as candidate for Governor of Colorado. Why, Socialism is a fallacy, says the *Evening Sun*, and proceeds to prove its opinion with the allegation that “the whole Socialist scheme is as old as man,” that “there was a time when all the means of production and distribution were owned, operated, controlled and supervised by the working class,” but that such is the “inherent weakness of the scheme” that it was overturned.

That Socialism could not possibly be “as old as man” everybody who knows what he is talking about is well aware of. That all thought of a “working class” is a mere absurdity where there is no “idle class,” and that consequently, such a statement as that there was a time when the WORKING CLASS owned and operated, controlled and supervised all the means of production and distribution, is just so much nonsense—that also is no secret. Nevertheless, for the sake of the argument, let it be granted that Socialism was once in practice. Does it follow from that, and from its not being in practice now{,} that the scheme is “inherently weak” and never to be thought of again?

There was a time, “as old as man,” when every adult—men and women—voted for the administration. That “scheme” was presently discontinued and remained in abeyance centuries untold. Did that mark the scheme “inherently weak,” and “settle” its re-establishment?—History thunders, No!

There was a time, “as old as man,” when democracy was the established “scheme.” The “scheme” was presently discontinued, and in many a nation is still “out of date,” kings and autocrats “by the grace of God” having sprung up. Did that mark democracy “inherently weak” and “settle” its re-establishment?—History thunders, No!

But why multiply examples? The one-time existence of a “scheme” and its subsequent discontinuance is no argument against the “scheme” itself. On the contrary, it may be a powerful argument against the conditions that compelled its discontinuance. As the dove that Noah sent forth from the ark, finding no rest for the sole of her foot, returned unto him into the ark, so likewise many a social aspiration of the human race, having been sent forth from the ark of the human heart, found no rest for the sole of its foot and returned, but never to take flight no more. So soon as conditions ripen, the dove of the aspiration wings her flight anew into the open, and builds her nest, and lays her eggs, and produces a vast brood. It is so with that human aspiration which {with?} the superficial name “Socialism,” but which is simply the panting of the human heart after human social “schemes.” Under material conditions that deprived the sole of the aspiration’s foot from a place on which to rest, the aspiration sank out of sight. In the measure, however, in which the material conditions began to furnish the solid ground for the sole of the aspiration’s foot, in that measure did it begin to shape itself as modern Socialism, a Movement so mighty that it shatters and scatters to the winds the fallacious arguments breathed against it.

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