

EDITORIAL

ON THE COLOGNE VICTORY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE capture of Cologne in Rhenish Prussia by the German Social Democracy—the downfall of that “Centrist Throne,” the Throne of the German political party of Property that ambushes behind the Roman Catholic Religion—so auspicious an event, occurring this year, marks the long distance that the people of Cologne have traveled since, in the language of Lassalle’s *Franz von Sickingen*, Ulrich von Hutten described the place in his days:

“I then went to Cologne, the University.
In undisturbed bloom reigned there, as still
They do, the hostile crew to knowledge, the
Dark-browed and black-robed dastard screech-owl breed,
That vampire-like the, blood of mankind drain.
The densest Ignorance holds supreme sway—
The flame-spewing monster that to death consigned
Arnold von Tungern, Gratius, many more!
Whate’er you say—it knows one answer only:
The *flames* it ever conjures down on you!
Not that flame that enlightens and gives warmth—
Oh, no! It knows none other than the stake’s
And pyre’s stupid glow. Be’t true or false
What you may say, its fiat is but—*Fire!*
If right—*fire!* Wrong—*fire!* Fire is its substance.
From its throat ever tongues of flame shoot up!
There, having to other youths, devoted,
The charms of ancient poetry unveiled,
The thunderbolt was swiftly hurled at me.
For *that* offence with shame I was expelled
As a seducer of the youth, and a
Contemner of religion.”¹

¹ [*Franz von Sickingen*, by Ferdinand Lassalle and translated by Daniel De Leon, pp 76–77. New York Labor News Co., hardcover, 1904.]

Quite other is the Cologne of to-day than the Cologne of Ulrich von Hutten's days. Gradually undermined by the undercurrents, and gradually eaten into by the tooth of Enlightenment, the "Centrist Throne" has fallen, and over it now floats the Red Banner, the symbol of Human physical, mental and spiritual emancipation.

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Uploaded December 2012

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