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EDITORIAL

GOOD-BYE, BRYAN!

By DANIEL DE LEON

HE who has ears must have heard the rip in Mr. Bryan's plans to reorganize the Democracy. The Solid South was one of the pillars, if not the main one, on which Mr. Bryan's scheme leaned for support. And now the pillar has crumbled.

Of all the post-election forecasts the most plausible, probable and level-headed, is that which announces the building of a new party by the South. Leading Southern Senators and Representatives are said to be convening in Washington with that purpose in mind. They are tired of being an appendage to the Democratic party. They are more than tired. They are afraid. The announcement that the Republican administration is going to investigate the political status of the negro, is one to send the shivers down the backs of Mr. Bryan's Southern survivals of feudal lordism. The Southern "gentlemen" know that the Republican party now has it in its power to decimate the Southern representation in Congress. If the South disfranchises its negro population, its representation in Congress can, and it looks as if it will, be proportionally reduced. From the Northern Democrats the South now knows it can not look for help. All that is left to it is to strike an attitude from which the Republican capitalists may expect support,—and sell that support for the promise of being left unmolested. That is the thought at bottom of the Southern move.

The new Southern party is to join neither the Democratic nor the Republican national convention. It is to hold its own national convention; nominate its own electors; and instruct them to vote for whatever presidential ticket suits the South best. The plan is shrewd. It promises fair to lame the Republican arm, now raised against the South—but simultaneously it leaves Mr. Bryan's plans of organizing "an aggressive and progressive Democracy out of the South and West" a heap of ruins.

It is as well. All observers of the times know that the South must be left out of all consideration as far as its furnishing tangible contingents to the Social Revolution that is to emancipate the working class. The South will have to be reconquered by the North victorious in Socialism, as it was conquered a generation ago by the North victorious in Capitalism.

We bid Mr. Bryan good-bye!

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