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EDITORIAL

## THE WRITING ON THE WALL.

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**A**S a rule, “writings on the wall” are warnings to Usurpers. No doubt the late elections have left quite a “writing on the wall” before the startled eyes of our American Ruling Class. There is, however, a “writing on the wall,” traced there, not for the benefit of the Usurpers, but for the benefit of the Usurped; it is traced there, not so much by the election returns themselves, as by a certain state of things that the election returns throw into high relieveo.

Last week the *Daily People* called attention to the scandalousness of a governmental system under which the will of the people, expressed at the hustings in never so solemn a manner, is kept in suspense four whole months, and can be kept in suspense fully nine months longer. To resume and amplify the facts mentioned last week, they are as follows:

The President and Congress, elected on a presidential year, do not enter upon their office until several months later—the President enters into actual office on the 4th of the following March; the Congress enters into office on the same day, but only nominally: it cannot convene in regular session until the first Monday of the following December, that is, a year and a month after its election, unless it is convened in special session by express call of the President.

From this state of things it follows—

First—Even if at a presidential election the whole existing governmental personnel—from President down to Congress—is overthrown, and a new one set up by popular mandate, the old, the repudiated government remains in the full exercise of its powers for four months longer. For four months longer things go on as if no popular fiat had been passed upon the officials in office.

Secondly—If the overturn comes in an “off-year,” and, consequently, reaches the Congress only, then, unless the incumbent President whose “policies” may have been condemned choose to convene the hostile Congress in special session, the new

body remains inoperative for fully a year and a month after its election, and for fully nine months after the commencement of its term.

This is the “writing on the wall” that the late elections trace for the benefit of the Working Class of the land.

Nor is the Socialist, the modern revolutionist, left without precedent to take warning from. His predecessor the Abolitionist ran up in 1860 against that very stone-wall, and came near breaking his head against it. Overthrown by the suffrage that elected Lincoln in 1860, the copperhead administration of Buchanan, which remained in power until the following 4th of March, did, with its Floyds in the cabinet and other administrative offices, their level best, not to smooth the path of the incoming regime, but to strew it with thorns. If in a conflict between capitalist Interests the playing of such a trick was made possible to the defeated Interests against the Interests that triumphed, and made possible “constitutionally,” it needs no imagination to depict in advance the manoeuvres of the combined capitalist Interests during the four months that they would continue in full power after having been routed at the polls by Socialism in a presidential year, or during the thirteen months, after an off-year election when Socialism may have seized upon Congress.

The writing left on the wall by the late elections before the eyes of the Socialists with eyes to see, and with brains behind their eyes to do the tall thinking that the writing on the wall prescribes, blazes the warning:—

“No Socialist propaganda in America, that does not drill the useful labor of the country away from the fractured companies of Craft into the solid battalions of Industrial Unionism has the remotest grasp of the situation.

“No Socialist propaganda in America, that, accordingly, fails to organize the useful labor of the land into fitness to seize at a moment’s notice the reins of production, and administer the same despite and in the teeth of all machinations by the ‘hold-over’ capitalist political agencies, is deserving of the name of Socialist.

“All Socialist propaganda in America, that ignores the absolute necessity of the Industrial organization of its recruits, only prepares a blood-bath for the proletariat, together with their purblind-visionary ‘Socialist leaders.’”

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