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No. 29

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Science of Burglary.

Strange discoveries are made in these halcyon days of capitalism. The higher and completer the development of the present system, the more varied and amazing are the manifestations of its innate crookedness and iniquity. The latest of these manifestations is the discovery of a long established college of crime, in which a professor of burglary has been teaching his class the same as a professor of history or literature in any other college or university. Lest our readers suspect us of taking liberties with their credulity, we quote as follows from an Associated Press despatch of a recent date from New York City:

"Isidore Rader, professor of burglary, made a confession to-day to Judge Swan. In the back of a pool room on the lower east side, Rader says that for several years he has held classes in stealing. His pupils and alumni, of whom he mentions many by name, have stolen half a million dollars worth of horses and merchandise, he estimates. Also, he says, they paid central office detectives, uniformed police and plain clothes men thousands of dollars to avoid arrest. A dozen or more burglars have told the police from time to time of Rader's school; but somehow he eluded arrest and kept on teaching his "trade." They got him when a favorite pupil "squealed." This afternoon he sent word to Judge Swan that he wanted to confess. Several typewritten pages, locked in the judge's desk, contain what he said.

The college of crime and the science of burglary, as here set forth, are among the by-products of capitalism. In a system which denies hundreds of thousands the chance to make an honest living, what is more natural than that crime should become an established institution and theft a cultivated art! Professor Rader, of the department of burglary, may not rank as high popularly as some other professors, but he certainly is entitled to the credit of showing what great possibilities there are for young men of talent in the capitalist system. This celebrated educator has demonstrated clearly enough, for his purposes at least, that it pays far better to steal than it does to be honest in a system based upon the fundamental principle of robbery.

When the question of incentive again arises in the discussion of Socialism, let this phenomenon of the New York school of burglary and the art of cracking safes be held up to clinch the fact that "you can't change human nature," and that without such incentive to stimulate our activities we would all be reduced to the dead and uninteresting level of honest persons.—Appeal to Reason.

Master and Slave.

In every age and under every social arrangement the ruling class have controlled, as a rule, the professional elements of all descriptions, including editors, lawyers, politicians, priests and professors. When chattel slavery was in power, the great lawyers, politicians, priests, ministers and college presidents supported it as a lawful and moral institution. The politician, the priest and the professor sanctioned it, defended and supported it, because it was to their material interest and well-being to do so. For precisely the same reason the same professional classes, not excepting the so-called religious teachers and spiritual advisers, support capitalism to-day and its enslaving and degrading institutions. Rev. Wilbur Fish, former president of the Wesleyan university and a great religious leader in his day, explicitly declared, when the anti-slavery agitation was going on, that the bible sanctioned slavery and that to oppose it was wicked. We here quote his exact words: "The New Testament enjoins obedience upon the slave as an obligation due to a present rightful authority."

The institution of slavery was beneficial materially to the master class. Therefore it had the sanction of the pulpit as well as the press, the legislature as well as the college. You will not find a preacher to-day who would dare to advocate the doctrine above quoted, and yet sixty years ago that was the openly avowed doctrine of a great majority of the priests, ministers and college professors. These have always and everywhere had to serve the ruling class to hold their jobs, and that is why you will always find them as the apologists and retainers of that class. Sixty years ago they were nearly all for chattel slavery and opposed to abolition. To-day they are nearly all for wage slavery and opposed to emancipation. To the extent that the emancipating movement makes progress and gives promise of success these elements come over to it and are ready to serve it; but while it is in its early stages and has everything against it, they, with but a few heroic exceptions, are arrayed against it and echoing the cry of their masters to put it down. That is why the hierarchy is mustering all its forces against the Socialist movement. It has always been on the side of power and in the service of the ruling class.—Ibid.

The golden rule cannot work while the rule of gold works.

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Our salt is more than we are worth,
And some are so industrious
We try to own the blooming earth!

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