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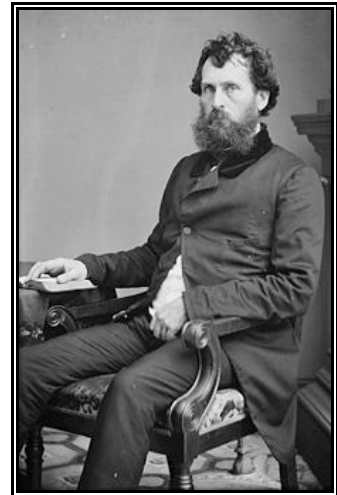
EDITORIAL

## R-R-R-R-EVOLUTIONARY DAME FREE TRADE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**J**OHN BIGELOW, very much revered by the capitalist class in general, the Democratic party in particular, went on record before the Reform Club as advocating a revolution by physical war.—On what issue?—On the tariff!

Mr. Bigelow argues, justly enough, that all appeals to criminals are “not merely the toleration of crime, but an excuse for it.” From these correct premises he proceeds: the tariff is a crime; its supporters and beneficiaries criminals; hence, to be treated as such; and he concludes with the question: “What motive had the Southern planter to go to war for the protection of slavery that the Republican Party has not in a far greater degree to fight for protection?” Therefore, only war will dislodge the tariff.



JOHN BIGELOW  
(1817–1911)

This is an eloquent appeal to arms—and a very ridiculous one, withal.

An appeal for a sledge-hammer, in order to drive in a tack, when large spikes are hollering to be driven in;

An appeal to kill a mosquito, when a vampire is pumping up a man’s life blood;

An appeal for surgical instruments to heal a scratch, when a gaping wound demands attention;

An appeal to stop a theoretical leak in the house whose walls are rent, and allow the “weather” free access from all sides;

An appeal for an esthetic neck-tie to a body that is shivering to death for want of clothing;

An appeal for a nicely painted canoe when what is required is a strong-ribbed bark;

An appeal for a Krupp cannon to destroy a rat, when the house is surrounded with tigers;—

None of these appeals is as bizarre as the appeal to arms in order to overthrow the tariff, when anti{-}, as well as pro-tariff capitalists are sapping the Nation's marrow with their vampire tentacles of wage slavery.

Truly has dame Free Trade been called a scrawny old spinster of coquettish ways, that only enhance her ugliness. Her present posture, represented by John Bigelow, in striking the note of armed rebellion for—what? to avenge freedom by overthrowing the tariff, is like the story told of the scrawny spinster, who, furious at hearing disparaging remarks made about herself, flared up in a paroxysm of rage, and, taking up a knife, said: “If anybody says I'm old and homely, I shall take a knife (brandishing it wildly), and cut myself—a slice of cake.”

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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