

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 12, NO. 183.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1911.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

MORGAN'S HOMUNCULUS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

FOR shedding, through the columns of his *Chicago Provoker*, considerable light upon the mental, moral and also financial “irregularities” of some of the Officialdom his party, and for having aggravated the offence by proving his leading charges, witness the vanishing from Chicago of “A.M. Simons, Editor” and the resignation under fire of the National Secretary J. Mahlon Barnes, Thomas J. Morgan has been expelled from the Socialist party.

More than once has *The People* pointed a moral and adorned a tale with Homunculus. The “pointing” and “ornamenting” may be repeated without danger of overworking Homunculus.

Homunculus is one of the cleverest “strokes” in the second part of Goethe's *Faust*.

One Wagner, a speculative philosopher in natural and other sciences, hit upon the idea of contriving a man upon a new, a “short cut across lots” plan. The usual process of impregnation and conception, gestation, birth and subsequent growth to adult estate looked too clumsy to Wagner, also stupidly slow. Columbus-like he struck a “shorter,” withal, a more “scientific” route. Wagner ascertained the chemical composition of man; mixed the ingredients up; held them over a spiritus lamp; and looked for the condensation which was to be the product, man. Lo, presently a man-like being was “precipitated”—Homunculus. But sorely tried was Wagner by his product. Homunculus did nothing but poke fun at his creator.

The Socialist party Officialdom, at whose behest Morgan was expelled, is Morgan's Homunculus.

Thomas J. Morgan was originally a member of the Socialist Labor Party. Many things in the Party did not suit him. The strict self-imposed discipline and democracy whereby the S.L.P. “intolerantly” rejected “irregularities” that could only at-

tract speculators upon the Labor Movement, he winced under as “bossism.” The numerical growth of the S.L.P. he decried as “too slow.” Restive under these “ills,” when in 1899 the combination of shyster lawyers, usurious money-lenders, abortionist doctors, feather-brained intellectuals itching for distinction, runaway embezzlers and other picaroons from Germany, Austria, and other European lands, and especially the A.F. of L. labor-lieutenants of the capitalist class, who foregathered around the *New Yorker Volkszeitung*, had been roundly beaten by the S.L.P. in their attempt to bag the Party and the Party's press, Morgan hied him from the Windy City to help them out.

It was the case of Wagner over again. A new party was to be produced upon a new principle—the Wagner principle. Wagner-Morgan analyzed the chemical ingredients of a party of Socialism; mixed the ingredients together; shook them up; held them over the spiritus lamp;—and lo, the precipitation was the S.P. Officialdom, the sociologic Homunculus that, like its biologic prototype, now played a series of nasty tricks, and finally a culminating one upon its ingenious contriver.

Wagner grew wiser by experience. Will Morgan?

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Uploaded November 2012

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