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EDITORIAL

## THE CORONATION.

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**I**T is impossible to read any of the numerous coronation reports in our bourgeois metropolitan press—written by special correspondents, some men and some women, some fantastic and some sober, some poetic and some prosaic, some shallow and some painstaking—without arriving at the conclusion that the pageant was less of a ceremony than a demonstration, in fact mainly a demonstration, with the ceremony mainly as a pretext.

A demonstration of what?

A demonstration of conservatism, which means reaction, by the Ruling Elements, not of Great Britain only, but of all the nations that are feeling the ferment of revolution. The fact transpires from the flings at Socialism that one and all these leading reports contain amid labored encomiums of the “regal bearing” of the King and Queen.

If the theory is correct—how else explain the repeated seizing of Socialism by the forelock?—then the coronation pageant is a historic incident to which near-at-hand events will have occasion to hearken back.

And the incident is a welcome symptom.

Demonstrations, of the nature that, in all probability, the coronation pageant was one, are not few in history. As a rule they are up-flares of a lamp about to be extinguished for lack of oil.

The downfall of feudal rule in France was, one may say, inaugurated by festal demonstrations at the Trianon in Versailles. The final downfall of the scepter held by the last scion of the French Bourbons was likewise heralded by pageants with ceremonies as their pretext. And just such monkey-shines precluded the downfall of Napoleon III and the rise, evidently for good until overthrown by Socialism, of the bourgeois republic.

It was not otherwise in England. The flight of James II; before him the tragedy of Charles I followed, in each instance, closely upon the heels of festive displays of loyalty.

When the troops of Victor Emanuel {Emmanuel?} occupied Rome, and thereby proclaimed the fact that the temporal power of the Vatican was a thing of the past; their path into Rome may be said to have been lighted by the torches borne by the celebrants of a papal “ceremony” which was utilized as pretext for a demonstration of loyalty.

To whatever European country one may turn—whether Spain, or Austria, or Scandinavia, or Russia—ceremonies, otherwise of a routine nature, but inflated to suit the purpose of a demonstration, ever have been signals of distress given by ruling powers.

The trick allows a peep into the mind of a ruling set. It writes them fetich worshipers. The trick is of the kith and kin of the one adopted by the Byzantine holders of Constantinople when, in 1453, the city was closely pressed by the Turks. All else having proved ineffective against the Turkish beleaguers, the effigies of Saints were placed upon the walls. They were expected to overawe the foe.

As the demonstration of saintly effigies in nowise palsied the arms of the soldiers of Muhammed II, and Constantinople fell, neither have the “demonstrations” of loyalty in any instance succeeded in damning {damming} the tide of Revolution. These be but Mrs. Partington’s brooms. Not all the display of “regal bearings” and interested hurrahs, and hurrahs to order, however many-tongued, can run into the ground the electric current of Socialism.

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