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EDITORIAL

HANFORD AND BELFORD.

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THERE is more than the termination of the two names to suggest the kinship of Judge Hanford and Father Belford.

As is known to readers of the *Daily People*, Cornelius H. Hanford during his incumbency as a Federal Judge trampled upon the constitution and laws which he had sworn to uphold, and attempted to annul the citizen papers of Leonard Olsson, a member of the Tacoma Section of the Socialist Labor Party, simply because Olsson was a Socialist.—This happened in the spring of this year at Seattle, Wash.

As is likewise known to readers of the *Daily People*, Father John L. Belford trampled upon the benevolent dictates of Christianity, whereof he holds himself forth as an apostle and bright particular guardian, and recommended in his *Nativity Mentor* that Socialists be silenced in the style and manner that mad dogs are silenced, by a bullet.—This happened likewise in the spring of this year, but in the neighboring city of Brooklyn, now a part of Greater New York.

Thus, almost at the identical hour, Hanford, the politician cloaked with judgeship, Belford, the politician masked with religion, took the identical stand at opposite ends of the country. Both proceeded upon the theory that the Socialist is outlawed, a legitimate prey for the hunter, the bars being down.

Judge Hanford has since learned better: his precipitate resignation and retirement in disgrace tell the tale. We shrewdly suspect that Father Belford also has since learned better: his subsequent heels-over-head “explanation” also tells of precipitancy in the endeavor “to get under cover”; while the subsequent evidence that he has taken a reef in his tongue is a token that needs no explanation.

“Judge” Hanford and “Father” Belford are birds of a feather—and no worthy feather, at that. They are types of the Bourbon element—the element that never

learns—of which the representatives are not a few; scattered throughout the land; living in a Past that will never return; and bumping their blockish nuts against a Future that will steam-roll them, if they insist on standing in the way.

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