

# The People.

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SECOND EDITORIAL

## Kicking Spots Out of Our “Palladiums.”

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Other countries have one “Palladium,” at most two, of “freedom,” “justice,” “order,” “family,” “religion,” etc. Ours, as the capitalist country par excellence, must have more than that; indeed, it has a large number of “Palladiums.” Every nook, or corner, or dunghill, or rat-hole, which, with some added fortifications, can and does afford special opportunities for our capitalist brigands to commit their acts of brigandage with impunity, is no sooner found to answer its purpose well than it is immediately extolled by our capitalist press, our political professors and parsons as a “Palladium” of freedom. Among such “Palladiums,” our Courts have long held a foremost place. Sometimes the militia threatened to crowd that “Palladium” back and take first place, but, on the whole the Courts have held “their own.” Presided over and controlled by the political spawn of capitalist impurity, the Judge-run Courts have, on the whole, held first rank in the column of our long list of “Palladiums.” But there is now the danger that this “Palladium” is out-Palladiuming the “Palladium,” to such an extent that it may knock itself down. It is essential to the effectiveness of a “Palladium” that the people don’t see through its fraud. When it overdoes the thing, then it may knock spots out of itself. This is just what is now going on.

Our readers will remember the numerous instances in which justice prevailed in the Courts, and wrong was branded there, not with the aid of, but despite all that the Judge could do: In the recent instance of the free speech issue in Boston, Comrade Avery was promptly condemned by a magistrate, and the vindication of the great cause she stood for had to await an appeal and was secured only by a jury; similarly, some time before, when a Tammany Judge falsified the law and did all in his power to acquit the common libeler Kurzenknabe, it was a jury that had to wrench justice from the Tammany brigand who acted as Judge on the “Palladium,” and branded the fakir malefactor Kurzenknabe. And so forth.

But these instances, in which the Court “Palladium” was un-Palladiumed by the people in the shape of juries, have become so numerous that the brigand capitalists, in command with the title of “Judge,” have been constrained to put forth more than usual

energy to earn their hire. The latest of these instances was in Chicago a few days ago. What happened there will be best understood by the light of the above background.

A blacklisted railroad employé sued a railroad company for damages, etc., under the law. The case was clear; the crime palpable. The capitalist brigand in command, with the title of “Judge,” at this particular Chicago “Palladium,” resorted to all the tricks of strategy to bring about a miscarriage of justice and preserve the reputation of the “Palladium” in his charge. But it booted naught. The jury was not to be either cajoled, bamboozled or hoodwinked: it brought in a verdict of \$20,000 damages. This was a black-eye to the “Palladium;” thereupon the Judge did, what? HE SIMPLY SET ASIDE THE VERDICT!

As there are defeats that are equivalent to victories, so there are victories that are equivalent to defeats. This victory of the “Justice-Palladium” is of the latter category. It was a kick at itself by the very brazenness of the kick given to the popular superstition concerning its Palladiumship. If this were the first “kick” on the list it might not establish a theory. But it is not. Other “kicks” of this sort have preceded, and as their number increases so increases also their vehemence. This last “kick” is, perhaps, the most significant, it almost partakes of the nature of a culminating point. The more the merrier.

Let our “Palladiums” by all means kick spots out of themselves.

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