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EDITORIAL

## EMINENT NONSENSE.

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**E**MINENCE is not always an indication of good sense. A college professor is often a worse thinker than a street laborer. This fact is receiving fresh confirmation in an article now appearing in the *Independent*, entitled: "The Naples Tammany Hall," by G.M. Fiamingo. According to the editor of the *Independent*:

"G.M. Fiamingo founded in 1894 the *Review of Sociology*, the first sociological periodical in Italy, which to-day is one of the most authoritative of its kind. He is advisory editor, together with Schaffle, Samuel, etc., to the *American Journal of Sociology*, published by the University of Chicago. Among his best known books is *Social Protectionism*, which has been translated into English."

This eminent gentleman informs the readers of the *Independent* that:

"In New York the empire of Tammany Hall may be said to have been the pathological result of the fact that all the best energies were centered in the work of economic production, so that a few debased persons were enabled to possess themselves of the administration of the city funds. At Naples, however, the municipal Camorra arose through the want of industries, so that the most alert energies necessarily led to the exercise of social parasitism on the city, renowned through all centuries for its Vesuvius, its splendid gulf, its radiant sky and its blue sea."

Whatever may have been the rise of the Naples Tammany Hall, the rise of the New York one as stated by Fiamingo is pure nonsense. Tammany's leaders, from Aaron Burr down to Boss Tweed, have always been prominently identified with the economic production of their respective times. At no time was this fact more pronounced than at the present. A glance at the list of leaders of to-day will prove this. There is Boss John J. Carrol, who is prominently identified with a horse breeding and dealing company; Ex-Boss Nixon, who is a member of the ship-building trust; Randolph Guggenheimer,

Nixon's opponent, who is connected with the brewing industry; Robert Van Wyck, whose espousal by Guggenheimer led to Nixon's resignation, is a member of the ice-trust; John D. Crimmins, who is a contractor and officer of the Metropolitan Street Railway and William C. Whitney, the brains of the whole shooting match, who is prominent in the affairs of the Whitney-Elkins-Weidner-Ryan electric traction, light, power and gas syndicate; also the Standard Oil Company. Perhaps these capitalist enterprises are parts of some production other than that called economic?

Politics are but the reflex of our economic conditions. To say bad politics are due to bad politicians is to put the cart before the horse. Bad politics are due to bad economic conditions. The presence in Tammany Hall of such trust magnates as Nixon, Whitney, et al., together with the presence of such characters as Croker, Timothy D. Sullivan, et al., is sufficient proof for those who are not taken in by such eminent nonsense as that served up by G.M. Fiamingo, founder of sociological reviews and sociological adviser, etc., etc.

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