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EDITORIAL

## PLAYING THE PEOPLE FOR MAD BULLS.

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**I**F “radicals”, the element whom the President had in mind when he wrote his message of April 27, have any sense they will take the message as an insult, especially that passage in which the President inveighs against the multimillionaire “whose son is a fool and his daughter a foreign Princess”, and whose real delight is “the accumulation and use of power in its most sordid and least elevating form”. When the President “goes for” such people he is but playing the people for mad bulls—seeking, with the red rag of denunciation to draw people’s minds from the persecutor whom they are trying to gore, and drawing their minds to vapor.

The undesirable, the reprehensible thing is not the multimillionaire, with or without sons that are fools and daughters that are foreign Princesses. The undesirable and reprehensible thing is that social system that can, does, and must inevitably breed such vermin.

Given the capitalist social system, the multimillionaire, whose real delight is the accumulation and use of power in most sordid form, follows inevitably. There is nothing that so completely debauches the mind as the acquisition of wealth by the labor of others. Capitalism has that form of wealth-acquirement for its special feature. Luxury unearned is wealth pilfered. In feudal days the nobleman at least was a warrior and sweated for the plunder that his army took and which he appropriated. It is of the essence of capitalism that the luxury of the capitalist partakes of this nature of pilferings. It falls into his hands by virtue of his previous holdings. A mind, stagnant, except for pilfering, is lost to all but sordid ends. Sons that are fools, daughters that are foreign Princesses are inevitable, nor yet the worst results.

The President evidently thinks that the “radicals” must be propitiated, and he

evidently holds them to be “dead easy”. No doubt he judges by those he meets. The “dead easy” crew is to be tickled with a lampoon against multimillionaires; and, while they laugh, the real source of mischief upon which the President himself thrives, is expected to be lost sight of.

This is the way bulls are treated at bull-fights. No better than bulls are the radicals of the President’s acquaintance,—and as bulls he humors and indulges them.

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