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EDITORIAL

## “THE PILOT” AND THE “VORWAERTS”.

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**B**EFORE us lie two publications. They are markedly distinct in appearance, in language and in, at least ostensible, purpose. The one is the Boston *Pilot* of the 19th of August; the other is the *Vorwaerts*, a New York Jewish paper, of the 20th of the same month. Two stronger opposites are hardly imaginable, one should think. Leaving aside their appearance and language as merely superficial qualities, their substances are irreconcilable. The former, even though it may not be, as some claim, the organ of the Roman Catholic Total Abstinence Union, justifies the conclusion that it is an apostle of the said association. Its columns teem with articles that boom the concern: its very front page contains under a three-decked display heading an enthusiastic report of “the greatest convention in the history of the National Catholic Total Abstinence Union” recently held at Wilkesbarre, Pa., where Cardinal Gibbons, President Roosevelt, Father Curran and others appeared in gala. The latter, a Social Democratic paper, proclaims itself the mouth piece of the Jewish race in general, and particularly of the Jewish working class Unionism, whom it seeks to keep in close racial bonds, and whose emancipation from capitalism it labors for. It would seem that between two such “organs” there could be no possible “common ground”. Well, there is.

The experience has gone into proverb that appearances deceive. To avoid being deceived by appearances is a wish of wisdom. How escape the deception? The maxim to that end is unerring. “The thing of importance is not to detect that in which things seemingly alike are unlike, but to detect that in which things seemingly unlike are alike”.<sup>1</sup> The application of the test to the two papers in question leads to a veritable revelation:

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<sup>1</sup> [Usually attributed to George Eliot.]

As to *The Pilot*, the organ of the Catholic total abstinence movement, it flourishes no less than four flaming advertisements of liquors recommending them as “high grade”, “first class”, “leading”, “the finest extra dry produced this decade”, “of exceeding purity”, “carefully selected”, from “renowned vineyards”, “most famous”, etc., etc.,—pretty good from the organ of a total abstinence concern, that holds that “the cause of labor’s poverty is drink”!

As to the *Vorwaerts*, the Jewish organ of the Social Democratic emancipators of the workingman, and Union advocate, in its very same issue of August 20, in which it indignantly announces that a certain firm, whose name it gives, has locked out its overall operators because they belong to a Union, and with a bray of trumpets declares that “the locked out workers have taken up the battle and are ready to fight as long as necessary”—in that very number it flourishes a loud advertisement, loudly calling upon overall operators to apply for work at the very firm that locked out the Union, and inducing them to apply with the promise of “steady work, best wages”, etc., etc.,—pretty good from an organ that sets itself up as the “defender of the workingman in his class struggle with the capitalist class”!

The seemingly dissimilar Boston Catholic-capitalist *Pilot* and New York Jewish-Social Democratic *Vorwaerts* are, accordingly, identically alike in one respect, and that an essential respect. The one and the other acts true and obedient to the principle: “Preaching is good enough to catch gudgeons with, but never let it interfere with business”. Thus the two papers throw light upon each other and approve themselves children of the House of Swindle.

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

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