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EDITORIAL

## A BAD SENTENCE.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**R**OBERT FULTON, the successful trip of whose *Clermont* was hardly noticed on the 17th inst., its actual anniversary, but will become the occasion of a vast business-boomed carnival of ostentation next October, once penned this sentence:

“Industry will give abundance to a virtuous world, and call mankind to one unbounded feast of harmony and friendship.”

That sentence should be buried deep out of sight by the business interests behind the Hudson-Fulton celebration. But two conclusions can follow from it:

Either the world is not virtuous, which accounts for its notable lack of friendship, harmony and abundance; in which case the dominant master class, which has the power, and hence the shaping of the world, in its hands, has made it so;

Or else, the world is virtuous, and is producing an abundance, but the class which owns the tool of production and also therefore the abundance turned out by it, pilfers the producers of their product, and thus robs the workers at once of abundance, friendship and harmony.

Either way, the capitalist class, the private owners of the publicly-needed tool, are responsible for the dearth, disorder and strife that obtain on every hand, and merit therefore abolition.

That of Fulton's is a bad sentence; bury it.

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