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EDITORIAL

## THE GERMAN ELECTIONS.

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**I**T is of little consequence, in a broad sense, what the issue of the numerous re-ballots for the Reichstag will be. The summary is announced loudly enough by the first election “round.”

The Social Democratic vote rose—it rose to the mammoth proportion of a constituency estimated at 4,000,000—and the increase was yielded, not evenly by all the other parties, nor yet by the Conservatives, it was yielded mainly by the bourgeois reform parties that go under a variety of names, and which, together with the Socialists, are lumped, in European parliamentary parlance, as “The Left.” So heavy was the loss of support by the bourgeois reform parties that only one of their candidates was elected, a reballoting being necessary on most of the others.

The campaign was conducted, on the part of the Reform forces, to the slogan, “Back to the Left!” It was a challenge to the Conservative forces, designated as the “Blue and Black Spot,” meaning the combination of the Aristocracy and the Roman Catholic party. The issue shows that the vote of the Top-Ruling Class, the “Blue and Black Spot,” was not affected, whereas the reformers went to pieces.

It goes without saying—the full election returns will bring out the fact in detail—that the defection from the Reform forces did not stampede to the Socialists. One fraction, whether the larger or the smaller, remains to be seen, wheeled in line with the Socialists; another fraction, whether the smaller or the larger, also remains to be seen, went over to the “Blue and Black Spot.”

From the latter fact—the circumstance that it gained recruits from the Reform forces—the Top-Ruling Class is drawing considerable comfort. It is even gleefully sneering at the reformers for having “missed fire.” Having set out to smash the “Blue and Black Spot,” they went, themselves, to smash.

Making due allowance for “Class Blindness,” it is not unlikely that the long-

headed ones of the “Blue and Black,” while smiling at the election returns, are hiding many a sigh in the wrinkle of a smile. A consideration of the supplemental fact that they are not the sole heirs, but that the Socialists also share the inheritance of the Reformers’ one-time support, is ample cause to cause the wise to pucker up their brow.

In the break-down of the Reform forces, this year’s German Reichstag elections furnish powerful cumulative testimony in support of the sociologic principle that political tinkerers are wiped out in the heat and friction generated by the clash between Reaction and Revolution.

In the revolutionarily critical epoch of 1860 in this country, the tinkerers of that day, represented by Douglas and by Bell, were ground to pieces between the upper and the nether millstone of Lincoln and Breckenridge—the only clear exponents of the two social types that clashed. So now, in Germany, the bourgeois tinkerers with a feudal monarchy are triturerated in the clash between the “Blue and Black,” on the one side, the “Reds,” on the other—the only clear types of the social forces in conflict.

There, is not, in this, any cause for “Blue and Black” joy.

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