

EDITORIAL

## HIGH FINANCE IN MEXICO.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**HEN, awaiting at the station in the city of Mexico for her husband, who was expected to be liberated from prison, to be sent to Vera Cruz, and thence to exile;—when, just before she expected to board the train with her husband, the information reached her from the Felix Diaz drum-head Government in possession that the deposed President was held back “for trial”;—when the news was imparted to her, Madero’s wife broke down in tears and sobs, above which the agonized cry repeatedly rose: “Adieu, adieu, Pancho! I shall never see you alive again!”

The prophetic cry of Francisco I. Madero’s wife was wrung from depths far deeper, from depths far less tender and human than a woman’s heart laden with the presentiment of a widowhood that was rapidly approaching in the sable of tragedy. Unconsciously to herself, that woman’s bosom was made to heave in anguish by forces that sprang from the dark and cavernous underworld of High Finance.

The escape from assassination by the last two Presidents of Cuba is nigh to the miraculous. High Finance in America, with its European ramifications, has long been straining for Cuban annexation. It succeeded in its first efforts—war was brought on with, and Cuba was freed from Spain. From that time on, the pretexts—turmoil, revolt, revolution by force of arms—for the next step, annexation, somehow failed to ripen. Their manifestations were but sputterings. Was Cuba too near the more open-eyed East of the land for the conspiracy to be carried out as per program? Otherwise with Mexico? Annexation is not, in the instance of Mexico, indispensable for the purposes of High Finance. Intervention will do. Towards this, pipes have been laying for the last two years; but ever and anon the wished-for and fomented “anarchy in Mexico” subsided; and, with the subsidence, the handle

seemed either to slip, or break in the hands of High Finance:—the Porfirio Diaz, under the wings of whose freedom-nipping and long-protracted dictatorship High Finance had entered, and had found a foothold in Mexico; the Porfirio Diaz for the benefit of whom the freedom of the press had been violated with successful libel suits in this country itself; the Porfirio Diaz, whom to touch with a rebel's hand the press of High Finance in America proclaimed would bring on an immediate conflagration in all Mexico,—that Porfirio Diaz was deposed by Madero, a civilian, and quiet followed. Felix Diaz, a swashbuckler nephew of Porfirio—subsequently proclaimed in flaming headlines by the same press of the High Finance as the leader of a “popular uprising in Vera Cruz”—was speedily turned down by the people and Madero's forces. Thereupon, first, Emiliano Zapata, then Vasquez Gomez, then Orozco, at times all the three together, were utilized as evidences of intervention demanding “anarchy in Mexico,” but successively ceased to pan out the promising cards they were expected to be. And thus, one by one the weather signs failed. More drastic methods were called for—assassinations. These were, accordingly, prepared by treason, and then carried out in swift succession upon the persons of Madero's brother, upon the Vice-President, upon Madero's secretary, and finally upon Madero himself, with the effect of giving such a shock to human conscience as to set the whole of the sister Republic in flames.

But, is it likely that High Finance, anxious tho' it may be for “anarchy in Mexico,” would be so blind as to bring this about under conditions universally revolting? And, if High Finance, is actually so blind, has it not overshot itself?

Whether High Finance has, or has not, overshot itself, remains to be seen. The fact of the atrocities which have been topped with the assassination of Madero shocking human conscience is no evidence of guiltlessness on the part of High Finance. With large dividends in sight, there is no crime that High Finance will stick at, no “law of God or man” it will not trample under foot, no risk it will not run “even to the risk of breaking its own neck.”

High Finance is at work in Mexico. Balzac has drawn their profile upon plates of steel in literature; Marx has analyzed the anatomy of their mind; Dunning has vivisected them on the demonstration table of social science;—and Standard Oil has illustrated the same by the light of the flames of more than one conflagration, and

with the crack of more than one rifle upon the stage of this country.

The tragedy, now enacting in Mexico, does not yet compare in vastness with the tragedies enacted by High Finance on the stage of the land of the Boers, in Manchuria, on the Philippine Islands, in the Balkans, etc., etc.; nevertheless, there is that in the tragedy, now enacting in Mexico, to drape the human conscience in mourning,—not the mourning of a lamenting Jeremiah, but the mourning that quickens the mind and the arm to Action.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded November 2014

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)