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EDITORIAL

SCHISM IN GUARDIANS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN some quarters the assertion is being made with lively emphasis that there is a schism in the organization of the Guardians of Liberty. In other especially Guardian quarters, the existence of a schism is being denied with equal emphasis.

The Guardians of Liberty is an organization that was recently gotten up for the purpose of heading off the political aspirations of the Roman Catholic political body. The elements that foregathered in the Guardians envied the success of the elements that had foregathered in the Knights of Columbus, and other ostensibly Roman Catholic societies, in securing political preferments. The fate of an organization animated with such a “lofty” purpose was not difficult to foretell.

True enough, diamond has to be cut with diamond; and swine are best rent by swine. The purpose being to thwart the swinish ends of political Roman Catholicism, the Guardians had perforce to be swinish. False pretence being the external garb of political Roman Catholicism, false pretence became the external garb of the Guardians. The goal dictated the methods. The methods that the goal dictated spelled schism for the Guardians—eventual if not immediate.

It is too late in the day to expect to deceive all the people all the time, whether with the mask of godliness or the mask of freedom. The awakening sense of the masses is penetrating the deception. At the same time the mask of political Roman Catholicism, being a more experienced one, has advantages that a newer mask, such as that of the Guardians, can not begin to compare with. The consequence lies on the hand. The weaker mask crumbles long before the older and tougher.

There is schism in the Roman Catholic political bodies. Spoils can not be a lasting hoop to hold men together. But the Roman Catholic schisms are hushed up, at least are kept from becoming known to any but the most watchful. What is happen-

ing to the Guardians is not schism, proper; it is the discovery of the possession of less ability to keep the trouble a secret.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
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slpns@slp.org