

EDITORIAL

GOULDS, CASTELLANES AND SAGANS FURNISHING TESTIMONY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

“**R**EVOLUTIONARY,” in biggest type, is the label that forces itself upon the principles enunciated, and facts brought to light in Paris in the suit of Count Boni de Castellane for the custody of his children, which had been awarded to his wife, formerly Anna Gould, when she was divorced from him, and who has since married the Prince de Sagan.

Nothing but “Revolution” does every argument spell that is made by M. Clemenceau, ex-Anna Gould’s counsel, and every allegation of fact that the talented counsel makes.

Grounded upon the ethnologic facts established by such scientific authorities as the Lewis H. Morgans, Socialism holds with the Morgans that marriage is a social institution, and that, like all other social institutions, marriage has undergone many changes, is not to-day what it once was, and will not be to-morrow what it is to-day. “Abomination of desolation!” comes at this point the yell from every prop of capitalism—press, pulpit and politician. “Revolution!” they scream in chorus.

And yet what are the facts revealed by M. Clemenceau,—the counsel, surely, of a top-capitalist personage in her relations with similar pillars of present society?

Originally, it was the bridegroom who paid the bride’s parents money, or other valuables, for the possession of his wife. This formality, it is known, no longer exists. M. Clemenceau now uncovers the fact of a complete revolution practiced by the Anna Goulds and the Castellanes. Instead of the bridegroom paying the bride’s parents, exactly the reverse happened in this instance. Anna Gould, the bride, paid the Marquis and Marquise de Castellane, Count Boni’s parents, \$95,000, or be it 475,000 francs, when she married him!

Again, the modern, or orthodox theory is that the husband supports the wife,

not the wife the husband. The fact is reflected in our laws. Only wives are entitled to alimony, not husbands. M. Clemenceau uncovers the robust fact that, not the husband of Anna Gould, Count Boni, supported his wife, but his wife him. During their eleven years of marriage the support of her husband cost Anna Gould \$10,000,000, or be it 50,000,000 francs!

Again, and in this Clemenceau steps upon the corns of our American orthodoxy in particular, Count Boni having objected to the conduct of his divorced wife in traveling with the Prince of Sagan before their marriage, M. Clemenceau declared: “In America, conduct that might shock the more sober element of French society is indulged in by young women without let or hindrance”—in other words, even orthodox America, being the birthplace of the “New Woman,” is revolutionary heterodox compared with France!

Altogether significant is the circumstance that the proofs of a thorough revolution in the institution of marriage, are being furnished from the quarter of the stoutest declaimers against revolution, and of those most interested in reaction.

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

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