

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 2, NO. 239.

NEW YORK, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1902.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE HENRY.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**V**IRTUALLY in a solid body, the ruling class of America is salaaming to His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Prussia. Why so?

Is the personage in question the incarnation of some uplifting principle in man? Or has he distinguished himself by some feat—intellectual, physical or moral—by which the race has been benefited? No. Left to himself, left to his own unaided efforts in the struggle for a rank in society, the present Royal Highness Prince Henry would hardly fill to-day a social niche higher than that of a third rate dealer in groceries or notions, or of a third rate usher in a third rate school. Neither intellectually, physically nor morally is he a portent. Prince Henry is titled “Admiral,”—yet no sane man would entrust his life to a ship actually commanded by him. His other titles are on a par with that. So far from being the incarnation of Sublimity, His Royal Highness Prince Henry, especially considering the matchless opportunities he has enjoyed, is rather, in his own person, the incarnation of Mediocrity. Is it, then, Mediocrity that the ruling class of the land is now rendering homage and burning incense to? No, indeed, the Capitalist Class of America is now engaged in no such lowly sport: its homage and its incense actually aim high.

Whatever his insignificance in other directions, His Royal Highness Prince Henry is, tho’ not exclusively pre-eminent, yet among the pre-eminencies in two directions of prime importance to the Capitalist Class. He is an incarnation of the perverse social institutions under which artificial corks will keep the unworthy floating where he would otherwise sink, and which, inversely, furnishes artificial lead to keep the worthy sunk who would otherwise float; he is also an incarnation of that mysticism which usurped power always seeks to cloak itself in as a safeguard against the prying looks of its victims. In both these respects His Royal Highness’s brother, the Emperor, would have filled the bill better. In default of the Emperor

himself, American Capitalism takes his brother, and makes up for the difference with the increased ostentatiousness of its reverence.

The ruling Capitalist Class could not be where it is, without the artificial corks of Capitalism that buoy it up: with a free field and no favors, that class would be down and off the back of the Working Class, that it to-day keeps under and fleeces. Again, the time has come when the originally “unbelieving” Capitalist Class needs, as it needs bread, all available mysticism in which to envelop the source of its “rights,” lest their actual impure source be ascertained; if ascertained, broken would be the spell that to-day keeps the bulk of the Working Class bound to the chariot wheels of their plunderers. His Royal Highness Prince Henry furnishes the Capitalist Class with the opportunity—or, to put it more correctly, the Capitalist Class of America has furnished itself, through His Royal Highness Prince Henry, with the opportunity—to glorify the principles that are to-day the breath of its nostrils.

In salaaming to His Royal Highness Prince Henry, the American Capitalist Class is rendering homage to the theory of artificial social corks, and it is burning incense to mysticism.

Nor should the seriousness of the performance obscure its droll side: His Royal Highness Prince Henry naively imagines all the salaaming is done for his benefit: fact is that our Capitalist Class is acting “at” the Working Class.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded August 2006