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EDITORIAL

## GREETING THE NEW YEAR.

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**A**MID shoutings and horn blowings, amid the whistlings of steamers and ringing of bells, a New Year has been ushered in. Among the sounds, some giddy, some solemn, which welcomed it, two sets may be distinguished as of particular importance.

The first set is composed of notes of grief, of anguish. In it are blended the widows' wails from Lick Branch and Marianna, from Radbod and from Hanna, Wyoming, where sturdy miners who swung their picks when the last year was young now swing them no more. In it quaver the moans of orphans whose fathers, employed in other paths of industry, have stained the wheels of manufacture with their life-blood. There can be heard the sighs of mothers over their infants, tender buds snipped off by the fell curses of malnutrition and overcrowding. From the throats of the hundreds of thousands thrown out of work, reduced in wages, deprived of food and living by the panic, the cry of desolation arises.—With such a choral dirge did the exploited, impoverished, working class hail the New Year.

The second set of sounds is of different tenor, though springing from the same causes. Here all is hope, vigor, encouragement. Though not in boastfulness, one can hear the battle-hymn chanted. The army that bears the name of "Socialist Labor Party" aloft on its banners lies bivouacked for a night. Undaunted by smallness of numbers or by seeming reverses, staunch in the correctness of its principles, the intrepid vanguard of the Revolutionary Army holds its post. Above that camp ascend but vows of determination, and pledges of faithfulness of brother to brother. "The unconditional surrender of the capitalist class," is the battle-cry and watchword.

These two sets of sounds mingled with the storm of noise of New Year's Eve. The one is the voice of the wrongs of the race; the second, the pledge that those

wrongs shall be redressed. And until the day of Socialist, victory can neither sound cease.

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

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