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EDITORIAL

## FATUOUS OR WHISTLING LONDON "TIMES."

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**J**UBILANT at the arrest of Gustave Herve for his anti-militarist propaganda, the London *Times* declares "anti-militarism has received a blow from which it will not easily recover," and the Tory paper proceeds to explain what it understands by anti-militarism in these words: "The ends of Herveism are manifestly criminal. It aims at the destruction of the State and, very logically, at the destruction of the armed forces by which the State protects itself and the whole body of its citizens against foreign and domestic foes." Giving the English of these words, the sentence reads: "The ends of Herveism are manifestly criminal. It aims at the destruction of the political fastness from which the capitalist class dominates the working class, and, logically enough, Herveism aims at the destruction of the armed forces by which the occupants of that political fastness protect themselves and the members of their privileged body against the aspirations of that mass of the people who really constitute the Nation." No fault can be found with the *Times'* definition of Herveism, for that very reason, the *Times'* opinion that the arrest of Herve has dealt to his purpose "a blow from which it will not easily recover" is mere fatuity, or, perhaps, a whistling to keep up the paper's courage.

For every one Herve imprisoned in the course of the present Social struggle, hundreds of Herves were imprisoned, their noses slit, the right hands chopped off, and, not infrequently, their bodies hanged by the neck from gallows in the course of the struggle that the bourgeois conducted against the class whose dying remnants the *Times* is to-day the spokesman of—the feudality of Great Britain. And yet, despite all such imprisonments, mutilations and the murders of those who attacked the "ancient regime," the ancient regime went down in such disgrace that to-day it ekes out the prolongation of the remnant of its existence by filling the ignominious role of slattern to its former assailant, the now triumphant, but equally

bloodstained capitalism.

The moral of the experience is that MEN may be imprisoned; their noses may be slit; their hands may be chopped off; they may be even done to death—but PRINCIPLE, never. Its nose can never be slit; its hands can never be chopped off; it can never be done to death or placed behind prison bars. Nor stony tower, nor walls of beaten brass, nor airless dungeon, nor strong links of iron can be retentive of the strength of the conquering Spirit of an Age.

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