

The Birth of Modern Capitalism

By F. W. MOORE

(Concluded from last issue.)

Bishop Churchianity: I admit your surmise is correct provided you substitute for the word "subjugation" the words "beneficial moulding." I don't think I ever did, or ever shall see any works of man that couldn't be improved upon, and our attempts to function as financiers for Terrestrial humanity, are no exception to the rule. What we really need according to opinions made public by His Royal Highness, Beelzebub, is a closer alliance between certain heads of our infernal research and broad-casting departments, namely between Mr. Arch. Financier and the Misses Kashion, Credit, Churchianity, and Newspress. We must arrange our marriages in Hades according to the demands of economic expediency. Polygamy, therefore, under certain circumstances, is not only correct, but is essential to such success as present conditions allow us to achieve. There is a time coming, however, when the people will not only forbid such marriages, but will compel those already married polygamously, to obtain divorces since there are forces at work even now amongst Terrestrians shaping their destiny in a manner that cannot be frustrated even by our own apparently unlimited power.

In the meantime we must try and arrange this marriage as soon as possible; furthermore, we must not allow our collaborators to waste time in descending to the absurdities of lovemaking as witnessed amongst the incarnate members of the unsophisticated terrestrial herds. The ladies themselves are philosophers, and are therefore amenable to reason. Let us arrange a meeting to be addressed by Mr. Financier. It will be, perhaps, an innovation in lovemaking, but then lovemaking is so closely connected with money-making, now-a-days, that such a meeting will be merely an acknowledgment of a well-known condition. I see you ladies have been listening. What do you think of our plans?

Ladies in Chorus: Let us have the meeting.

Miss Kashion: Yes, let us have the meeting; if it does not turn out profitably, at least we shall have plenty of fun.

Exit Omnes.

Act III. Next day

Public discussion on marriages of convenience; audience assembles in Satan's throne room.

Beelzebub: Ladies and gentlemen, as you are well aware, this meeting has materialized under most extraordinary circumstances yet under circumstances that are fraught with very far-reaching consequences. We live, as you all know, under a system of Capitalism which might appropriately be termed "nascent"; since it is so far from being mature; indeed, to a very great extent, it is still under the influence of its mother, Feudalism; and although, it is the instrument by which men must climb the heights that separate them from an international have, to a great extent, usurped the functions of the government in reference to the control of coinage.

Yet we know of no law by means of which we could compute the time that must elapse before such achievement becomes possible. The desire to make money will impel the manufacture to improve machinery, but the same desire will impel him to keep his fellow-men in subjection, and it is on this trait of his character that we propose to act. There is no excuse needed for following such a course. It is the duty of the denizens of the nether world to lead men astray. Perhaps we like it, but what honourable man does not like his duty? Let us therefore, come to the point: we must inspire the financier to use the wealth of the world in retarding progress amongst the masses of the people, and at the same time suggest the blackest lie that ever was invented—that he himself is casting out the anthropoid in his nature. We must urge persistence in this course of action by every means in our power, since the workers are not fit for a higher plane of existence until stern necessity sharpens

their wits sufficiently to enable them to comprehend the motives for our machinations; and in the meantime there is no reason why our faithful allies, the financiers, should not benefit by conditions as they exist.

Having thus prefaced my remarks I have now reached the real question at issue which is this: If the financier is to succeed in monopolizing the natural resources of the world in the interests of the few, he must form an indissoluble alliance with those nether-world princesses to whom is confided the task of moulding public opinion on the planet Terra. There are at least four such ladies present at our meeting tonight: the Misses Kashion, Credit, Newspress, and Churchianity. These ladies, the princes of the powers of darkness are willing to treat with on terms of absolute equality. We shall therefore maintain no false attitude of gallantry such as is assumed on Terra by the husbands of women who are weaklings. We openly confess: that there is no romance about the present proceedings; that the grandest function of our lives is to corrupt humanity by gaining control of the minds of the masses; and that in order to gain this control we must bring about a matrimonial alliance between Mr. Financier and the four ladies mentioned above. Of course, that might be called bigamy, but what of it? Are we not a law unto ourselves? I am sure we shall all be delighted to hear what the ladies themselves have to say on the subject.

Miss Kashion: In replying to the remarks of His Royal Highness I might say that I appreciate the standing that he is willing to concede to women. Believing him honest I know that he will tolerate any answer that I choose honestly to give. Very well then, I strongly object to be one of the wives of Mr. Financier, but as the money he controls, places in his power agents, who can according to circumstances bestow splendid success or ignoble failure on the individual teacher, it behoves me on the part of the profession to accede to the overtures of Mr. Financier, but I warn him that as time elapses, he will find in me a rebellious helpmate, to whose curtain lectures he shall finally succumb, and in the meantime I would advise him when seeking an educational staff, to pick his choice from those millions of Terrestrians who are still unaware of the class nature of society; under these circumstances, if Mr. Financier is satisfied I shall accept his proposal.

Miss Churchianity: Ladies and gentlemen, as a broadcasting representative of the nether world, a fountain of inspiration for reactionary churches, and a relative of our noble king, Beelzebub, I rise to give my opinion of the offer of Mr. Financier. I must say I admire his courage. I take it for granted he knows I am a very old maid, and of course, having a wide experience of the world I might add, a wily old maid. I too, with Miss Kashion not only realize the tremendous power of money, but also the utter futility of trying too suddenly to get away from its influence. Under the circumstances I submit myself lowly and reverently to be one of the wives of Mr. Financier.

Miss Newspress: Ladies and gentlemen, I rise to tell you tonight that of all the women of the universe I am the greatest slave, and that, not less so, because I appear as a truculent virago fighting for justice and right. I am compelled to be an abject sycophant, mentally swayed by the cheap trinkets of commerce to say or imply what I know to be the most slanderous and misleading falsehoods, especially in the case of those who advocate the economic consolidation of the world in an international industrial parliament. The advocacy of brotherhood is quite in good form, provided it is supposed to be founded on sentiment, but of what avail is sentiment in the face of rivalry that means commercial life or death? I am virtually a mental prostitute, yet I am not a bad woman. The highest lady in the

land born in my environment would necessarily follow the occupation since self preservation is the first law of nature: in a word I might say that my whole clientele eats out of the hand of Mr. Financier. We live on his advertisements. I shall gladly marry him if he is willing, but I warn him that my rightful husband ought to be the people and that some day they may compel a divorce since, in the nature of the case, I am more fitted for a polyandrian than for a polygamous marriage. In the meantime I place myself wholly in the care of Mr. Financier; if he is content, so am I.

Miss Credit: Ladies and gentlemen, I can deduce quite logically from the statements of the other ladies that I am the only independent member of the group. My delight is to serve those who understand me, and whether my collaborators are plutocrats or proletaires, is none of my business: nevertheless, although I ought to belong to all mankind as a body, I am now completely owned by a powerful and rapacious few who have arrogated to themselves the most profitable monopoly known to man, namely, the virtual creation of money and consequently the inflation and deflation of its value to suit their own convenience.

If you will allow me I shall present you with information copied from a paper published on the planet Mars where capitalism has reached a state of development that we Terrestrians are gradually approximating: "Bankers," the Martian editor tells us, "will accept the note and security of a borrower and give him credit for a deposit which he can turn into money by using a cheque, but the money itself, which is usually of the paper variety, is also bank credit."

The report of the comptroller of the Consolidated States of Martian Ammurika, shows that 99% of our entire medium of exchange is bank credit " . . . we speak of borrowing money from a bank, but in reality we do not borrow money—we borrow the bank's credit, or rather we exchange our private and less-known credit for the bank's better-known credit."—Statesman, Ap. 24. In the same article are quoted these significant words by Mr. Goodward a well known Martian labour member of parliament: "We have on our statute books old laws that make coining one of the worst crimes imaginable, and yet, to all intents and purposes, the banks of today are doing coining. They have taken out of the hands of the government the power of issuing the great part of our money. We have here in Mars the steady concentration of capital in the hands of a few: in recent years we had merger after merger. Why should not the government control automatically this money situation rather than allow a group of a dozen men, who are not responsible to the people to do so." That, ladies and gentlemen, is the situation all over the planet Mars. It exists on the earth too, but in a nascent state, hence the prospect for financiers is bound to be brilliant. Why should not I, therefore, be delighted at being forced into the service that I love? That is why I say, that in a way, I am absolutely independent, since I shall function as a great force in the evolution of humanity regardless altogether of what section of it I am serving temporarily. That is the other fellow's business, not mine. Mr. Financier has taken possession of me already; if the people who ought to love me don't do so, we must take it for granted that they know their own business best. I too, under these circumstances, shall be delighted to marry Mr. Financier.

Mr. Financier's Reply: Ladies and gentlemen, I need hardly say that I feel overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude at being supported so loyally by four such charming partners.

Their support is all the more gratifying since it is founded on common sense and reason as applied to modern social conditions which compel me no less than them, to assume temporarily the leading