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Zitiervorschlag:

Paul Lafargue an Friedrich Engels in London. Madrid, Sonntag, 11. Februar 1872. In: Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe digital, hg. v. der Internationalen Marx-Engels-Stiftung. Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften, Berlin. URL https://megadigital.bbaw.de/briefe/detail.xql?id=M6197662

Paul Lafargue an Friedrich Engels in London. Madrid, Sonntag, 11. Februar 1872

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Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW) Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe

Handschrift: Standort Orig. nicht bekannt; Kopie: RGASPI f. 1 op. 1 d. 3155
Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Soweit aus der s/w-Fotokopie zu ersehen ist, besteht der Brief aus einem Blatt Papier. Lafargue hat beide Seiten vollständig beschrieben.

Fotosignatur auf beiden beschriebenen Seiten: „14099a–b“.

Erstveröffentlichung: Correspondance 3 (1959). S. 446–448.

Absender: Paul Lafargue
Schreibort: Madrid
Schreibdatum: 1872-02-11

Empfänger: Friedrich Engels
Empfangsort: London

| My dear general

I write you in English for many reasons that I believe you will be shrewd enough to find out; if not may the devil take you. If my blunders make you laugh so much the better, for in that case I should combine the useful and the agreeable as Horace[a] advices, without any effort on my part, I assure you.

About two weeks ago I wrote to you[b] on Spanish affairs, I have not yet received an answer: but I hope you received my letter, because it would have given you a fair idea of the movement here. Since then affairs have grown much worse for the Italian commercial house and probably the chief will make bankrupt and fly to the shores of his fatherland, if he is not caught on the way, in that case he will probably cut his last grimace. In prevision of the forthcoming events, our friends are courted by all intrigants and men of action; but being very cautious they intend playing the part of the monkey letting the latter take the chestnuts out of the fire. For that purpose two commercial travellers will start to-morrow in order to visit our corresponding houses of the provinces with private instructions on their conduct in case of a bankrupt of the Italian house and at the same time to see the most intelligent and energetic men and learn what confidence we can place in them. Our company having been the object of the furious | competition of the Italian house will acquire a great moral influence on the day of the fall of the said great house; and all the other trades-men understand very well the good position in which it is placed. By the letters we receive daily of our provincial houses their hope of success is very great. The late

attitude taken by us in our last circular[c] of which we sent you a copy has pleased all our friends and enraged all the other trades men; in Madrid and in all the other towns it has been placarded on the walls. It was the first step taken here in the practical way, and I contributed greatly to its being taken. As we advance we shall grow~~n~~ more and more practical, as you will see from our paper. In the next number there will be inserted a furious attack on Mazzini[fe], that will please you and ~~Morh~~ Mohr[h], and is penned by your servitor. I hope you were clever enough to distinguish my writings, which are conceived in ~~Morh~~ Mohr's ideas: they will have enough influence here to transform the idealistic theories of our friends, who are more practical than they appear at first sight.

Laura[j] has copied for you a piece of verse on the fools of the International[i]. Why do you not send us english newspapers? Send them to Mesa[k]'s house.

Schnappy[l] is a little better.

My compliments to M[rs]Burns[m].

Yours faithfully
Toole I.

Madrid 11[th] February 72.

Erläuterungen

a) Horatius Flaccus, Quintus (65 v. Chr.-8 v. Chr.)

b) P. Lafargue an Engels, 25.–26.1.1872.

c) Wahrscheinlich ist gemeint: Asociación Internacional de los Trabajadores. Manifiesto. El Consejo Federal de la Region Española á los Federados y á todos los Trabajadores de España. In: La Emancipación. Madrid. Nr. 34, 4. Februar 1872. S. 1, Sp. 3–S. 2, Sp. 3[d] (BNE).

d) Zotero Link für: Asociación Internacional de los Trabajadores. Manifiesto. El Consejo Federal de la Region Española á los Federados y á todos los Trabajadores de España. In: La Emancipación. Madrid. Nr. 34, 4. Februar 1872. S. 1, Sp. 3–S. 2, Sp. 3

e) [Paul Lafargue:] Mazzini y la Internacional. In: La Emancipación. Madrid. Nr. 36, 18. Februar 1872. S. 3. Sp. 1–3[g].

f) Mazzini, Giuseppe (1805-1872)

g) Zotero Link für: [Paul Lafargue:] Mazzini y la Internacional. In: La Emancipación. Madrid. Nr. 36, 18. Februar 1872. S. 3. Sp. 1–3

h) Marx, Karl (1818-1883)

i) Die Beilage ist überliefert (RGASPI, f. 1 op. 1 d. 3155); s/w-Kopie mit Transkription siehe hier.

j) Lafargue, Laura (1845-1911)

k) Mesa y Leompart, José (1831 (n.a. 1840)-1904)

l) Lafargue, Charles Étienne (31.12.1868-1872)

m) Burns, Lydia (1827-1878)

Kritischer Apparat