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ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## 'TIS NO WONDER.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE Rev. Dr. David Gregg, pastor of the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn, has just inherited by the will of his mother property amounting to \$750,000.

Is this amount in canned meats, or canned vegetables, or trunk-fulls of clothing, or hats, or shoes, from which to derive food and comfort for the inner man; or does it consist of books, pictures, musical instruments and their appendages to feed the mind? No; the \$750,000 inheritance consists of none of those things. Nor yet does it consist of gold and silver coin, or greenbacks, or treasury, or bank notes. Even if the inheritance of the Rev. Gregg consisted of such things, an inquisitive mind would be justified to raise the curtain, and inquire into the source of that wealth, and, the inquiry having revealed certain secrets, question, perhaps, the propriety of anybody's, a minister in particular, consuming such goods. But the inheritance that has fallen to the Rev. Gregg is none of those things. What, then, does it consist of?

The \$750,000 inheritance is reported to consist mainly of "valuable stocks and mortgages." In other words, what the Rev. Gregg has received is a \$750,000-power to absorb unto himself the wealth that others produce. Considering that the inheritance consists of "valuable" stocks and mortgages, it is safe to say that the said stocks and mortgages will bring in dividends and interest averaging 10 per cent; that would furnish the Rev. Gregg \$75,000 a year of the fruit of the sweat of other peoples' brow; halve the said average dividends and interest, say they average only 5 per cent. The blood-money would still run up to the snug amount of a yearly \$37,500 sum.

It is not reported that the Rev. Dr. Gregg has given up his pulpit; on the contrary, the report is to the effect that he continues to grace it "with the admiration of his flock." And it is not reported that the Rev. Gregg has taken steps

to utilize the power he inherited so as to overthrow the iniquitous system that can enable an able-bodied man to sponge a living upon the toilers; on the contrary, it is reported that the Rev. Gregg is sermonizing upon the “sanctity of property,” a thing that he is a living denial of.

Long before it was a social possibility to abstain from taking “increment”—the equivalent of interest, rent or profit—the Psalmist thundered against the practice and shut its indulgers out of the “Divine City”; long before social development had rendered affluence possible for all, and consequently the contrast of the “rich” and “poor” no longer an inevitable evil, did the Master, whom the Rev. Gregg pretends to worship, declare it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. To-day when the former impossibilities have become possible, a minister sets the example and accepts the now unqualifiedly iniquitous creed of capitalism, with the “admiration of his flock.”

Any wonder that from all Churches the people are falling away?

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

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