

EDITORIAL

## ROBERT ARTHINGTON, AN EXHIBIT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE will of Robert Arthington, who died in Tiegnmouth, England, is said by the press to disclose “the largest single bequest for foreign missions.”

Indeed, the amount is large—\$4,500,000; indeed, it is for foreign missions; and indeed, it is a bequest. So far, everything tallies with the press opinion.

But there is another angle from which to view Robert Arthington’s will. It discloses the largest single chunk of evidence of the material conception of the basis of things, institutions, ideals, ethics, and even religion, even among those who are most boastful of their spirituality.

Matthew, chapter XXIV, utters, the warning that “many shall come in my name saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many”; “if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there, believe it not”; “if they shall say unto you, Behold he is in the desert; go not forth: behold he is in the secret chambers; believe it not”—“for as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.”

This express language notwithstanding; aye, flying in the teeth of the poetically expressed and profound truth that the happening of so portentous an event as the appearance of “the Son of man” will and must be like the lightning, which, coming out of any quarter of the compass, must and will be obvious in all others;—notwithstanding this language, even in denial of this language, the devout Robert Arthington devotes \$4,500,000 solid matter to keep the “Light of Life as a lamp” in “Africa, South America, in Central America, in Asia, in the South Sea Islands and in the Indian Archipelago,” to the end that “all tribes and great peoples, destitute of said Gospels should in some means be reached promptly, the actual heathen first, and put in possession of said Gospels.”

Robert Arthington could hardly be called a Socialist; yet he is the biggest single exhibit of Socialist materialism.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)