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EDITORIAL

HOMEOPATHY RAMPANT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

IN mass convention, assembled, with himself, the Rev. Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman, former pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church of this city, moved a resolution; seconded it himself; himself put it to the “house”; eloquently supported it, himself punctuating the good points with long, loud and prolonged applause; and finally carried the resolution unanimously with a whoop that “Anarchy must be suppressed”; that he is the man to do the job; and that the evidence of the urgent necessity of the job being tackled, and of its being tackled by him, was to be seen in the “Anarchistic fact” of there being, in this city alone, “more than 1,000,000 non-church Protestants, and a vast number of people, who were active church members in other towns and cities, never touching foot within a church door in New York.” That the number of former church goers—Jew and Gentile, Catholic and Protestant alike—who “never touch foot” in church these days is legion and their number is on the daily increase, is a well known and not insignificant phenomenon of our days—so far one must agree with the Rev. Dr. Chapman; that the phenomenon means Anarchy is not acceptable; nevertheless, granting that the Rev. Dr.’s social diagnosis be correct and Anarchy is what the phenomenon portends, the Rev. Dr. must be a homeopathist run mad by imagining that people of his kidney are the ones to replenish the now empty and emptying pews. For these many generations the Rev. Drs. have run things to suit themselves; they certainly run the churches, and the result is, admittedly, that they have run the churches empty. What theory of social therapeutics but that of the wildest of homeopathy would expect a cure from an intensification of the cause of the disease—expect to re-attract the former church goers by letting loose upon them their drivers away?

More modest than the Rev. Dr. Wilbur Chapman, who met in mass convention

with himself, but not a whit less rampantly homeopathic, were the Republicans of New York who met in State Convention a few days ago. Among the things that these gentlemen declared was the conviction that “a clear assurance of Republican victory in the Nation and State this autumn would exert a powerful influence in restoring public confidence.” One almost holds his breath at such naiveté, or shall it be called “cheek”? Amazed at the effrontery of the Republican party in disclaiming responsibility for the crisis and the infamies which it uncovered, Senator Tillman bellowed in the Senate:—“If you ask who passed the laws which are so defective, the answer is the Republican Congress; if you ask who failed to pass the laws so necessary to remedy all these evils, the answer is the Republican Congress. The people have been betrayed by those for whom they voted. . . . The public conscience has been debauched by favoritism in Government in the interest of these very ‘predatory rich’ who are so vigorously denounced by the President. The poor fools who are shouting his praises have so far failed to understand that the bad Government which the Republican party has given the country is due solely to the ignorance and debauchery of the people. Misled and deceived by the newspapers which are owned by these same rich men labor organized and disorganized trails along behind the banner of Republicanism and shouts for Roosevelt and his policies. The millions who have been robbed are equally as enthusiastic as the millionaires who have been benefited.” It is of no consequence to the subject that the Democratic party, being a capitalist party, would have presided over the present national downfall exactly as the Republican party does. The important fact in the case is that Tillman told the truth—and yet this identical Republican party expects to “restore confidence” by continuing and increasing the Republican dose.

If this is not homeopathic dementia, what is it? It is treating the man bitten by a dog with a hair of the dog that bit him.

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

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slpns@slp.org