

EDITORIAL

PRESBYTERIANS IN FULL RETREAT.

By DANIEL DE LEON

THE most rigid of all Presbyterian organizations is the United Presbyterian Church. With this organization it has been a rule, strictly enforced, that no person could be received into membership without assenting to a covenant which bound him to observe family worship “unless providentially hindered.” Now, the *Book of Government*, pending before the United Presbyterian Church, is to be revised, and the committee on revision recommends the omission of this stipulation of family worship.

The New York *Christian Intelligencer*, commenting on this new departure states that the “gradually changing social and commercial conditions during the last half century have rendered it well nigh impossible for many families residing in hustling cities and their suburbs to keep up the religious custom of family worship morning and evening,” and it joins the committee in the belief that the old stipulation should be omitted “for reasons which seem to us positively sane and convincing.”

Judging these folks by their own notions of “God,” “morality” and “religion,” what is their posture?

Socialists have, with facts innumerable asserted that the religion of the capitalist class has the God Capital for their deity—and none other beside Him. The recommendation of the Committee on revision of the *Book of Government* of the United Presbyterian Church, together with the approving words of the *Christian Intelligencer*, furnishes the latest and a powerful corroborative proof.

“Unless providentially hindered” family worship was to be held morning and evening. The old Providence is now substituted by another Providence—the Providence that presides over “commercial conditions” and that generates “hustling cities and their suburbs.” The old fundamental principle remains—there shall be

family worship “unless providentially hindered.” The new Providence, the God Capital, hinders. Consequently the requirement of family worship goes by the board, in worshipful obedience to the will of Him whom capitalism worships.

Judging these folks by their own tenets of “God,” “morality” and “religion,” what is their posture? Is it a posture of resistance to evil, according to their own notions of “religion,” “morality” and “God”?—It is the posture of people in full retreat.

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

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