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EDITORIAL

## ROTTEN!

By DANIEL DE LEON

**O**NE of the wisps in that broom of straw argument with which the Mrs. Partingtons of the present system attempt to wave back the rising tide of Socialism, is the epithet "Rotten!" applied, in various degrees of real or simulated horror, to the fancied break up of the family relations which, in the words of one Childless Mother, is "the real objective of Socialist propaganda."

The fact that the economic freedom of Socialism will raise marriage out of the slough of commercialism where it welters to-day, and make of it a true sacrament of heart joining heart, passes for nought with these gentlefolk. The fact that the plenty attainable by all under Socialism will cut the ground from under the all-too-true proverb, "When poverty enters in at the door, love flies out by the window," is also forgotten by them. Furthermore, the fact that the increase of leisure and education for all which Socialism will turn from a dream into a reality, will have for its effect only the improvement of the higher virtues, and cement, not destroy the home and the family life within it, is wilfully and obstinately ignored by them.

All these facts, plain and undeniable as the nose on their face, do the capitalist Mrs. Partingtons shut their eyes to; and with increased fervor they continue the wavings of their brooms and their cries of "Rotten!"

And then occurs a Ruiz case—the "separated wife of a wealthy Cuban" meeting in London "an American millionaire," alleged to be Alfred Gwynne Vanderbilt, maintaining "relations" with him there, and then shooting herself under circumstances which necessitate the bribing into silence of the coroners and the British press.

Yet not in the Ruiz case itself, but in the flood of other revelations it has started, does its chief value lie. For the American millionaire culprit is to be ostracized, the London despatches declare, not for his "relations" with Mrs.

Ruiz—bless you, no!—but for “the unpardonable sin of being found out.” And the despatches continue: “It is possible to do indescribable things and yet find toleration. For instance, everybody knows a certain member of society who keeps a regular Turkish harem not 100 yards from Oxford Street. He imported it from the East after traveling there. Yet nobody cuts him.”

Full license to do as you please, so long as you are not found out—such is the morality of capitalism.

A useful, clean and happy life, with full opportunity to indulge all healthful wants, and all perversions of instinct wiped out by proper education and environment—such is the morality of Socialism. On which side lies the right to cry “Rotten!”?

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](mailto:slpns@slp.org)