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EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT ELIOT'S CONFESSION.

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IN the course of an address, delivered in Boston, on the 9th instant, before the Twentieth Century Club, the orator of the day said:

“Neither our courts, our legislatures, nor our churches have improved and gained greater hold on the people in the last thirty years.”

If the orator in question simply meant to record a fact, he certainly hit the bull's-eye. The courts that declare the life of a workingman's son to be worth only \$1, and assesses only that amount of damages against a Corporation whose negligence killed the boy; the courts that interfere with injunctions, named “Gatling guns on paper,” in the disputes between workingmen and their exploiters, and turn the said Gatling guns against the workingmen; the courts that, with their fiat “Unconstitutional,” break to the heart of the Working Class every word of promise held to their ears,—such bodies, named courts, cannot gain any hold on the people: they can only lose what hold they had. The legislatures that habitually legislate under the motto: “To him who has more shall be given; from him who has not even that little shall be taken,”—such bodies, named legislatures, whatever else they may do, can assuredly not retain their hold upon the people. The churches, that, as was conspicuously done through Archbishop Corrigan and scores of other prelates, Protestant and Jew, can be guilty of such immorality as to lie deliberately on Socialism and deliberately impute crime to a Movement, the purest that has yet risen in the history of the race; the churches that can preach the language of the Prophets and do lackey work for the “grinders of the faces of the poor;”—such bodies, named churches, cannot fail to lose and lose fast all place in the hearts and the esteem of the people. Accordingly, there is nothing remarkable in the words of the Twentieth Century Club orator.

But if the words are not of themselves remarkable, they become so when the utterer of them is considered; and they become doubly remarkable when it is

learned that they were uttered in sorrow and regret. The orator was President Eliot of Harvard University, and he bemoaned the fact that he recorded!

Whence do occupants of court, legislative and church positions come? Do they spring up from the earth? True enough, here and there an illiterate workingman turns up in legislatures, but that is not the rule. Judges, legislators and churchmen are persons mainly strained through the loins of our colleges and universities. President Eliot himself is responsible for whole rafts of them. In condemning their conduct he condemns himself, along with the other College Presidents. There is where the blame lies.

Our Colleges to-day do not produce men of civic virtues; whatever civic virtue the students may take along with them when they enter College is in most instances wiped out. The Capitalist system of society, along with its implied and expressed code of immorality, is praised up to the student, and all propositions to improve existing evils are derided. Upon graduation, the student is launched upon society a social shark and a hypocrite. To what a shocking extent this is true and what fruits the fact bears, President Eliot's words themselves give an idea of.

Fortunately for the country, that which, at all such historic periods as this, has been seen, is seen to-day. Whenever chartered Colleges have ceased to be the nurseries of civic virtue, together with the sound information on which alone virtue can stand, an un-chartered College springs up, that takes up the work, where the others left off. The great educator of the American people to-day is not the chartered Colleges, it is the Socialist Labor Party. This is the great University of the land. It is rearing the men that will end the regime that President Eliot's confession helps to expose.

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

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