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## **{MARK TWAIN ON MISSIONARIES.}**

By DANIEL DE LEON

when the opposition to him is taken into consideration. Twain's best work was done in ridiculing the American vandal who goes abroad to pluck a hair from the tail of the Sphinx, or to get an eye from the Praxiteles Venus. Our Americans laughed heartily at the humor and justness of the picture, and then in an abstracted way they mutilated whatever works of art came within their reach. They could stand that, because no person was specified. When, however, Twain took up a case in point, and mercilessly exposed the vandalism of the missionaries in China, when he showed that they had looted the palaces and despoiled the temples, and then sold their booty; he was pounced upon by the whole clergymanic body. He was reviled, he was insulted in a most Christianly way, he was called a liar, a rough, uneducated person, a defamer of good men, a boor, and various other things. Had he treated all the actions of our black coated Huns in China in an abstract way, he could have received forgiveness. It was only when he held the Rev. Ament up as the chief of a band of thieves that he transgressed, and closed forever the wellsprings of mercy.

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

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