EDITORIAL

A PILLAR OF “LAW,” “ORDER,” “THE FAMILY,” ETC.

By DANIEL DE LEON

Mrs. Elisa Sutton McKee obtained on the 9th instant a decree of divorce from her husband, A. Hart McKee, a son of the Pittsburg multimillionaire glass manufacturer.

Mrs. McKee testified, and her testimony was corroborated, that her husband beat her; that he threatened “breaking of her neck”; that he heaped opprobrious invectives upon her; that he threw loaded pistols into her lap; that he left her unattended when sick in bed in a dangerous condition; and, to cap the climax of indignities, that he introduced a woman into the house and when she objected, told her if she did not like it she could get out.

We do not know Mr. A. Hart McKee; we do not even remember ever to have heard his name; we know nothing of the worthy except the above facts. Nevertheless, the same as geologists know that under certain rocks there must be water; the same as naturalists know that where there are certain plants there must also be certain bugs; the same as Columbus knew that, the earth being round, land had to lie to the west of the Atlantic;—just so does every observer of the times know that A. Hart McKee must be a member of a crack militia regiment, or that his boon companions are militiamen, whom he regularly joins in their carousals and in the songs they sing expressive of the hope speedily to have a chance to squelch some strike of defenceless workingmen; that A. Hart McKee is a front-pew-holder in some
leading church, where Socialists are denounced as breakers-up and Capitalists praised as the upholders of the family; that A. Hart McKee’s blood boils with patriotic indignation at the very sound of the word “Socialism”; that A. Hart McKee feels a righteous revolt at the “Anarchistic methods” of Socialism; that A. Hart McKee entertains unbounded contempt for the “uncultured workingman”; that A. Hart McKee is looked upon in his circle of acquaintances as a “pillar of Law and Order”; that A. Hart McKee passes with his male acquaintances for a “brave man” and is admired by these.

In short, we know Mr. A. Hart McKee perfectly. The gentleman is a type of the genus “Capitalist Class”.

Uploaded October 2007
slpns@slp.org