

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 360.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

THE REV. R.A. ELWOODS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

RAPE is beastly. The murder that, as a rule, accompanies the deed, only emphasizes its bestiality. It is so unqualifiedly a manifestation of the masterhood of the beast that the question has been even put, whether the being that indulges in it is at all rational, not merely during, but at any time before the commission of the deed. Criminology may be left to investigate the subject, answer the query, and suggest the method of treatment. But, whatever the answer of criminology may be on that particular head, there can be no doubt as to its opinion of the being who, with the marks of culture and refinement about him, and in sentences grammatically and euphoniously turned, will deliberately evoke the latent beast in man and incite such a spectacle as the three to four thousand Delawarians witnessed and cheered on the morning of the 23d instant—the Rev. R.A. Elwood.

Let criminology pronounce the worst sentence on the humanity of the man guilty of rape. The more completely he is placed out of the pale of the human, all the less becomes the real danger to the human race from such a crime; such beings must be rare, few, indeed; and their misdeeds are isolated acts, that in and of themselves they end there. But what about the Rev. R.A. Elwoods? It is to be hoped that there are not many of them. But even if there be but one, his influence blights whole areas of the population. If, as is undoubtedly the case, the beast is the foundation of rape, then the Rev. R.A. Elwood has at least laid the foundation for the foundation of rape in many hundreds of human beings. In all, the best of us, the beast lies crouching. The Rev. R.A. Elwood woke it up; goaded it; set it on its feet in the breasts of three or four thousand Delawarians; made murder palatable to them—aye, did more, gave the awakened beast, whose cunning is Satanic, the

wished-for pretence of promoting justice and morality, and of being sanctified by religion. Those thousands of men AND BOYS will never again be the same they once were. Between the beings that woke up the previous morning and those that retired to bed the following morning, after witnessing and helping at the lynching, the stake at which they helped to burn a human being in calmness and mid jeers, marks a deep cleft.

The Rev. R.A. Elwoods are social pests.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official Web site of the Socialist Labor Party of America.
Uploaded December 2006