

DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 5, NO. 196.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1905.

ONE CENT.

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

DIVORCE FOR MRS. McKEE.

Pittsburg Court Grants Decree on
Ground of Indignities.

Special to The New York Times.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 9.—A decree of divorce was granted Elisa Sutton McKee today by Judge J. A. Evans in Common Pleas Court No. 3. Mrs. McKee is a daughter of Dr. R. S. Sutton, a well-known Allegheny physician, and A. Hart McKee, her husband, is a son of H. Sellers McKee, the well-known Pittsburg glass manufacturer and capitalist.

The decree divorces Mr. McKee from his wife on the grounds that he offered such indignities to her as to render her condition intolerable and life burdensome, and thereby forced her to withdraw from his house. Mrs. McKee, after telling of her marriage to McKee, testified in part as follows:

“After our marriage we went abroad, sailing in November, 1899, and returning

See the complete *New York Times* article by clicking here.

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".

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

Uploaded October 2007

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