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EDITORIAL

A QUESTION TO MY LORD.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WE have no idea who may be Lord Abinger—the two words inscribed in large letters as “Hon. Treasurer” in a neatly and several-color printed 15-page little pamphlet entitled *Every Woman’s Peril*, the purpose of which pamphlet is “the exposure and consequent destruction of Socialism” especially on account of the “Slavery for women” that Socialism contemplates, and the further purpose of which pamphlet is the announcement of the organization of the “Anti-Socialist Union of Great Britain,” and last, but no doubt not least, the solicitations of funds for the said Union.

We have no idea who the said Lord Abinger may be. We have no recollection of having come across His Grace’s name among the British noble notabilities who figure in the realms of statesmanship, the Navy, the Army, science, literature or art. But that should not be scored against him. The Hon. Treasurer of the Anti-Socialist Union of Great Britain may be one of those meek, self-effacing, modest beings who shrink from public gaze, whom only the sense of self-abnegation can induce to stand forth in the limelight, and who consent to sacrifice their own retiredness upon the altar of the to them sacred subject of woman’s purity by accepting the office of and allowing themselves to be advertised as “Hon. Treasurer.”

To this My Lord the *Daily People* wishes to put the following question:

“The goal of Socialism is to abolish involuntary poverty, this means the securing of economic independence of man. The collective ownership of the things necessary to production, is the means that Socialism declares requisite for reaching the goal. Now, then, will My Lord please tell us, Do you approve of the goal or do you not? If My Lord disapproves of the goal, then we are ready to drop him right here, and will be justified to conclude that he is enlisted with those who find their

account in the continuance of the present conditions, and that all his declamation of love for his kind is the regulation false pretense of the vampire. If, however, My Lord approves of the goal—economic independence—then we would ask him, What other means do you propose to reach the goal?”

All this talk about Socialism threatening to blast woman is beside the question. The question is, how to emancipate man and woman from the thrall of economic dependence. Will Socialism do it? Then the “blasting of woman” is moonshine. Will Socialism not encompass economic independence, then the attack against it must be directed to that point. He who leaves that point untouched, and yells “woman will be blasted” justifies the suspicion that what he is doing is to hide behind woman’s skirt in order to shelter his own base ends—the ends of upholding a social system where Labor is robbed of its product, and poverty is the doom of the masses, and woman is debauched.

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