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EDITORIAL

THE MARTYRDOM OF PATRIOTISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

POTTER Palmer of Chicago is dead.
Potter Palmer was a patriot.

He foresaw the Civil War, and his patriotic heart swelled within him. So he invested all the money he could get his hands on in woolen and cotton goods, and he made \$5,000,000 on his patriotism and foresight.

Then, having done all that he could for his country, he retired from business in the memorable year, 1865.

He rested long on his laurels, and presumably was proud of the many wounds he missed. In 1871 civic patriotism called on him, for the city of Chicago, where he lived, had a "visitation of God," and a terrible fire wiped out the greater portion of the city.

Mr. Palmer was among the greatest sufferers, as his hotel and many other buildings belonging to him were burned. But disdaining all that, he went to work, bought the depreciated property from the impoverished holders, rounded up three-quarters of a mile of valuable land along State street, and within five years Mr. Palmer's patriotism, expressed in cash, was worth \$25,000,000.

He began as a poor boy. Many of his closest friends, who began rich and continued



POTTER PALMER (1826-1902)

so until they made his acquaintance, died as he began, as far as property is concerned.

This is all a valuable lesson in American patriotism, and shows what thrift, industry, a Civil War, a great conflagration, and willingness to take advantage of your stricken friends, city, and country can do for you.

It is a text worthy any pulpit.

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