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EDITORIAL

## “APPLIED CITIZENSHIP.”

By DANIEL DE LEON

**N**EW YORK is bad enough, despite Mayor Gaynor’s praises of the city; Philadelphia is even worse, being described as “corrupt and content”; San Francisco is frequently referred to as “a sink unspeakable”; of Cincinnati hard things are said, and so on, more or less, of all our large cities. Nevertheless, if there be one of all of these that carries the palm it is Pennsylvania’s Pittsburg. With its suburban, not slave pens, but hell pens, belching fire and smoke, and grinding up and consuming human life with a shameless openness, even ostentation, matched nowhere else, the object lesson for civic misconduct and general, old Roman-like all-round bestiality held up to light, day and night, by Pittsburg’s capitalist class is unmatched. It is no accident that from Pittsburg hail the Harry Thaws; that in Pittsburg flourished the Coreys; that through Pittsburg’s loins are strained more political and civic scandals—bank defalcations, aldemanic briberies, police swindles, etc., etc.,—than even in Greater New York with our many times larger area and population. “Graftburg,” not Pittsburg, should be that center’s name.

An overdose of a harmful drug often is the best antidote. Upon that principle an overdose of civic vice such as Pittsburg is might prove the best corrective. Is that the principle with which to account for William H. Stevenson’s proposition for the establishment of a school of Applied Citizenship, made by him in an address at the Carnegie Tech Schools?

Mr. Stevenson reasoned: “You have already established fruitful schools of applied science, applied industries and applied designs, why not a school of applied citizenship?”—and the gentleman expects to that end an endowment of at least \$100,000 from Andrew Carnegie, the human symbol of the civic-virtue-undermining, brazen-brutal capitalism of Pittsburg.

Whatever may come of the endowment and the school, Mr. Stevenson has certainly given an illustration of “applied Graft.” The dose of Pittsburgism is not antidote to him. It is an appetizer.

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