

EDITORIAL

SCLEROSICAL SOCIALISM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

WAS the Boston *Traveller* of last January 23 suppressing a smile, or what was it doing, when with broad triple column headlines, it announced “Bay State Democracy Socialistic” as the conviction of the Massachusetts “Lone Socialist Legislator,” a Socialist party gentleman, Charles H. Morrill by name, whose charming picture the paper joins to the declaration together with a variety of details by the same gentleman.

The gentleman is placidly of the opinion that Gov. Foss is now doing all that any Socialist could do. What the Governor is doing Mr. Morrill admits is not the real thing at all points. “The real start,” he lets us know with a candor that matches his countenance, “will come through the ownership by the people of, first, all business of transportation, then of some of the great Trusts that have become monopolies, and then gradually as the people desire, of all business in which the producers will in common are entitled. Meantime Socialists are not revolutionary.”

Medical friends have informed this office concerning a certain disease named “sclerosis.” The disease is a rather serious thing—serious by reason of its “gradual” approaches; serious by reason of its seductiveness; serious by reason of the frequency of its leaving, under auspices of the undertaker, the house in which it made a call. “Sclerosis,” for instance, will start by hardening an artery at a certain spot; then it will harden the artery at either another spot, or it will extend the area hardened before; or it will do both. Sclerosis, in the meantime, not being revolutionary, brings about imperceptibly its ultimate object. In the measure that the artery gets hardened it loses its elasticity; in the matter that all the arteries become hardened, they lose their elasticity. That stage having been reached, the arteries, no longer being able to keep the coursing blood in check, the blood rushes on—and death ensues.

This is the “evolutional” process of Mr. Morrill’s Socialism. It brings gradual death till it winds up the actual thing. The Morrill path is the sclerosis path. Sclerosical Socialism is the thing that the Socialist party lone man in the Massachusetts Legislature is the bacterium of—and feels proud about it.

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