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Dupers Duped.

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The humiliation of the people of Greece is an experience that any people may make who allow themselves to be the cattle for capitalists to speculate on, or pawns for financiers to play with on the chess-board of their financial schemes.

Some sixty years ago a crop of agitational literature sprang up in Europe on the subject of Grecian freedom from Mussulman ferocity. Besides articles in magazines and newspapers of all languages, novels in all languages appeared in which the central hero or heroine was a Greek pursued by ferocious Turks. It is now known that this extensive literature was inspired by financiers, who had a scheme on foot, and whose scheme could not fructify but with the independence of Greece. The novels and articles were intended to create public sentiment. Based upon them it was claimed that the "public sentiment of Christendom" demanded the emancipation of Greece. The result was the new kingdom, with a foreign dynasty and a huge loan to pay the interest on which the toilers of Greece forthwith began to sweat. The King and court lolled in easy cushions of luxury and consumed the revenues, while the Grecian people staggered under a heavier load than the Turks had imposed upon them.

But the mortgage did not turn out very lucrative. All taxation, notwithstanding, the interest could not be paid on the foreign debt. More than 30 years ago the Grecian Government defaulted payment, and during recent years its securities kept on plunging downward. This experience cooled the ardor for Christianity which so shortly before had animated the financiers. Greece fell into disgrace by them. So long as the financiers alone suffered, the Greek Court did not care. It had played along with them, the rôle of dupers, when it turned its eyes upward with devotional love for the Cross, and when it rattled its sword or picked up its silk skirts at the utterance of "Mussulman." The Greek Court lived in the belief that its fellow dupers of the Grecian people, the financiers of London, Paris, Brussels, Amsterdam and Berlin and Vienna would feel compelled to keep up their pharisaic pretensions, and stoutly stand by "Christian Greece." At this last stage, the Grecian Court continued to play the dupers

while the financiers were duped. It went on this wise until the tables were turned, the Greek Court became the duped while the financiers are on top.

Infatuated with the notion that it would certainly be upheld by “Christian Europe,” the bankrupt Court of Greece picked up a quarrel with Turkey. Its fatuity is now at an end. The financiers see it the Grecian Court only a gang of “dead beats,” while they entertain for Turkey the respect and admiration that creditors always entertain for a debtor who pays on time. Accordingly, the “Christian” financiers left “Christian” Greece in the lurch. The Turks are victorious, the Greek Court is in fear for its very existence.

It is pleasant to see the dupers duped in their turn. Painful though is the sight of the Grecian proletariat who, whatever hap, must “pay the piper” with money, limbs and life.

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

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