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EDITORIAL

## CASSANDRA GRAHAM.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE words with which Representative James M. Graham of Illinois closed his May 3 nearly four hours speech in Congress on the state of the Union were:

“The greatest wrong is the danger to the republican form of government. We can not safely ignore the lessons of history, and one of them surely is that wealth is power, and those who control the wealth of a country will control its government and its destinies.

“When we consider that one out of each hundred of our people own over half the country’s wealth, and that the ownership of that half, through banks, trust companies, insurance companies and otherwise makes them the custodians of much of the remainder, which is almost as useful to them as the ownership of it, the danger becomes more apparent. And we should consider, too, that many of the very rich seem to be getting tired of a republican form of government and are willing, if not anxious, to use their vast wealth for the purpose of purchasing titled sons-in-law and arranging matters so that our children and grandchildren will have to produce dividends or rent to be sent abroad to maintain the titled descendants of these modern Tories in affluent dissipation.”

When Priam’s city of Troy was approaching its downfall, Cassandra, Priam’s blind daughter, filled her father’s halls with idle lamentations, warningly of what was about to befall, yet helpless to avert the doom. Less classic in looks, less stately in carriage, decidedly less charming in appearance, but fully as blind as Cassandra of old, the Illinois Congressman howls mournfully, prophesies woefully, wrings his hands distracted through the halls of the citadel of King Capital—feels the edifice tottering to its fall—but is too blind to save even himself from poor Cassandra’s fate.

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