

EDITORIAL

## AT BEBEL'S FUNERAL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**J**OINING the mammoth-solemn obsequies of August Bebel which the Socialists of Zurich, Switzerland, and delegations from all the nations of Europe attended on Sunday, the 17th of this month, the Socialist Labor Party of America renders a last tribute to the life of the departed comrade, in the spirit of the language held by Stephenson to the noblemen of the human race:—

He had been used to feel humanely, and to look upon life more widely than from the narrow loop-hole of personal pleasure and a dvancement. He knew that the sower follows the plowman up the face of the field, and the rooks follow the sower; and he knew also that he might not live to go home again and see the corn spring ripen, and be cut down at last, and brought home for gladness. And yet the future of the harvest, the continuance of drought or the coming of rain unseasonably, touched him as sensibly as ever. He had long been used to wait with interest the issue of events in which his own concern was nothing; and to be joyful in a plenty, and sorrowful for a famine, that did not increase or diminish, by one half-loaf, the equable sufficiency of his own supply. There remained unaltered all the disinterested hopes for mankind and a better future which were the solace and inspiration of his life. These he set beyond the reach of any fate that only menaced himself; and it made small difference whether he died before the good epoch for which he faithfully labored. He did not deceive himself; he knew from the beginning that he followed the pillar of fire and cloud, only to perish himself in the wilderness, and it was reserved for others to enter joyfully into possession of the land.

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
Uploaded February 2016

[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)