

EDITORIAL

## AT THE BIER OF BEBEL.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**ITH the passing away of August Bebel there has passed away at once a product of the world-encircling Socialist Movement, and one who, in turn has contributed mightily by precept and example to impart tone, character and direction to the Movement.

While in many a respect the personalities of George Washington and August Bebel offer the theme for a contrast, in more important ones they singularly present the theme for a parallel.

Like Washington, Bebel's first appearance upon the public stage was rather in the opposite direction from the revolutionary direction in which he has become immortal.

Like Washington, Bebel's integrity of purpose and loftiness of ideals preserved him from the lures of immediate and easy distinction, and led him to and on the path on which he grew to be a maker of history, and the marker of an epoch.

Like Washington, Bebel's personal loveliness of temperament grappled to him the numerous conflicting streams, inseparable from all revolutionary movement, and strongly pronounced in the Movement which he pioneered and led; and his life lasted long enough to keep these streams from dashing destructively against one another, long enough until, their sharp edges being worn out, they might flow together to their common goal.

Like Washington, Bebel's memory is the cherished inheritance of his people—his people being, in keeping with the broader Movement, not the people of one



nationality only, but the peoples of that wider nationality that is rising, and over the cradle of which the sun never sets—the International Socialist Nation.

In bidding adieu to August Bebel, the Socialist Labor Party of America joins her sister Socialist organizations the world around in folding all the closer to her heart the mighty spirit of the departed Comrade, Leader and Inspirer.

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