

# DAILY PEOPLE

VOL. 3, NO. 354.

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1903.

ONE CENT.

EDITORIAL

## MORGAN—SAINT GAUDENS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HE equestrian statue of General Sherman—the work of the sculptor Augustus Saint Gaudens, now ornamenting the entrance to Central Park, a master-piece of art, said to be one of the only two great equestrian statues of the world—preaches by demonstration a sermon that he who has ears can hear; and he who has none of his own should be helped to hear.

Stand at the corner of any crowded thoroughfare; take your pick of the passersby, male or female; put to them the question what are their main objections to Socialism; and 95 per cent. of those who have any objections, and who can formulate them, will make this one:

It would deprive men of incentive.

By the light of the candles of this objection let the career{s} of J. Pierpont Morgan and that of an Augustus Saint Gaudens be compared.

Morgan, like Saint Gaudens, wished to live. Wealth is a prerequisite for life. Morgan took to the line of acquiring wealth for wealth's sake. Let him have the full benefit of every doubt in his favor. His incentive, then, was to escape want and to distinguish himself as a great Captain of Industry. He succeeded. As a result, he now controls through his vast wealth the lives of millions of people. To them his will is law; at any rate, his will may make it very uncomfortable for them.

Saint Gaudens took to art. He also succeeded. In point of art he excels as Morgan excels in point of Captaincy of Industry, and in the pursuit of his career he twice received spontaneous acknowledgment in the shape of coveted prizes.

Comparing again the two men this difference is found:

While Saint Gaudens' career has placed him in possession of a distinction that he can use only to the benefit of mankind, a distinction which is not the incentive in

capitalist society, Morgan's career, which proceeds from and aiming at the only incentive offered by capitalist society, has placed in his hands a gatling-gun which he can use only and is forced to use to the injury of his fellow men; he controls the lives of his workingmen, he endangers the lives of smaller capitalists, he is a menace to the country's safety.

Capitalism does offer an incentive that Socialism does not offer. As, under capitalism, production is not what it could be, the wealth producible for all is not ample enough to afford comfort to all: under these circumstances, want or the compulsion to toil excessively as a wage-slave is the goad, and the incentive is, as all incentives, the sublimation of the goad: the acquisition of such wealth as shall free its owner from wage-slavery,—and consequently shall rivet wage-slavery all the more gallingly on others.

Socialism, where the production of wealth will be ample enough to afford luxury to all, goads none to the accumulation of wealth; it offers accordingly, not the incentive of capitalism—the gatling-gun of a Morgan.

On the other hand, however, Socialism offers an incentive that is as alien from capitalism as light is from midnight;—that incentive is an aspiration that all noble hearts have ever beaten for: the well-being of the individual through the well-being of all; the well-being of all through the well-being of the individual.

The magnificent Sherman statue of Saint Gaudens preaches a sermon in sociology, besides one in art.

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

Uploaded December 2006