



*Your course
Eugene P. Debs*

DEBS:

HIS LIFE, WRITINGS AND SPEECHES

WITH A DEPARTMENT OF
APPRECIATIONS

AUTHORIZED

1908
THE APPEAL TO REASON
GIRARD, KANSAS

Contents

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	PAGE
BIOGRAPHY	1 to 76
WRITINGS—	
Where Daisy Sleeps (Poem).....	77
How I Became a Socialist.....	79
Outlook for Socialism in the United States.....	85
The American Movement.....	95
Unionism and Socialism.....	119
Socialism	143
Reply to John Mitchell.....	157
The Federal Government and the Chicago Strike.....	181
You Railroad Men.....	207
The Growth of Socialism.....	227
An Ideal Labor Press.....	239
Childhood	243
The Crimson Standard.....	245
Roosevelt's Labor Letters.....	247
Labor Omnia Vincit.....	253
Open Letter to President Roosevelt.....	257
December 2, 1859.....	262
The Martyred Apostles of Labor.....	263
Mother Jones.....	269
John Brown, History's Greatest Hero.....	271
Martin Irons, Martyr.....	273
Thomas McGrady.....	277
Looking Backward.....	283
Labor Day Greeting.....	289
Proclamation to A. R. U.....	291
Flea and Donkey.....	296
Eye to Eye.....	296
Stopped the Blacklist.....	297
Prince and Proletaire.....	301
Revolution	305
Vive la Revolution.....	307
Arouse, Ye Slaves.....	309
Growth of the Injunction.....	313
What's the Matter with Chicago?.....	319
SPEECHES—	
Liberty	327
Prison Labor.....	345
The Socialist Party and the Working Class.....	357

CONTENTS

	PAGE
Craft Unionism.....	375
Class Unionism.....	401
Revolutionary Unionism.....	427
Industrial Unionism.....	445
Golden Wedding Anniversary.....	467
The Issue.....	473
APPRECIATIONS—	
Mr. Debs an Artist in Expression.....	495
From Woodstock to Boise.....	495
Here Comes a Man.....	498
Without Guile.....	499
Eugene V. Debs as an Orator.....	499
Lincoln, 1860—Debs, 1894.....	501
Eugene V. Debs, Incarnate Spirit of Revolt.....	504
A Companion of Truth.....	509
Greater Love Hath No Man.....	512
Agitator and Poet.....	512
A Love Shared by Lincoln and Debs.....	512
A Righteous Cause Must Win.....	513
Loves Inter-racial, Pan-human Language.....	514
Sincere to the Core.....	515

Illustrations

Photogravure of Eugene V. Debs.....	Frontispiece
Debs' Birthplace.....	13
Debs' Present Home.....	29
Katherine Metzger Debs.....	45
Theodore Debs.....	61
Marguerite Marie Debs.....	77
Comrades.....	93
Debs' Library.....	109
Debs and His Little Girard Comrades.....	125
Debs' Cell at Woodstock.....	180
Corridor in Jail at Woodstock.....	186
Scene at Woodstock upon the Liberation of Debs.....	194
Debs Reception in Chicago After His Liberation.....	200
Woodstock Jail.....	334
Liberty Enlightening the World.....	509

THE THIRD REVOLUTION

The publication of this volume is not of Comrade Debs' seeking. When approached upon the subject several months ago he stated that he did not suppose that he had accomplished enough to make a book, and it was only after much persistent urging that he snatched the time from his busy labors to correct and revise the original proofs of his Writings and Speeches, and the argument he finally yielded to was that this work would multiply his usefulness to the Socialist movement by as many copies as may be distributed.

The *First American Revolution* accomplished the overthrow of the rule of the English King in the Colonies, the extinction of all rule by inheritance, and the abolition of the proprietary charters to privileges in America which had been granted to favorites and legatees of the British Crown. The movement very early established the precedent of the "boycott" of "unfair" products when the Boston Tea Party by strategy boarded the ships of the English merchants and dumped their cargoes into the sea. Nor was the period without its "undesirable" citizens, whose memories loyal Americans delight to revere.

The Civil War, or the *Second American Revolution*, accomplished the overthrow of a fundamental principle in the Federal constitution as interpreted by our highest judicial authority, in the Dred Scott decision, and the abolition of a special form of slavery or property in black human beings.

The Socialist Movement, or the *Third American Revolution*, has for its accomplishment the overthrow of private property in social wealth, machinery and land, and the abolition of the Wage System, a form of general slavery whereby men profit and grow fat out of the hunger-enforced labor, and hence out of the *lives* of others.

It is no strain of words to say that in the extinction of Wage Slavery a modified state of war even now obtains, and not so very modified at that. We need not the tinsel and glit-

ter of soldiery, nor the clash and clangor of arms to constitute war, but if we did, was it not but yesterday we heard the tread of troops in Colorado? And today, what is it we hear from the South but a fusilade upon the striking miners of Alabama? And tomorrow may we not hear the ripping, whirring sound the Gatlings and Maxims make?

But aside from the open battle, a struggle far more brutal and inhuman, wages bitterly. The poor are warred upon, plundered and ravished. Our children famish and die at the machines of the Capitalist Class, and our wives, our widows and our daughters are torn from us and prostituted to uses abject and unmentionable. What more do we wish to make it war, and what more must we suffer?

This book, every line of which is a labor of love, is the property of The Third Revolution, and as such is dedicated to the Wage Slaves of the world who smart under the crack of the Hunger Whip.

BRUCE ROGERS.

Girard, Kansas, August 1, 1908.

BIOGRAPHY