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EDITORIAL

## STEWART VINDICATED.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**W**HO would think that Senator Stewart of Nevada—the old Stewart of “Silver!” “More silver!!” “Still more silver!!!;” that perambulating lump of social and economic ignorance, and whose knowledge begins and ends with the low cunning necessary for political wire pulling and for skinning workingmen—who would have thought that he, aye, he would ever contribute a fact that is worth its weight in gold, not silver, to the store of facts upon which Socialist Science is planted? Well, he did; wonderful as it may seem, Stewart did.



WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART  
(1827–1909)

From the gathered facts Socialism teaches that Labor is plundered of the bulk of its product. A part of the product of Labor is kept by Labor. That part is the part that it needs in order to keep itself alive so as to grind out more wealth for the Capitalist Class, and also in order to reproduce needy proletarians who may succeed it when it has grown old and fit only for the scrapheap. But that part of its own product that Labor keeps is a declining quantity. It declines for two reasons: first, because, Labor being a merchandise under capitalism, the more there is of it in the Labor market the lower is its price, and privately owned improved machinery steadily dumps a larger supply of Labor on that market; secondly, because Labor is an article whose wants can be squeezed down to almost nothing, provided the squeezing-down process be slow and gradual. These combined causes ever reduce the share of Labor, and, consequently, increase the booty of the Capitalist Class. Planted on these facts, Socialist Science establishes that the wealth produced by the workingmen is not for them; that the wealth they produce is lifted wholesale and

goes to build the Aladdin mansions of enchantment where their plunderers loll in idle luxury. “Anarchy!” “Atheism!” “Treason to the flag!” are the ejaculations with which the Capitalist Class echoing the words of all usurpers from time immemorial, meet the Socialist statement.

And now comes Senator Stewart and jumps like a goaded bull into the capitalist china-shop. Harried by his fellow Senators on the subject of the smallness of the population of his State—42,533 inhabitants—and its enjoying the luxury of two Senators in the Senate, just as New York with her more than 7,000,000, or California with her 1,500,000, Senator Stewart assailed his tormenters in the course of the debate on the statehood bill with this declaration:

“These flings at Nevada are both unpleasant and unjust. . . . The hundreds of millions which Nevada produced CONTRIBUTED LARGELY TO BUILD UP SAN FRANCISCO, BESIDES ERECTING MONUMENTS OF WEALTH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK.”

Indeed?! And have the miners of Nevada retired to the magnificent San Francisco and New York homes and other “monuments of wealth” reared out of “the hundreds of millions” which they produced? Who has that wealth, the workingman who remains in his Nevada hovel, or the capitalist who can afford to live in the Capuan delights of San Francisco and New York—both cities just a little bit too far from the field of Nevada labor to go out there every morning and return to their magnificent “monuments of wealth” to spend the night in?

The wealth that Labor produces is lifted by the Capitalist Class—Senator Stewart has vindicated himself by the proof he contributes.

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

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