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EDITORIAL

## WATSON BOWS HIS ADIEUS.

By DANIEL DE LEON

**T**HIS month's *Watson's Jeffersonian Magazine* contains the closing chapter of Tom Watson's series of articles "Socialists and Socialism," which, intended, in Mr. Watson's swaggering language, to "disembowel" Socialism, have afforded a never-before-equalled procession of bourgeois blundering thoughts by which to teach, illustrate and demonstrate Socialist truth and integrity. The *Daily People* having all along availed itself of the rare opportunity thus offered by Mr. Watson, can not forego the delight of utilizing this the latest and closing Watsonian performance.

Mr. Watson's closing chapter of "disembowelment" may be termed a summary. He sums up, with the cool effrontery of the fellow in the story who knew not he was licked, one by one the theories he had advanced, and which were successively riddled in these columns—and he sums up himself.

The first portion of the summary is purely economic, or sociologic; the second is a summary of Watson-psychology. We are grateful to Mr. Watson for having kept this tid-bit for the close. Had he begun his series, with that as a prelude, we might have dropped him aside from the start, and thus the Movement would have been deprived of a valuable elucidation of Socialism by the contrast that his up-to-date bourgeois breaks have afforded. As it turns out, the Watson-psychology finale adds zest and point to his Stone Age economics and sociology.

The Watson-psychology is compressed in the utterance: "We don't need a new system of Government!" Not that the present system of things suits the gentleman. He would tear that up. Only, its substitution should be effected, not with a new System, such as Socialism proposes, but with an old system crowded out by the, as Mr. Watson puts it, "Carnegie-Rockefeller-Gould-Vanderbilt-Havemeyer-Guggenheim-Morgan" system, that is by the system of the Plutocracy. The

reasoning with which Watsonism supports this its stand illuminates the stand itself. It amounts to going back to the days Mr. Watson cracks up as the Golden Age, the days of “Charles Fox, of Samuel Romilly, of Henry Vane [Cromwell’s ‘Sir Harry Vane! Sir Harry Vane!’], of Algernon Sidney, of Pym, and Hampden.”

Man retro-voluting, back to the anthropoidal ape; man, surrendering the opportunities which the higher evolutionary plane places within his reach, and surrendering them because of the peculiar and transitionally incidental forfeiture of the paradisaical features enjoyed by his tree-climbing forbears—such is Watsonic psychology.

Such is not the psychology of the brave and the intellectually alert: it is the psychology of the craven and intellectually torpid. Such is not the psychology of the world’s elite, who, in every Age, pushed civilization forward: it is the psychology of the race’s “sediment” that ever tended to drag man back. Hence, such is not the psychology of Reason, the feature of which is consistency: it is the psychology of Un-Reason, the feature of which is to be at fisticuffs with itself: Watson-psychology would not think of taking a physician who had not advanced beyond the Age of Sir Harry Vane, yet it clings, like an oyster to its rock, to the economic and sociologic crudities of an Age gone by.

With this confession, Mr. Watson bows his adieus.—Adieu!

Transcribed and edited by Robert Bills for the official website of the Socialist Labor Party of America.  
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[slpns@slp.org](mailto:slpns@slp.org)