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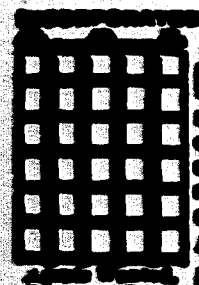

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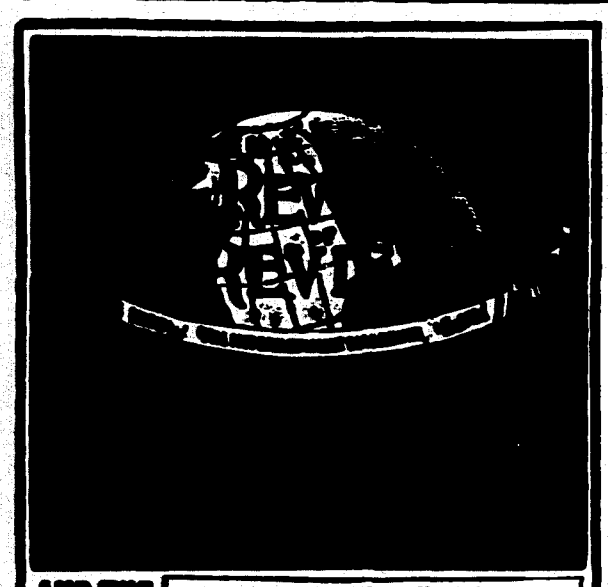

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THE STANDARD

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THE FREE TRADE CAMPAIGN.—The Congressional Record edition of "Protection or Free Trade?" may now be had free by any one on application to his Congressman. This is the edition over which the protectionists made such a fuss in the House. It will be remembered that several Congressmen quoted different chapters from Mr. George's famous book as parts of their own speeches, when the tariff question was under discussion. This proceeding so frightened the Republicans that they endeavored to strike the quotations from the Record, but were defeated by a vote of 121 to 71. And now the quotations to which they objected are brought together in a public document, making the original book complete, which, together with a full report on the debate upon the question of striking it out of the Record, is being sent over the country. It is the best possible campaign document. Let it be freely used. If you know of any one who may be interested in reading it send his name and address now to your Congressman, with a request for the document.

WHAT MR. SMALLEY DOES NOT KNOW.—That fantastic British Tory, G. W. Smalley, who has never quite recovered from the shame of having been born in this republic, cabled to the Tribune of Sunday a silly attack upon Mr. George and his philosophy. Mr. Smalley snobbishly assures his American readers that if they could really know British radicalism, they would be the last people on earth to yield it sympathy. This has a familiar sound. An American with a good coat on his back never made the acquaintance of a British Tory of the upper middle class without sooner or later receiving the flattering assurance: "My dear fellow, in England you'd be a Conservative."

Long residence in England and the continued flatteries of aristocratic Britons have made Mr. Smalley as incapable as a native English Tory of understanding the mental attitude of most Americans. We in America *sympathize with British Radicalism, not so much because we accept all its political conclusions*, for with its socialistic tendencies most of us are at war, but because it stands in opposition to the royal and aristocratic constitution of British society. Single taxers above all others sympathize with such opposition, because they know that land-owning is at the bottom of all really effective and formidable aristocracies, and that when the people of Great Britain come fully to realize this fact they will be essentially in line with our movement.

Of course Mr. Smalley has not learned that an increasing number of intelligent Americans, even of his favorite conservative class, has come to accept many of Mr. George's economic conclusions. Mr. Smalley, from his safe asylum of British torydom, will be blind and deaf to all this until he reads it in the election returns of his native country.

IOWA'S PIGS-IN-CLOVER LAW.—The Iowa personal property taxationists capped the climax of absurdity in the "pigs-in-clover" game of taxing personal property when they secured the passage of a law providing that unpaid taxes on the goods of a merchant shall be a lien on the goods in the hands of a purchaser. Imagine the tax collector following up the buyer of a suit of clothes to collect the tax on it which the merchant has neglected to pay. The law will help, however, to make the truth more clear that buyers are the real taxpayers. Merchants sell goods which are still subject to tax at a lower price than they sell tax-paid goods for, and a strict enforcement of such a law as this would tend to open the eyes of the people as to where the burden of personal property taxation falls. When it is once understood that taxes on goods in trade, no matter who pays them primarily, are ultimately paid by the consumer, these foolish attempts at taxing capitalists by trying to tax capital will be abandoned.

FRANCE AND THE POPE.—Pope Leo has struck a probably fatal blow at the pretensions of French royal families by a supplementary communication to the French bishops in explanation of his brief note sent out in February. He distinctly declares it the duty of French Catholics, whether lay or clerical, to accept the present political situation in France. This adds a rib of steel to the French Republic, since it leaves the royalist bishops and inferior clergy without support from Rome in their contumacious attitude toward the Republic. As a matter of fact, the great mass of parish priests are believed to be friendly to the present French constitution, and with the heavy hand of aristocratic bishops removed from their political consciences, we may expect to find the inferior clergy heartily supporting the Republic.

One other consideration will, of course, force itself upon Americans, and that is the spectacle of one man in Rome assuming to guide the political consciences of many millions of French citizens. Such a state of affairs is surely not of the best, even though it work to the temporary advantage of republican institutions, and American citizens will have little cause for sorrow if some of the royalist bishops prove rebellious under this striking exercise of ecclesiastical power. It would be highly edifying to find the advocates of royal divine right in contumacy toward the exercise of papal authority.

A CHANCE FOR THE SINGLE TAX.—Two residents of the newly-created city of Mount Vernon, just on the outskirts of New York, were overheard recently in an interesting discussion as to the probable increase of taxation to result from the newly-acquired urban dignity. "I suppose," said one, "when the assessor finds out that I've painted my house, he'll raise my assessment." Here is a man ripe for the single tax propaganda. When men realize that a tax on anything but land values or monopoly privileges is a fine upon enterprise and industry, they begin to be in a state of intellectual hospitality toward our ideas.

An opportunity is presented to single taxers when villages are erected into cities, for their taxes usually increase, and men are easily led to discuss methods of taxation. Single taxers should make an organized effort to bring forward our ideas whenever a change in municipal conditions prepares men's minds for such discussion. The simple reasonableness of the single tax must appeal to any man not hopelessly blind, when local conditions have aroused his interest in questions of taxation. Single taxers in Mount Vernon and other newly created cities have an opportunity that they should not miss.

CLEVELAND AND TARIFF REFORM.—The Cleveland free trade wave is rolling on. The Michigan Democratic Convention, in a platform, which calls upon all friends of good government to unite in a national campaign upon the supreme and overshadowing issue of tariff reform, instructs its delegates to vote as one man. The Wisconsin convention avoided entirely the old dodge of advocating just a little protection, and declared against any taxation whatever, except for revenue. This convention also directed its delegates to vote as a unit, and instructed them to use all honorable means to secure Mr. Cleveland's nomination.

QUOTA REPRESENTATION.—The Chicago Single Tax Club is urging upon the public a reform in elections which might be taken up with advantage in every State in the Union. We refer to the quota system of representation in legislative bodies. This system would give to every shade of political thought its just representation. It would make the Legislature reflect the sentiment of the community. Under the existing system by which representatives are sent from districts, it is quite possible for a strong public sentiment, supported by a very large proportion of the voters of a State, to be entirely without representation. Under the system that is being pushed in Chicago, the vote is so apportioned that the sentiment which is supported by the largest number of voters will have the largest representation; that which is supported by the next largest number of voters will have the next largest number of representatives, and any sentiment which has as much support as is required for the election of one representative will have one representative.

WHAT IS COST OF PRODUCTION?—The Knights of Labor Journal, answering our question, says it does not regard all values as unearned, but that it does so regard all values that are above the cost of production. But what is the cost of production? We know that land has no cost of production, and are therefore able to say of all land value that it is unearned. But a house, for example, costs something to produce. It costs labor. What is the value of that labor? Is it not what other labor will in free trade give for the house? Is there any other possible measure? Of course not. Any other measure must be arbitrary. Then is it not true that in free conditions the value of a house, and the cost of its production, are the same? Not only is this true of houses, but of everything except land. Whatever has a labor cost cannot, in free conditions, have an unearned increment of value.

LOGIC OF THE CHINESE SITUATION. — It must puzzle the average mind to understand why the Chinese Government should maintain any relations whatever with this country. By the act of Congress just signed we violate our treaty with China and insult her people. To satisfy a local prejudice we aim in the most offensive manner to prevent Chinese immigration. Exclusion is necessary, we are told, because an influx of Chinamen will raise a

new race question as bad as or worse than that with which the south is afflicted.

It was a similar argument, perhaps, that caused the massacres in China within the past year. We were introducing a race question there. But if exclusion be necessary, and we are unprepared to say that it is not, it should not be accompanied with a demand for the admission of American citizens to Chinese ports, or the expectation that a people whom we esteem semi-barbarous will treat with delicate consideration our own people already settled in the alien territory. The logical outcome of Chinese exclusion is the breaking off of diplomatic and other intercourse between this country and China. Doubtless our protectionist friends would gladly see this carried to the point of excluding Chinese goods from American ports.

MR. ASTOR AND HIS BENEFACTORS.—William Astor's body has been brought home for burial, and he has transmitted to his widow and children his inherited right to take from the earnings of some thousands of New Yorkers. Mr. Astor was a most unamiable person, but during all his life he did nothing for his own support, and certain workers of this town fed, clothed and cared for him, in fact, maintained him and his in luxury which those workers themselves never dreamed of enjoying. Had Mr. Astor been as wicked as he was respectable he would still have enjoyed the right to take from the earnings of his neighbors. Had he slain one of them he could, probably, have brought immunity from punishment by the free use of their wealth.

Our system of land holding has made the respectable Mr. Astor and his fellow millionaires a more dangerous and harmful class than many criminals from whom he and most of us would shrink with fear and horror. Nay, the very system that enabled Mr. Astor to live at ease in idleness is responsible for the condition of many whom society calls its enemies. But the great landed estate of the Astors descends and increases, and every child born to a New York mother, and every country lad that comes hither seeking his fortune, shall contribute to the further increment of this vast estate. Nothing is more hackneyed than all this, yet nothing more startling.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

SOL. F. CLARK.

It was not until the country began to grow wealthy after the war and the demand arose for costly public improvements that the question as to the method of assessing the cost was much mooted or considered. Since then the controversy has been made between the general tax and that of the "special assessment." Land owners oppose the special assessment system because they desire to reap the benefits and cast the burdens upon the people. In the Arkansas convention of 1874, which gave us our present constitution, we had some men of great foresight, and they sniffed this controversy afar off, grappled with it, and settled it. They limited all taxation by the states, counties or municipalities, and limited the power of the Legislature to confer any power of taxation upon cities and towns except to the extent in each year of 5 mills on the dollar for general purposes and 5 mills to pay indebtedness existing at the time of the adoption of the constitution, with the following exception:

"Nothing in this constitution shall be so construed as to prohibit the General Assembly from authorizing assessments on real property for local improvements in towns and cities under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, to be based upon the consent of a majority in value of the property holders owning property adjoining the locality to be affected, but such assessments shall be ad valorem and uniform.

In 1881, after bitter opposition by large capitalists and land owners, the General Assembly enacted a law to carry this constitutional provision into effect. By this act, with several amendments, any ten owners of real property in any city of the first class may petition the Council to take steps for the making of such local improvements. The Council shall then by ordinance lay off the city, or so much as is mentioned in the petition, into one or more improvement districts by number, designating the boundaries. If, within three months after the publication of this ordinance as prescribed in the act, a majority in value of the owners of real property in the district petition the Council to make such improvements, designating the nature of the improvements and the cost thereof, the Council shall at once appoint three persons, owners of real property in the district, who shall compose a board of improvement commissioners for the district. On the report of these commissioners as to the plan of the improvements and the cost, the Council shall, by ordinance, assess such cost upon the real property in said district, assessing each parcel according to its value, as shown by the last county assessment, and subsequent assessments shall be in accordance with the periodical assessments of real estate of said city or town as made from time to time.

If the estimated cost shall exceed one per cent. of the estimated value of the property, then it shall be provided by ordinance that the assessment shall be paid in successive annual installments, so that no assessment in any one year shall exceed one per centum of the assessed value of the property for such particular improvement. Authority is then given the board to borrow money upon the pledge of future uncollected assessments, and such annual assessments are continued until the improvements are paid for. Not many improvements under this law were made on account of the opposition to it, until, in 1883, the Supreme Court decided the law to be constitutional, when opposition ceased, and since then all improvements of the kind in cities of the first class are constructed under it. And it must be admitted that the effect has been, while an enormous lug upon the property holder, and notwithstanding some defects in the law, to give a great impetus to the growth and appearance of the cities. Already Little Rock has a magnificent system of sewerage, which will soon extend to the whole city, and her principal streets are embellished and ornamented with pavements and sidewalks, built in the first order of workmanship, and still the work goes on.

The same may be said of the other cities, but not, perhaps, in the same degree. I am of the impression that in the smaller cities and towns such improvements are still made by general taxation. To all appearance, therefore, this law has been and is a large element in the present rapid growth and progress of the State.

Now, while this system must be regarded as a partial recognition of the principles involved in the single tax movement, it does not come up to them. It will be seen that the "real property" mentioned, and upon which the tax is levied, includes the improvements on the land as well as the land itself, and the board is not at liberty to make a special appraisement of the value of the property, but must take it from the county assessments made for the purpose of general taxation, in which all improved property is assessed, land and improvements together, in a joint sum. We hold this not to be a just system of taxation. The taxation should assign as near as can be the burden to the benefited. The benefits from such public improvement accrue to the land or lots, and not to any improvements thereon. These cannot be increased in value, for with or without public improvements they can never be worth more than it will cost to put them there. The owner of a vacant lot or tract of land of equal value is just as much benefited as the one with improvements, and should pay as much.

These assessments should always be upon the value of the land or lots, leaving out the improvements. But there is a long step in the right direction in leaving out of the assessment all personal property or products of human industry, except such improvements upon the land; for under the law only that portion of the taxes levied upon such improvements can be shifted upon non-property holders, or such as have only their labor to live upon, which is a great relief to these classes. And there is another crying evil not due to the law, but which it does not provide against, and that is in all assessments of improved lots or lands and the improvements jointly, the value of the lot in the estimate is put higher, and in most cases double what it would be if vacant, and double the value of vacant lots of equal value. This is on account of the sentiment which seems to prevail everywhere that the improved lot is worth more because it brings the owner an income. But this is absolutely false, as I have shown, and we single taxers have a thousand times demonstrated, and this works a great injustice, extending to all the industrial classes. "A" owns a lot on Main street, Little Rock, "B" an adjoining lot of equal value, each worth, independent of improvements, $2,000. The assessor comes along and he assesses "B's" property at $5,000 and "A's" vacant lot at $2,000. If complaint is made the assessor explains: "Your improvements you say cost $2,000, I have put the lot at $3.000, $1,000 more than 'B's' lot, because yours brings you a revenue and 'B's' vacant lot, so far as yielding any profit, is a dead expense to him." Assessments are nowhere made up to the full value of the property, but the undervaluation of vacant lots is universally greater than that of improved lands independent of the improve-

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Sol F. Clark, of Little Rock, Ark., was born at Groton, Tompkins county, New York, February 13, 1819, and was educated at Groton Academy and Homer Institute in Cortland county. His parents were originally from Berkshire county, Mass., where his paternal grandparents settled from England before the Revolution. His grandfather was a soldier of the Revolution, serving under Gen. Arnold in his celebrated march through the winter snows to Quebec. During the year 1843 Mr. Clark taught as professor of natural and intellectual philosophy in Cortlandville Academy, and at the same time pursued his legal studies in the office of William H. Shankland, since then judge of the Supreme Court of New York. In May, 1844, he emigrated to Laporte, Ind., where he completed his study of law under Gilbert Fathaway, a noted lawyer, subsequently killed while colonel in the Union Army in the war between the States. In May, 1857, Mr. Clark went south and settled at Fort Smith, Arkansas, then not much more than an Indian trading point and military station. While on his way south, at Indianapolis, he was examined and licensed to practice law. At Fort Smith he quietly pursued his profession until the close of the war, when he removed to Little Rock, the State capital, where he has since resided. In 1851 Mr. Clark married the daughter of Col. John Dillard.

Mr. Clark has always confined his labors mostly to his profession and seldom sought political preferment. His motto has been that in the scramble for office the game is not worth the pursuit, although in the Presidential campaign of 1860 he accepted the appointment of elector for the State at large on the Douglas ticket and canvassed the State. He served as United States Attorney for the Eastern district of Arkansas under President Andrew Johnson, and has served for some years as chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee.

Whatever thought Mr. Clark has had to spare from his professional duties he has mostly given to the new philosophy, physical and psychological, promulgated by such thinkers as Spencer, Huxley, Tyndale, Mill, and others, and especially to what appertains to political economy. It was from Say's work on political economy that Mr. Clark in his school days learned to abominate all restrictions upon commerce or any other productive industry, and from which he became grounded in the doctrine of absolute free trade, of which he has been a life-long advocate. He is a thorough believer in the single tax of Henry George as furnishing the remedy, and the only remedy, against the evils which are overshadowing our country and of which the masses of the people are complaining.

ments. In fact, going outside of cities, vacant lands are assessed at almost a nominal value, while the whole taxation to support government is saddled upon improved lands. The enormous injustice of this system may be conceived when we consider that more than one-half of the lands of the State are owned and being bought up by speculators, domestic and foreign, to be held vacant on speculation.

DANTE AND HIS AGE.

EVE HIBBARD.

It is a peculiarity of the great cities of Italy that none of them are capitals in the ordinary sense of the word. The action of time may fit Rome—once the mistress and still accustomed to feel herself in one sense the capital of the world—for becoming the capital of Italy; but it is scarcely possible to conceive a combination of circumstances which could have made of Florence a capital centre. The distinctness of her character could scarcely show itself more completely than by the close unity which exists between her and her great poet. Dante is the very embodiment, the living soul of Florence, living and full of the most vivid reality, though six centuries have passed since his eyes beheld "the sweet light of mortal day." The Florence in which Dante was born was very much unlike the noble, beautiful Florence which is now, like Jerusalem, a joy of the whole earth, whose splendor and serious beauty seem to justify the adoration of her which her children have always shown. Genius has never proved its potency so mightily as by the way in which so many petty tumults of the thirteenth century, so many trifling incidents passed out of all human importance in the last six hundred years, have been held suspended in the fierce light of life, unable to perish on account of their connection with this one man. Even now critics discuss them hotly, and students pore ever old histories for further particulars of those street riots which led to so much bloodshed and mischief. From these pictures of savage violence and lawless excesses transmitted to us by the chronicles we turn in amazement to the sublime verse of Dante. In a short breathing space between barbarous civil feuds we find the Florentines founding in one year, 1292, the two great churches of Santa Maria del Fiore and Santa Croce. After reading with admiration of the glories of Florence, of her four great schools of grammar and logic, of her thirty hospitals with a thousand beds, of her innumerable churches and monasteries, we receive a sort of shock in passing on to the next sentence in which Villani boasts of the number of public officers who have the power of applying the torture to criminals. When Cavalcanti deliberately attempts to assassinate Corso Donati in the street, only failing to do so through the swerving of his horse, and Dante himself makes Donati, in the "Purgatorio," utter a sentence of ferocious exultation over the death of his brother, while in the midst of the poet's sublime theological speculations the blessed shade of his ancestor is represented as shrinking from him in abhorrence because his murder was still unavenged by his kinsfolk on earth.

This blending of factious turbulence and intellectual culture, not only in the same society but in the same individual, would be inexplicable had we no other record of the times than that which registers their civil disorders. The middle ages would be an enigma incapable of solution did we not know that beside and within a society without cohesion or stability—with force for its law and violence as its principle—there existed another body disciplined, orderly, and stable, whose essence was obedience, whose strength was meekness, whose ideal, humility; whose watchword, peace. The Cathedral Square often, indeed, ran red with blood, but within the mother and child smiled in divine serenity from the altar. The sword ruled supreme in the narrow streets, but high above the rooftops the cross was set in heaven. Without keeping in mind that there was always this nucleus of order in the midst of chaos, of knowledge in the depth of ignorance, of civilization in the heart of barbarism, or by observing how, during the carnival of savage passion and ferocity described in the Florentine chronicles, art was receiving its most powerful impulse, it is difficult to understand how Dante was possible. For not even Dante's transcendent genius could have given us the "Divine Comedy" unless he had breathed an atmosphere of general culture. Dante, rude and unlettered, writing for a rude and unlettered people would still have been a great poet but for his age alone; and his verse, even if it survived, like some rugged northern Saga, as a curious relic of antiquity could never as now form an integral part of the literature of Europe.

Dante's majestic allegory—almost the grandest fruit of christianity—reflects perfectly the two-fold teachings of the church in its subtleties of theological disquisition, on the one hand, and in its realistic treatment of spiritual beliefs, recalling the simplicity of popular representations, on the other. For into its shadowy twilight peopled by spectres and abstractions, the human passion which was to dominate the art of the future is projected with a foreglow of anticipation; and in the introduction of the mere woman transfigured, indeed, in celestial radiance but still warm with living interest, the subtle change of key is already struck which preludes the triumphant pæan of humanity—if the austere teaching of the past is personified in the shade of Virgil and the living force of contemporary feeling in the fierce Florentine himself, the dawning Renaissance—the apotheosis of humanity is prefigured in the mystic smile of Beatrice.

Dante's marriage took place in 1292. It was made by his friends, and of the life, age, character or looks of the lady they chose we know next to nothing. Dante never mentions her, and seems to have made no effort to see her after his banishment from Florence. Boccaccio describes her as a shrew, and if we follow him we are left to picture to ourselves a wretched home, the wife nagging at a husband she could not understand, the husband finding solace in successive flirtations. It was just the kind of thing which such a writer, impure himself in thought, if not in life, would be certain to say. It must at least be admitted that Dante's seven children, born within seven years, are prima facie evidence that the husband and the wife were never even on the verge of separation. It may have been a trial to Gemma to see him writing in the Vita Nuova the records of his past love, to be told that she was "only philosophy," and that her bright eyes were "scientific demonstrations." It may be told to the credit of the wife that she acquiesced in their daughter being baptized Beatrice, "who lived in heaven with the angels and on earth in the soul of Dante." From the time of her husband's exile, when the eldest child was but eight, she was left with the sole charge of her children's education, and their after lives bore witness that she did that work well and brought them up to honor their father, from whom the disasters of the times had divided them.

The married life brought with it a certain measure of steadiness in pursuit and action. The state of Florence at the time when Dante entered on his life as a citizen, was one of political agitation, caused in part or at least increased by commercial distress. The change from a feudal aristocracy to one of wealth had been accomplished during the early part of the thirteenth century. The final blow at feudalism had been struck in 1282 by a law which limited all participation in the government of the city to those who had been enrolled in one of the seven guilds of the greater arts which had created its wealth. One result of this was that when Dante resolved to take his part in public life he had to qualify for one of these guilds, and as was natural for a student of natural science, he chose that of Physicians and Apothecaries. In 1295 his name was enrolled in the Register of the Guild, and in 1296 and 1297 we find him taking part in the debate in the Council. In 1300 we enter on a more critical period of his life. In that year occurred the first jubilee of Boniface VIII., who ascended the papal throne in 1294. There is no direct evidence that Dante went to the jubilee as a pilgrim, but the circumstantial evidence is as strong as it can be from the vividness of his description of what occurred at Rome during that time. It is certain, however, that in 1300 Dante, who had reached the age of thirty-five, was chosen to the highest position to which as a citizen of Florence he could aspire; chosen not by lot, as was the custom later, but by election, as one of the board of six called "Priors of the Arts." The duties of the board were "the administration of the government, the care that all should receive justice, and that the little and weak should not be oppressed by the great and mighty." Dante's term of office extended from June 15 to August 15, 1300. Dante and his colleagues, upon entering upon their new duties, were confronted by a critical condition of affairs. The peace and tranquility of the last few years of the thirteenth century were on the eve of making way for the usual turbulence and disorder which had for so long characterized Florence. Indeed, the calm had been only in seeming, for the old elements of disturbance, suspicion and hatred between the nobles and the people, had not been removed; "the fires though buried were not extinct," but were smoldering, ready at the first opportunity to burst out afresh. The impending outbreak was occasioned by the rivalry of two powerful neighboring families, the Cerchi and the Donati. To the part Dante was forced to take during his priorate and subsequent thereto in the struggles between these two houses is largely attributable his exile and the sufferings of his later years. The embassy to Rome, upon which he set out in 1301, was the result of the plottings of Corso Donati, the head of one of these families. He little thought, as he started on his journey, that he was never to enter the gates of the city again, or what long years of suffering, poverty and disappointment that embassy would bring with it. His embassy to Rome was unsuccessful, and, his estates being confiscated and he proscribed, he wandered for fifteen years from one city of Italy to another, joining the other exiles in their endeavors to free Florence from the yoke of her enemies. In the year 1316 the Florentines made peace with Pisa, and resolved on something like an amnesty. The amnesty, however, was not unconditional, as the exiles who availed themselves of it were to pay a certain sum according to the measure of their guilt, to walk with the malefactors' cap on their heads and holding a wax taper in their hands, behind the chariot of the Mint, to the church of St. John, and there make an expiatory offering to the saint. The conditions were accepted by many of Dante's companions, who appeared in due form in the procession on the festival of St. John the Baptist, 1317, but he himself would not receive them. It was not thus that he would revisit his "beautiful St. John." The letter in which he conveyed his refusal to a Florentine friend is eminently characteristic: "I have learned from your letters received by me with all due reverence and affection after careful consideration and with a grateful mind, how fully your heart is set on my return to my country; and I am all the more bound by a sense of obligation since it is rarely the lot of exiles to find friends. Wherefore I make my answer to what they communicate, and if my reply should not be such as the pusillanimity of some would wish, I affectionately entreat you before you condemn it to weigh it well and with mature deliberation. Behold then that which, through the letters of your nephew and mine and of many other friends, has been conveyed to me as to the ordinance recently made at Florence touching the return of the exiles, that should I be willing to pay a certain sum of money and submit to the ceremony of oblation I may remain as pardoned and forthwith return. And is this, then, the glorious manner by which Dante Alighieri is recalled to his country after having endured exile for well nigh fifteen years? Has his innocence, manifest to all men; his continued labor and toil and study deserved this? Far be this ill-advised humility of the earthly heart from one who belongs to the household of philosophy, that he, after the fashion of a Ciola (presumably some notorious malefactor) and other wretches of ill-fame should, as if admitting defeat, suffer himself to be thus offered. Far be it from one who is a preacher of righteousness that having suffered wrong, he should pay money to those who did the wrong as though they were his benefactors. No, my father, this is not my way of returning to my country; but if any other can be discovered by you or by others which does not derogate from Dante's fame and honor, I will with no lingering steps accept it. But, if by such a course there is no entrance to Florence found for me, Florence I will never enter. What! Can I not everywhere look out on the sun and the stars? Can I not everywhere under heaven contemplate the truths that are most sweet and precious unless I first submit myself to the people and state of Florence stripped of

my honor and clothed in ignominy? Bread, I imagine, will not fail me."

The gates of Florence were thus self-closed by the exile against his return. Of his life at Ravenna we have but scanty records; but we note with satisfaction that those last years at Ravenna were cheered by the presence of his daughter Beatrice. In 1350, nearly thirty years after his death, Florence gave tardy signs of recognition of her greatest son, and entrusted Boccaccio with the sum of ten golden florins to be paid to Sister Beatrice, daughter of Dante, a nun in a convent at Ravenna. Twenty-three years later Florence decreed the election of a professor or lecturer on the "Divine Comedy" at a salary of a hundred golden florins. The choice fell upon Boccaccio, who had always been a worshipper of Dante, but he died three years later, only having reached the seventeenth verse of the seventeenth canto of the "Inferno." If Dante be really an abbreviation of *Durante*, "*lasting*" or "permanent," the name was truly a prophetic one. For centuries he has been the inspiration of poets, painters, and sculptors. Ruskin pronounces him the central man of all the world, and Carlyle predicts for him ten listening centuries and more. "Almost all other poets have their seasons," says Lowell, "but Dante penetrates to the moral core of those who once fairly come within his sphere, and possesses them wholly. His readers turn students and his students zealots, and what was a taste becomes a religion. The homeless exile finds a home in thousands of grateful hearts and comes from exile into peace."

THE FREE TRADE FIGHT.

HENRY GEORGE, JR.

Under the caption of "*Making Free Trade an Issue*," the Washington Star of Saturday published the following as a piece of political information:

There is no use, you can't keep a young man down in this Congress. All the youths are bound to come to the front and take a hand in running things, and running them in their own fashion. The champion of oratory is Bryan, of Nebraska; the champions of the anti-silver fight are Harter, Williams, and Hoar; and now Johnson, of Ohio, is running the national campaign business for the Democrats independently of the Congressional campaign committee, and is marking out a plan of battle by which they will probably have to fight. The printing of Henry George's book, "Protection or Free Trade?" in the Congressional Record, which was planned by Johnson, involved something more than the question of infringing the privileges of the leave to print in the Record. It involved making an absolute free trade document the principal one of the campaign. Hundreds of thousands of these volumes, compiled from the Record and sent out under the Congressional frank, are being distributed throughout the country. The intention is to circulate not less than a million, and possibly twice that number will be sent out. The suggestion made in Mr. Johnson's circular letter is that they be distributed among protectionists, and of course the object is to excite as much strife as possible and to make the issue definite. A large number of members are buying these documents in lots of ten, twenty, fifty, and a hundred thousand, and sending them to their constituents. It is probable that many of those are not conscious that they are making the issue for the party when they do this, and possibly some of them would not like to venture so far as to declare for absolute free trade at this time, but that is about what they are doing. The document is an argument for absolute free trade, and the object of those who are promoting its circulation as a campaign document is to bring the Democratic party squarely out for free trade, as opposed to mere tariff reduction. Each of the million documents will be handed around among a great many readers in a country community. They will go into every corner of the country under a Congressional frank as a Democratic document. Not one man in 10,000 will doubt for a moment that they are sent out as an authorized exposition of the issue of the campaign by the Democratic campaign committee. The man who believes in free trade will insist upon his protectionist neighbors reading the document. This will excite the controversy, and the party division in each little community will be made upon that issue. This is what Mr. Johnson is aiming at, and that he should succeed to a very great extent is entirely logical and probable. The Democratic campaign committee would find much labor and no little embarrassment in following about behind this document with the explanation that it does not exactly present the issue of the campaign as they would have it. It is an official document of the House, it has a frank on it, and it is sent out by a great number of Democratic members, some of them very old ones, who ought to know the party issues.

This brief, pointed article was from the pen of Mr. John Miller, one of the brightest of the many bright young men that sit in the press gallery at the Capitol. What Mr. Miller says is perfectly true. It is certainly Mr. Johnson's intention to make the coming Presidential and Congressional fight as radical and aggressive as he can, and in this he is supported by nearly all the Democrats in the House of Representatives who just now are giving expression to any opinions whatever on the tariff question, including among them many of the men who voted for the election of Mills to the Speakership on account of his radical free trade principles, and a large number of Speaker Crisp's lieutenants and supporters, who, if not sick and tired of the shilly-shallying tariff policy pursued in the House, are at any rate forced by their constituents to take advanced ground. Mr. Johnson says that so far as he can see things have come to such a pass in the House and the sentiment for radical expression has become so general that to tell the regular, machine going Democrat, the free trade Democrat, and the single tax Democrat apart "it is necessary to put a tag on every man."

The plain truth is that during the demoralization that set in in consequence of the defeat of Mr. Mills, and this acquisition of the leadership by men who were not radical enough to command the confidence of the rank and file of the party, Tom L. Johnson, by a bold stroke, won the support of the restless, radical elements, and set the plan of battle. Long before the National Democratic Convention meets hundreds of thousands of copies of the book, "Protection or Free Trade?" will have been put in circulation by Mr. Johnson and "a great number of Democratic members" of the House of Representatives, and they will, with a great mass of the people, constitute the real platform of the party for the coming campaign, regardless of what declaration the convention may issue or what candidate it may name.

Now is the time for single taxers and free traders all over the country to work. Now is the time to get the book circulated, before the campaign has begun and party prejudices are aroused, and every man should do his share in putting copies where he thinks they will be read. Copies can be had from the Democratic Congressmen, many of them having already supplied themselves with large quantities for distribution in their districts. Letters asking for the book are commencing to pour in, and a good many members besides Mr. Johnson are astonished at the extent and eagerness of the demand.

The Republican leaders are astonished, too, and are manifesting their surprise and dismay in cynical utterances and quickened operations of their statistical and literary bureau, which has hitherto run out every campaign the same old protectionist matter without any competition to speak of. Now for the first time this bureau finds a real competitor, one that from all ends of the country is deluged with demands for its literature.

The way in which the Republicans look upon this unexpected move of apparently the greater part of the Democratic majority in the House was shown this week when Mr. Johnson carried one of the first copies of the book over to the Republican side to show it to the leaders there. "What do you think of it?" he said substantially to ex-Speaker Reed.

"I think this," was the reply, "that the circulation of this book will make good Republican votes."

The member from Ohio smiled in his most genial manner and said: "Would you like to put some out?"

"Oh, yes; I'll put some out," responded the other.

The member from Ohio looked delighted. "Will you truly?" exclaimed he. "I'll send you a thousand copies for your district."

The ex-Speaker paused a moment, and then, in his characteristic way, said: "I'll send them out; I'll send them to hell!"

The plain fact is that Mr. Reed, like Mr. Burrows, of Michigan, and all the other Republican members of Congress, clearly sees the danger to the protective idea in allowing a clear issue to be made with the principle of free trade; but he does not see how to prevent it. Mr. Johnson and his Democratic colleagues, on the other hand, are arranging not only to meet all demands but to pour copies of the free trade book into every closely contested Congressional district, and to send two copies to every paper published in the United States, and another copy to every public library and reading room. Every man and woman whose heart is in the fight should help to urge forward the discussion. He should write to his Congressman for books and suggest where the circulation of books will do good; and he should stir his friends to similarly write. Congressmen feel wonderfully encouraged and emboldened by letters; and every letter tells. In this way thousands and thousands of voters can be reached with the gospel of free trade in the next few weeks, before either of the great national conventions have assembled.

GIVE US FREE TRADE.

In the course of his speech in the free wool debate, Congressman John De Witt Warner of New York made no concealment of his free trade opinions. He said:

I come from a district which, in the amount of wages paid for skilled labor each year, and in the extent and variety of its industries, is, perhaps, the greatest manufacturing district in the United States; more than that, I come from a district where there is perhaps a more thorough organization of skilled labor on an intelligent and independent basis than in any other district in the United States.

The wage-earners there, sir, are perfectly well aware of what there is in this tariff matter. They know perfectly well what it means. They see a ship coming in opposite the street in which they live, and from it coming, without any duty, the men whom their employers can hire to take their places—free trade in flesh and blood. At the same time they see on the decks of that ship goods they want, but are not allowed to buy until they have been through the custom house, in order to make them take the alternative of buying foreign goods at higher prices or paying an additional bonus to their employers. And they have sent me here, by a majority of between 8,000 and 9,000, to say to my colleagues in Congress and to wage-earners all over the land, that they do not want any protection. All they want is a free field and no favor, and the same right and privilege to buy whatever they need wherever they can get it cheapest, as their employer now has to buy the labor that crowds hither, duty free, from foreign nations.

They are not afraid of fair competition, sir. They are ready to meet it from any quarter. What they demand, however, is fair treatment. They demand, sir, the chance to get the full money value for their wages, and not to be compelled to expend them at the great national pluck-me-store of the protected industries that our tariff has built to fleece them.

It is fair, too, that on behalf of the manufacturing employers in my district I should make a brief statement. Many, if not the majority of them, are engaged in what are known as the protected industries. A large proportion of them are enthusiastic Democratic reformers or free traders. And of the small minority who still vote with the Republican party and who express allegiance to the doctrine of protection, there is but an insignificant number who do not frankly admit that, so far as their own business is concerned, they would be better off were there no tariff whatever. They know perfectly well the causes which have made their prosperity; they know perfectly well that the factories which crowd every block are not there because either of great agricultural wealth upon the island or of its natural riches in the raw materials of manufacture. They are there, sir, and they are prospering there, sir, because New York City, sitting as she does at the gate of the nations, is the place to which can be gathered from every clime, most cheaply and in best assortment, the raw materials of the manufactures in which they wish to engage, and, in turn, the same city, on account of the same facilities for commerce, is the spot whence can be marketed to every part, not merely of our own land, but of the globe, every variety of manufacture of which they shall have been the producers.

Of the small proportion who still are Republicans and protectionists, the most of them frankly inform me that it is not because they make anything out of it, but because they have somehow gotten the idea that it is better for somebody else somewhere.

As a matter of fact, the only delegation which, while this discussion has been pending, has come down to see me representing any industry of my district, when informed that it was impossible for me to vote against the bill my friend from Georgia had proposed, considered the matter and replied: "Well, Mr. Warner, if you cannot do that, and we see why you cannot do it, then, if you will give us free trade all round, if you will give us free coal, free iron, free tin, free brick, and free lumber, we are perfectly willing to have the bill of the gentleman from Georgia become a law."

Again, Mr. Chairman, although it may be superfluous for me to undertake to speak for anybody beyond my immediate constituency, yet I cannot avoid suggesting that in voicing to-day the sentiments of my district, I am speaking the sentiment of the great commercial port of New York. Right out in front of the great city, rippling about the base of the Statue of Liberty, lies New York Harbor, the great gift of the Almighty to the people of Manhattan Island. Radiating to every part of the globe through the

Narrows are the lines of shipping that bear our commerce to every part of the world. Radiating inward to every part of our common country are the railroads which bea our trade westward, and which bring the Western commerce eastward—all of them, sir, the prompt thanksgivings of a people too appreciative and too intelligent to let their talents lie wrapped in a napkin. And whoever interferes with that trade, I submit, Mr. Chairman, not merely does a wrong against the millions of Europe who want to buy the produce which America wishes to sell, not merely against us who make our gain from trade, but more than all against the American farmer, whose sole hope of prosperity consists in being given greater facilities for selling in Europe what the European millions want to buy, and being allowed to receive thence what they, in turn, can supply him cheaper than he can get it elsewhere.

SINGLE TAX NEWS.

The Single Tax is a tax on land, regardless of its improvements and in proportion to its value. It implies the abolition of all other forms of taxation, and the collection of the public revenues from this source alone. It would be CERTAIN, because land values are most easily appraised; WISE, because, by discouraging the withdrawal of land from use and encouraging its improvement, it would expand opportunities for labor, augment wealth, and increase the rewards of industry and thrift; EQUAL, because every one would pay taxes in proportion to the value of the land, of right the common property of all, which he appropriated to his own use; and JUST, because it would fall not upon labor, enterprise, and thrift, but upon the value of a special privilege. It is more fully explained in the Single Tax Platform in another column; and in "Progress and Poverty," by Henry George, every point is discussed and every objection answered.

The underlying principle of the single tax—that the earth belongs equally to all, and that the best way to secure substantial justice is to tax the occupant an amount equal to the yearly value of the land—is sound.—Journal of the Knights of Labor, September 24, 1891.

We have no hesitation in declaring our belief that the ideal taxation lies in the Single Land Tax, laid exclusively on the rental value of land, independent of improvements.—New York Times, January 10, 1891.

The best and surest subject of taxation is the thing that perforce stays in one place, that is land.—New York Sun, August 26, 1891.

Every one of these taxes [on commodities and buildings] the ostensible taxpayer—the man on the assessor's books—shifts to other shoulders. The only tax he cannot shift is the tax on his land values.—Detroit News, November 1, 1891.

The Bee does not say that it will never be a full-fledged single tax advocate It believes in it in theory now; it pauses only on the threshold of doubt as to the expediency under existing circumstances.—Sacramento (Cal.) Bee.

The products of individual industry should remain at all times untaxed. Take the annual rental value of land without regard for improvements, no matter what it amounts to. The community could put this fund to better uses than the individual landlords.—St. Louis Chronicle.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE.

The National Committee is carrying on the newspaper work of the Memphis committee in supplying news companies with single tax matter for their ready prints and plates.

Receipts for week ending May 9:

L. Boselli, Danbury, Conn.	$2 00
S. D. Guion, Brooklyn, N. Y.	60
	$2 60
Balance reported last week	4 12
Balance on hand	$6 72

GEO. ST. JOHN LEAVENS, Secretary.

PROGRESS OF THE MOVEMENT.

Pursuant to the call of W. H. T. Wakefield, the member of the National Committee from Kansas, a single tax conference for Kansas will be held at Wichita, on June 13, 14, and 15, for the purpose of perfecting a State organization. Wichita is the principal city of Jerry Simpson's Congressional district, and the Congressional convention at which he will be renominated is to meet there on the 14th of June.

In 1859 New York city deeded to the Woman's Hospital a large piece of land, comprising the block bounded by Forty-ninth and Fiftieth streets and Fourth and Lexington avenues. As a condition of the grant it was provided that this land should not be sold without the permission of the city. It is now reported that the New York Central Railroad Company has offered $1,000,000 for the site which cost the hospital nothing, and on which it has never been required to pay a penny of taxes, and application for permission to sell is reported to have been made. This has aroused some sensible but timed opposition in the Board of Aldermen, and the Manhattan Single Tax Club has taken up the matter. It argues that "the exemption of the institution from taxation for the past thirty odd years has been sufficient favor to show to a private enterprise, over which the city exercises no control or supervision;" and that "the consent the institution now asks for is tantamount to a proposition that the city donate to it a round $1,000,000;" and submits that "a proper and just disposition of this matter would be for the city to agree to erect for the Woman's Hospital a new building, to cost not to exceed $300,000, and that the city's title to the land bounded by Forty-ninth street, Fourth avenue, Fiftieth street, and Lexington avenue be revived; that the city then proceed to rent the recovered area at 5 per cent. of its value; appraisements and renewals of leases to be made and computed in the same manner as is done by Trinity corporation, the Sailor's Snug Harbor, and other estates in New York city that give ground leases." This, it is shown, would net the city an ever-increasing revenue, certainly not less to begin with than $50,000 per annum, which could be applied towards diminishing the tax burden now borne by the taxpayers, and thus all would benefit, and the action of the city would insure equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

DISCUSSION IN CHICAGO.

The last meeting of the Chicago Single Tax Club seems to have been rather lively as well as instructive. In reporting it Warren Worth Bailey, the president of the club, says:

The address of Mr. Ralph E. Hoyt on "Politics and Taxation" was one of the most entertaining that the club has had the pleasure of hearing in a long while. Mr. Hoyt has a remarkable facility of expression, and his understanding of the question he undertook to discuss was thorough and comprehensive. A number of bright anecdotes and clever illustrations served admirably to enhance the taking qualities of an address that otherwise was altogether enjoyable.

Mr. James A. Hearne, Mr. Hamlin Garland, Mr. Charles S. Prizer, of Reading, and Mr. Johnson, of Philadelphia, were present, and each was requested to join in the general discussion, Mr. Garland alone complying. He took occasion to defend the third party movement, which Mr. Hoyt had said offered nothing to induce the support of single tax men, and in the course of his remarks he expressed the opinion that the members of the Chicago Single Tax Club were Democrats first and single tax men afterwards. He said he was tired of partisan politics. He was for the third party because it meant a revolution. There was much in its platform he could not accept, but were the platforms of the Democrats and Republicans any better? He wanted the old parties broken up, and he avowed the belief that this end was within sight through the means of the new political power, with which he had enthusiastically allied himself. He thought the tariff question of small importance. He was a free trader, but he didn't regard the robbery which protection involved as comparable with that involved in the railway monopoly. He thought he was robbed more every time he made the trip between Boston and Chicago than he was in a whole year by the tariff.

It was greatly regretted that Mr. Garland left immediately after he had spoken. Had he staid Mr. Furbish, Mr. White and Mr. Hornstein would have entertained him with views somewhat different from those he voiced. But he went away with Mr. Hearne, and only the audience had the pleasure of listening to the gentlemen named. Mr. Furbish was particularly brilliant on this occasion and fairly convulsed his auditors by his splendid sallies. He sarcastically complimented Mr. Garland on his escape from partisan politics by going over to the third party, and then, leaving him, sailed into certain pious gentlemen who had been exchanging correspondence regarding an endowment by one of them of a theological seminary. His effort was one of the happiest he has ever made before the Chicago club.

Nor was Mr. White less happy. In his way he was quite as brilliant as Mr. Furbish, and, while expressing regret that Mr. Garland was not present, he could not let what that gentleman had said pass unchallenged. He had a doubt whether Mr. Garland knew how much he was robbed by either the railway monopoly or the tariff confidence game. He gave some figures showing that through the operations of the latter the country was annually fleeced to the extent of perhaps a thousand millions. Mr. White justified the course of the single tax men in supporting the Democratic party. It was going in the right direction. The present Congress was not fooling with tariff reform. It was striking straight for absolute free trade, and its action should encourage our people to keep on with their work of stimulation and practical leadership.

Mr. Hornstein also spoke in much the same vein, especially dwelling upon the nomination of Judge Altgeld by the Democrats for the governorship of Illinois as a happy sign of the times. Judge Altgeld is a radical—I should almost say a single tax man—and it marks a sharp departure from old conservatism that he was chosen by the Democrats in preference to such men as General Black and Judge Hunter.

Mr. Hoyt closed the discussion with a few pointed remarks and the meeting ended with high good humor and satisfaction prevailing.

E. O. Brown speaks next, and on the 19th Editor James O'Donnell, of the Bloomington Leader, and C. S. Darrow are expected. The subject probably will be "Crooked Taxation."

MR. BROKAW'S WORK.

Dubuque is one of the Iowa towns in which the seed sown by W. Edwin Brokaw is sprouting. Mr. Brokaw lectured there last winter to a small audience, but he made a deep impression upon those who heard him; in the slang of the day, he touched the button and they have done the rest. A flourishing club with an active membership has been established, of which Jacob Zangmeister is chairman, David Drummond treasurer and T. W. Graham secretary. It meets on the second Wednesday of every month. Public opinion is unconsciously responding to the agitation, as it has done in so many other places. Single tax discussion is common, and a disposition is apparent among officials to remedy such old abuses as the undervaluation of vacant lots. Heretofore land speculators have been favored on the plea that property which yields no income should be lightly taxed; but the assessor this year, who was elected as an independent endorsed by Republicans, promises to pay no attention to increases in assessing land, but to assess at full value. As there is a great deal of vacant land in Dubuque which has been for years assessed at from 10 to 40 per cent. of its true value, while improved lots were assessed at nearly selling value, it is expected that a marked decrease in taxes in improved property will be shown. The Dubuque Club has subscribed for 100 copies of Brokaw's new paper, and has prepared resolutions in support of Tom Johnson's District of Columbia single tax bill.

The San Francisco Club adopted resolutions congratulating and thanking Tom L. Johnson for having, in the late tariff debate in the House of Representatives, made the first single tax speech ever made in Congress.

GROWTH IN MISSOURI.

John C. Bender, of St. Joseph, Mo., who has good opportunities for observation in his State, believes that the single tax idea is growing rapidly in towns, and that its slower growth in farming communities is due to the difficulty of getting literature into the hands of farmers. In corroboration of his opinion as to cities, he calls attenion to a lecture before the Commercial Club, at Kansas City, approved by the Star of that place, in which the single tax for local improvements was advocated by a prominent non-resident land owner. Charles D. Hubbard was the lecturer. He distinctly declared in favor of levying "special taxes against the land alone irrespective of improvements" as "a just and desirable assignment of the burden." He believed that it is not only possible, but desirable that the improvement of Kansas City should proceed under this land value tax system. "Just as the landlord," he said, "owes to the tenant the furnishing of attractive, well-kept premises, so it may be said the land owner owes to the people the furnishing of a finished, attractive, well-kept city." The springing up everywhere of such men as Mr. Hubbard makes the phenomenal progress of our movement, and will explain to old fogy Democrats, if they give attention to it, why the Johnsons and the Simpsons are so "unaccountably popular."

And it is a mistake to suppose that progress among farmers is slow. At first blush they oppose the single tax, because they understand from ignorant editors that it would make farmers bear all the burden of taxation. But it is easily explained to them and they are the quickest of converts.

Here is a type of the farmer who considers the subject, reported by the New Crusade, of Warren, Pa.:

"I am willing to pay rent to the Government for this land I use, but when I save my money and build me a barn or a house, I don't like to pay rent for that, because it is my own property." That is the way Farmer N. L. Ecklund talks about a tax on improvements. Mr. Ecklund is one of Warren County's intelligent Swedish citizens.

FROM AN ALLIANCE ORGAN.

We have already told of Geo. C. Ward's article in the Topeka Advocate, one of the great alliance papers of the west, in which he questioned the soundness of the single tax, and of W. H. T. Wakefield's conclusive reply, and now comes the Advocate itself in an editorial complaining—but let it speak for itself:

We do not object to a continuance of the discussion provided an able writer on each side of the question can be permitted to pursue it. Since these articles appeared, however, we have been literally buried under an avalanche of single tax literature. It comes from every state and territory from Maine to California, from Alaska to the southern point of Florida, and if there is a single tax advocate that we have not received a communication from he must be somewhere outside the boundaries of civilization. We advise the single tax advocates to put up a national ticket at once. We have heard from enough of them already to elect a president. The most gratifying feature of this affair is in its demonstration of the value of The Advocate as an advertising medium. If our advertisers get one response to their advertisements for every ten single tax articles we have received since the initial article on this subject was published, they will have to increase their clerical force to do justice to their customers. We have single tax manuscript enough to last us for the next ten years. Please let up now, and either change the subject or settle upon some one person who shall speak for the crowd.

The Saturday Argus, of Clinton, Ind., finds that "the brainiest, most audacious, most courageous, and most practical workers in the present Congress are the handful of absolute free traders and single taxers. With no pre-arranged plan of work or organization," it says, "they seem to have quietly, but determinedly gone to work to do the duty that came nearest at hand. Tom L. Johnson, from Cleveland, Ohio, has so far taken the lead, while Jerry Simpson seems to be fully abreast with him. Already these men are making their influence felt in Congress in the single tax agitation."

Buffalo Truth has something in favor of the single tax in almost every issue. Its latest contribution is a special from New York city showing how wealth is accumulated here by people who own the land, and what it costs the landless people for permission to live in their own city.

At Pottstown, Pa., Charles S. Prizer, whose portrait appears this week in our personal column, gave a lecture on taxation to an attentive audience which filled Weikenkorn's Hall. The Pottstown Ledger reports the lecture, which it describes as "graceful and entertaining," in a remarkably correct condensation. Before the audience withdrew objections were answered and doubts explained.

A SINGLE TAX LEGISLATOR.

The Daily Columbian, of New Westminster, British Columbia, reports a session of the provincial legislature in which one of the members, Mr. Brown, replied to attacks made upon his single tax constituents. Mr. Brown said that:

The leader of the government said the other day, in speaking of a meeting held in his (Mr. Brown's) constituency, that it was composed of single taxers, socialists and communists. As far as those particular utterances were concerned, his constituents had taken the matter into their own hands. We find men's ideas were changing as to how they should deal with matters of taxation, and it was to be expected that people engaged in the government of the country should at least know the feeling and facts on the subject so as to be able to talk intelligently about them. The only point he wished to notice was the confusion that appeared to exist in the Premier's mind between what are known as single tax ideas, socialists and communists.

He read a short extract from one of Henry George's works, and proceeded to say that:

This put before the world what were Mr. George's single tax ideas, and if any one could find anything communistic in that he would like to know it. In confusing single tax with socialism and communism, the Premier made a very great mistake, and was utterly ignorant of what he was talking about.

There is no single tax movement known as such in France, but we can see from the brief and blundering cable despatches that the principle is eating its way into the public mind. The labor movement there is urging the abolition of the octroi, the system of internal protection which still prevails in France, and the adoption for municipal revenues of a tax on land rents and the full taxation of vacant land.

The Monroe Circle of the Economic Reading Circle held its seventh class at the residence of Professor L. E. Wilmarth, Brooklyn, on Saturday, the 7th inst. There were eighteen women and eleven men present. Miss Alice Thatcher, of Orange, N. J., was moderator for the class. The lesson, "Production, Distribution, and Consumption," was discussed. The lessons which are studied in these classes are those which are regularly published in THE STANDARD, and which are being printed in tract form. Mrs. Chase and Miss Chapman entertained the circle with songs and recitations.

AFTER STREET RAILWAYS.

At the meeting of the Philadelphia Single Tax Society held on Thursday evening, April 28, resolutions were adopted to the effect that, as the street railway corporations of the city have persistently violated the contracts imposed upon them by their charters, and as the city has the legal right to take possession of the railways, the time has come for such action by the municipality. Copies of these resolutions were sent to the daily papers, and were published by many of them, attracting considerable attention to and creating considerable talk in the city about our society and the resolutions.

John Lewis of Boston has written and had printed at his own expense a little pamphlet which he calls "A Suggestion to the Boston Typographical Union, No. 13." It is a strong presentation of the single tax and of its relation to phases of the social question.

LESSONS FOR ECONOMIC READING CIRCLES.

VIII. BANKING.—The necessity for the use of money is in a very great measure obviated by means of checks, notes, and bills of exchange. These are in effect orders upon banks and bankers for the transfer of accounts upon their books, and are an improvement upon the use of money very much as money is an improvement upon pure barter. They substitute bookkeeping for money. If every person were a bank depositor, and every bank were connected with every other by means of a perfect clearing house system, all necessity for money except as pocket change would disappear. In such case the check, the note, or the bill of exchange, operating as an order upon the bookkeepers of banks and clearing houses, would effect the transfer of debits and credits the world over, so that all trade would be pure barter, freed from the difficulties incident to pure barter in primitive conditions. But every person is not a bank depositor, nor are banks perfectly connected by clearing houses; therefore, some money is still necessary. Imperfect as banking is at present, however, it is estimated that 90 per cent. of all trading transactions are effected without the transfer of money, by the simple process of transferring debits and credits on the books of banks and clearing houses. Thus, banking facilitates trading, and as trading is producing, bankers are producers.

SINGLE TAX LETTER WRITERS.

Divisions A and O—Hon. P. G. Lester, M. C., Washington, D. C. This gentleman is a representative from Virginia, and in reply to a letter urging him to support Mr. Johnson's bill, he asks the old questions, "Why should land pay all the tax?" "Why should my lot, worth $1,000, cottage on it, pay as much as yours, with a $10,000 factory or nothing on it?"

Divisions B and P—John C. Freund, editor Dolgeville (N. Y.) Herald, McKinley Republican, published a letter from one of the corps with editorial comments. Admits theoretical value for the single tax but thinks social conditions must be better before it could be initiated.

Division C—A. L. Taggart, Morristown, Pa.

Division D—James G. McSparren, Furnice, Lancaster County, Pa.

Division F—R. H. Thomas, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

These gentlemen are members of the Pennsylvania Tax Conference held at Harrisburg, February 4. This body is to prepare amendments to the tax laws of Pennsylvania.

Division E—Charles Spiers, Mobile, Ala., extensive market gardener, and a politician who is willing to investigate.

Division G—Hon. Daniel Smith, State Senator, Mobile, Ala. Has been approached on the subject. Urge his further investigation and reasons therefor.

Division H—Wm. Gartside, Richmond, Ind., of the Diamond Flash Manufacturing Company, is interested, but should receive letters explaining the necessity for the acceptance of our principles.

Division I—Jesse C. Stevens, Centreville, Ind., writer and lecturer in the farmer's movement. Explain from farmers' standpoint.

Division J—The Sun, Richmond, Ind., will publish letters on the single tax.

Division K—B. L. Roberts, Canton, Miss., recently issued a circular showing the need of better roads, and advocates the issuance of county bonds. See page 7, STANDARD of April 6, for suggestions as to building of country roads.

Division L—Rev. S. M. Wilbur, Unitarian Church, Portland, Ore., is a liberal-minded man. He was given as a target last January. I should like to hear from his replies to this division what impression has been made upon him.

Division M—Professor Joseph Anderson.

Division N—Professor J. A. Martin.

These gentlemen are at the Alcorn University (colored) at Rodney, Miss., and should become interested in a principle which offers a cure for the poverty of a landless race.

Members and others will please remember that I am always glad of the names of possible targets.

New York, 1674 Broadway. MARIAN DANA MACDANIEL, Secretary.

GLORY THAT COMES HIGH.

R. G. Brown had a discussion in the columns of the Memphis Commercial with the editor, and when it ended the Memphis Daily Unionist offered to its contemporary the following advice:

Do not mix with the single taxers. They are the progressionists in politics. Right or wrong, they can wallop the life out of any controversialist that comes against them. There is glory in fighting them, but it comes too high. There may be pleasure, but it is so acute as to wear the skin off. The wisest and easiest way out for an ordinary mortal is for him to penitently smite his breast and say: "Domine, non sum dignis." When the single taxers build a pine-knot fire in the middle of the big road the commercial man should walk around it. At the present writing he is in it.

PRATT PORTRAITS.

One of the best books of the year, if not the very best in the line of light literature, is Anna Fuller's "Pratt Portraits, sketched in a New England suburb," published by the Putnams, of New York. It contains thirteen character sketches, each forming a separate story of absorbing interest, charmingly told, and all are connected by the diversified family ties of four generations. The characters are admirably portrayed, the stories are varied and alive with incident, the atmosphere is Yankee and home-like, and unforced pathos is relieved with occasional dashes of feminine humor. It is just the book for an hour's leisure; but, more than that, it is a book to read over and over again, either through and through or with here a dip and there another, and one well worthy a favorite place in the home library.

THERE IS NO ESCAPE.

Referring to THE STANDARD's answer to Senator John Sherman's statement that two-thirds of the voters in cities pay no taxes and have the benefit of the savings of the other third, the Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph says:

Mr. Sherman nor anybody else can successfully refute this argument, because it is a statement of fact and truth. Whether he own taxable property or not, no self-supporting man can escape taxation. In his case it is as inevitable as death.

OBJECT LESSONS.

This department contains facts, gathered from all parts of the world, that are of current interest and permanent value, and illustrate social and political problems. Information from trustworthy sources is solicited.

SAVED BY LAND VALUES.

New York Times.

During the last two years capitalists have tried to get possession of the Brooklyn Art Association building, in Montague street, to convert it into a big office building. The late Gordon L. Ford sought to do this, and he quietly bought up nearly all the stock of the concern, but died before he could carry out his idea. Since then it has been reported that the People's Trust Company had secured possession, but President Campbell denied it. The land on which this building stands is the only thing of value the association possesses, but it has so increased in value that shares in the association have, by this fact alone, been put above par. One of the things that has prevented a sale is the feeling that the city ought to have an art building, but that will probably disappear when the new Institute of Arts and Sciences is completed and the old Art Association is merged in that, as it must be eventually.

The Academy of Music, adjoining the art rooms, occupies a similar position. Financially, it has never been a success, but the great increase in the value of the land to over $1,000,000 has caused the stock to be quoted at about 150. It, too, will come into the market for business purposes in a few years.

IS THIS TRUE?

Market men doing business at Central Market, a one-story shed, bounded by Broadway, Seventh avenue, and Forty-eighth street, in the city of New York, tell this story: The ground comprises between six and seven city lots, and the space is divided into stalls and rented to butchers, green grocers, etc. When Broadway was widened many years ago, the city condemned a strip fifty feet wide, for which a sum was paid to the owner in excess of the original cost to him of the entire tract. Within the past twenty years the population of the vicinity has been increased by fully 100,000. The net rentals of the market equal $20,000, or 4 per cent. on $500,000. Indeed, the owner refused an offer of $450,000 from parties who contemplated building a fine hotel. The assessors consider the property as unimproved, and, therefore, value it for taxation at less than $150,000.

GOOD SENSE FROM AN UNEXPECTED SOURCE.

Henry Clews.

The constant tendency in all civilized communities is toward cheapening of production. Year by year clothing costs less, and coal ought to cost the consumer less. The main reason why it does not cost less is that trade in coal is not strictly free; nearly every ton that comes to market is loaded with a tax that is imposed upon it by the necessity of paying somebody interest on the par bonds that were sold from 90 per cent. all the way down to 30 to raise money to pay schemers' prices for coal mines, coal and form companies, and worthless branch railroads. Over the great anthracite deposits of Pennsylvania has been erected during the slow years a rickety mass of corruption, reckless financiering, insolvency, and ultimate conspiracy against the rights of the public. To attempt to reconstruct this toppling edifice would be useless; and the efforts of syndicates and bankers to lift it up into symmetry and strength resolve themselves into mere stock-jobbing tricks, with cupidity as the jack-screw. But the deposits themselves are perfectly honest and healthy. There they repose under the earth's surface, untainted by fraud, and the firm friend of the people. The State should own them, and should farm them out to those people who will distribute them to dealers and consumers at the lowest competitive prices.

TARIFF INCREASES THE PRICE.

Brickett's Cobden Pellets.

A revenue tariff paid into the United States treasury adds just that amount to the cost of an article. No one disputes this statement. A protective tariff adds to the cost of an article just the amount that is needed to protect. This statement may be disputed before examined, and we therefore explain it. In order to be constitutional a protective tariff must be a tariff for revenue so high that goods will not be imported. Now suppose an article can be imported free of duty at a cost of $1, while a similar article made in the United States would cost $1.25, to protect this a tariff for revenue must be placed on the foreign article at 25 per cent. at least, and may be placed at 70 per cent. If the rate is fixed at 70 per cent., then any goods imported would be increased in price just that amount, but, as 25 per cent. is enough to protect, the increase in cost of home manufactures over the foreign price need be only 25 per cent.

FARM LAND.

Adapted from L. E. Wilmarth in New Earth.

New York State has thirty millions of acres of land; if we allow two and a half millions for cities, towns and residences, we have, as per the Agricultural Bureau report, twenty-seven and a half millions of available farm land. One able man cannot take care of over twenty acres of farming land. Now, the last State census showed 375,000 persons, male and female, actually engaged in all agricultural pursuits. The twenty-seven and a half millions of acres, then, would give each farmer, dairy maid, and farm laborer twenty acres apiece, and leave twenty million acres still unused. Yet the cheapest farm land in the United States, according to the same report, is $4 19 per acre.

WHY WE ARE PROSPEROUS.

Wheeling (W. Va.) Register.

Put the United States on the same natural footing with England, and with our high tariff permitting next to no foreign commerce, what would become of our high wages and prosperity? It is our great natura resources, our boundless wealth of rich agricultural territory, our comparatively scant population, and our cheap land that makes this country prosperous in spite of, and not because of, the high tariff.

OUT OF THE MISTS.

FRANCES M. MILNE.

We said: It is coming, coming!
Ah! surely the day will arise,
Tho' heavy along the horizon
The fog in its darkness lies—
The dark, foul fog of the marshland
That shadows the morning skies:

The cruel, treacherous marshland,
Where hearts had suffered and failed;
Where the ardor of youth was broken,
And the courage of manhood quailed.
And against the poisonous thicket
The strongest had not prevailed.

We had heard of the sunny meadows
That lie on the farther side
Of the hill tops, that beckon grandly
Where beauty and strength abide;
Of the woodland's changing glory,
And the torrent's silvery tide.

We knew 'twas the land of our birthright,
Tho' scoffers our faith profaned;
And weary and sad with longing
The eyes that toward it strained;
And over the perilous pathway
Blood-marked were the footsteps gained.

The air was heavy with vapors
That rose from a shrouded past;
And loud with tumultuous murmur
Of creeds and philosophies clashed,
And the sob and the curse, unheeded,
Of crime and misery massed.

We knew, if we could but follow,
There must be a path to lead
Through the horror, and din, and darkness,
To that far and sunny mead.
Oh, God! was Thy world forgotten
That Thy prophet came not at need?

Alas for the valorous spirits,
Vanquished by fell despair!
For the hearts that were pierced by pity,
And the arms that beat the air!
While still vain voices were crying,
"Lo! here is the way, or there."

Then, strong as archangel's trumpet,
A sudden clarion rung;
And smote, like a wind of Heaven,
The thick, dark mists that clung;
And in souls that were faint to dying
A deathless hope had sprung.

The day is coming, is coming,
(Nay, surely the day is here),
For a dauntless host is pressing
With never a halt or fear—
Straight on thro' morass and thicket,
And the skies beyond are clear.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

SPECULATION AND TAXING INCOMES.

Walter C. Behlen, while agreeing with us as to the justice of the single tax, declares his opinion that without a check on the speculative class we shall fall short of doing full justice, since that class can plunder the people even under the single tax. It is not necessary, he says, for them to own a foot of land, for by means of usury they can live upon society without contributing to the support of government. He thinks an income tax necessary to reach the non-producing but wealth-consuming speculator, who clips his coupons and deals in futures and watered stocks.

Mr. Behlen overlooks one fact in connection with the single tax. It is not ownership of land merely that gives the owners power to take wealth from their fellows, but their ownership of superior land from which their fellows are excluded. The upper millstone cannot grind; to grind, the upper and the nether must come together.

The single tax would make every one equal as to land ownership. How, then, could one take advantage of another? When all have equal rights in the bounties of nature, and each is free to keep all the products of his own labor, none can be plundered unless he is willing to be plundered, and we are not trying to protect grown-up children against their own folly. The mother of all speculation is speculation in land. With that abolished, and the single tax would abolish it, all other forms of speculation would be like common gambling, in which no one gains or loses but the immediate parties to the act.

And if this were not so, why an income tax? Why tax men who earn their incomes in order to reach those who do not? The reference to clipping coupons suggests the real difficulty in Mr. Behlen's mind. He alludes to railroad stocks and bonds, which are in great degree representative of land values, and would be reached by the single tax, and to Government bonds, which would soon disappear in the state of society which a full adoption of the single tax would inaugurate. We suggest to him, and to others puzzled as he is, the careful reading of chapter 4, book 3, of "Progress and Poverty," on spurious capital, and so much of chapter 1, book 5, as discusses the nature and effects of speculation.

PERSONAL.

Charles Sumner Prizer, of Reading, Pa., is a descendant of Wilhelm Deffenderfer, who came to America late in the seventeenth century and secured from William Penn a large slice of eastern Pennsylvania. Was born April 26, 1860, in Chester county, Pa. He was educated almost wholly by his father, John Prizer, who, having been for six years a tutor in the Paghtown Academy, was able to conduct his children through a systematic course of study at home. When Mr. Prizer was sixteen years old his father died, and he obtained a position as bill clerk at $4 a week in the Reading Stove Works, from which he was gradually advanced to head bookkeeper. In 1881 he went upon the road for the Buckwalter Stove Company, of Royersford, Pa., and in 1884 he became New England salesman for the Smith & Anthony Stove Company, returning in 1885 to the Reading Stove Works as traveling salesman for Ohio and Western Pennsylvania. Having acquired an interest in this concern, he was elected four years later a director and the secretary of this the largest stove factory in Pennsylvania, positions which he still holds.

An attack upon "Progress and Poverty," made by Puck, excited Mr. Prizer's curiosity, and he read the book. Upon a second reading he was converted to its doctrines. That was in 1882. Two years later he organized a Henry George Club in Reading with six members besides himself, all of whom were his own converts, and in 1888 he organized the Reading Single Tax Society, of which he was president until 1891, when he was succeeded by Wm. H. McKinney. In 1890 this society nominated Mr. Prizer and Walter M. Tyson for the Assembly on a straight-out single tax platform. Mr. Prizer was opposed to independent political action, and still thinks notwithstanding the large vote polled for himself and his colleague, that, on the whole, the policy was unwise. But he was nominated while away from home, and upon his return found that he could not withdraw without embarrassment to his friends. He received 2,334 votes in a total of 11,000, the remainder being divided between the Republicans and Democrats.

Mr. Prizer was a delegate to the first national single tax conference held at Cooper Union, New York, in September, 1890, and was chairman of the Pennsylvania delegation. Upon his return from the conference he began the publication in the Reading Herald of a series of open letters to assessors, which started a general discussion in all the local papers concerning the local system of taxation and the inequalities and discriminations under existing modes of assessment. Some of his material for these letters he obtained through a lawyer whom he retained for the purpose to examine the real estate sales for the preceding year, and compare selling prices with assessments. As a result of this he was able to show that vacant lots were assessed at 44 per cent. of their selling value, improved real estate worth from $5,000 to $40,000 at 58 per cent., improved real estate worth from $2,500 to $5,000 at 68 per cent., and improved real estate worth from $800 to $2,500 at 72 per cent. It thus plainly appeared that owners of vacant land and of valuable real estate were favored at the expense of small home owners, a fact that could no doubt be shown to exist in every community if such an investigation as that of Mr. Prizer were made. The practical result of this work has been the assessment of real estate in Reading at its true value as nearly as possible, and the single tax agitation is generally credited, as it deserves to be, with having caused this change.

Though Mr. Prizer is a busy man, he is constantly engaged in advancing the single tax movement, particularly in connection with local affairs. He stands high in the stove trade and in the business circles of Reading, and is universally respected.

W. H. T. Wakefield, who established and has long edited the Jeffersonian of Lawrence, Kan., has sold the paper to J. W. Watkins & Co. Mr. Wakefield is the Kansas member of the National Committee of the Single Tax League.

The Rev. Henry C. Adams, formerly assistant rector of Trinity Church in New York, and lately rector of Trinity Church in Buffalo, is attracting and pleasing a growing congregation at the Church of the Redeemer, at Eighty-second street and Park avenue, New York, of which he is now the rector. The single tax is part of Mr. Adams's religion.

Wm. E. Norton, of Monroe, Oregon, recommends the preparation of a single tax concordance, or something on the plan of Bartlett's familiar quotations, arranged in some such divisions as science, law, medicine, general literature, history, etc., each referring to the single tax. He thinks it would be a powerful work of reference for the fighters, and hopes that some one with the necessary ability, time, and means will undertake its preparation.

Miss Lenora Beck, of the Chicago Single Tax Club, is a woman whose work as a teacher in the Montefiore public school has won for her the reputation of being one of the most thorough and capable educators in the city. The Chicago Journal says of her that her distinguishing traits of character are her strong, sympathetic nature, her devotion to the interests of the little children under her charge, and the ready aid she always extends to those in trouble or distress. Miss Beck is at present vice-president of the club. She is a ready and capable speaker, and is exceedingly well informed on politics and finance.

Send orders to THE STANDARD for Henry George's reply to the Pope. Cloth, 75c.; paper, 50c.

NEWS OF THE WEEK.

DOMESTIC.

An enormous river and harbor bill has been agreed upon by the House River and Harbor Committee, and careful Democratic leaders are discouraged at their colleagues' disregard of the Holman retrenchment resolution adopted early in the session. The bill has passed the House.

The Pope has condemned the so-called Faribault system of public schools, which consists in the support of parochial schools by public taxation and the postponement of religious instruction until non-Catholic children have left school for the day. Archbishop Ireland established the system at Faribault, Minn., and hence its name.

Presidents and other executive officers of the Farmers' Alliance of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, Texas, Louisiana, Virginia, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, West Virginia and Florida, with President Polk and other members of the national body, in session at Birmingham, Ala., voted 21 to 16 not to go into the third party movement.

Congress has passed and the President has signed the Chinese Exclusion bill. It continues the present law for ten years, forbids bail for Chinamen whose right to be in the country is in dispute, and orders all Chinese laborers resident here to register within a year. The Chinese Minister has made formal protest against the more stringent features of the law.

Congress has passed a bill admitting certain ships of the Inman Line to American registry, and the measure excites interest at home and abroad.

FOREIGN.

Premier Rudini and his new ministry, but two weeks old, have resigned. The Radicals defeated the ministry by a majority of eight on the question of retrenchment, especially in expenses of the army. Giolitti, a friend of the triple alliance, has been called to the premiership.

Lord Salisbury, in a remarkable speech at the Primrose League meeting, intimated that the Ulster people would be justified in armed resistance to Irish home rule, and again hinted at determined opposition in the House of Lords to such legislation.

Six French bishops have been deprived of their salaries because of their interference in elections.

There have been anarchic demonstrations with dynamite at Liege.

Emin Pasha, the German explorer, is reported dead in Africa.

Cunninghame Graham, M. P., a socialist, so frequently and coarsely interrupted an advanced Radical speaking on the land question that Mr. Graham was suspended.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

E. J. Shriver, of New York writes: In trying to point out the fallaciousness of the idea that the activity of trade depends upon the number of dollars in circulation, I took it for granted that I would get into hot water, but hardly expected a shot from the quarter that Mr. George White seems to occupy. Nor did I wish to assume the infallibility on the subject that he ascribes to me, my position as stated in the article which he criticises being that the laws of money are so much affected by circumstances as to be much less certain than is generally considered to be the case, but that most of the money controversy is time and effort wasted that should be devoted to more really essential matters—the per capita men certainly fighting for a shadow and the "gold bugs" probably exaggerating their side of the issue.

It is hardly necessary to say that I did not invent the statement of how prices are determined, prices being values expressed in terms of money: nor does Mr. White entirely go to the root of the matter here. Wheat is quoted at a dollar a bushel not because it equals in value 25 8 grains of gold, but because that much gold and that much wheat both equal that value of all other things which we express by the term one dollar. The accepted statement is that the 25.8 grains of gold comes to have that value because of the total amount of gold which is presented in exchange for goods relative to the total quantity of goods. My suggestion was that the real governing factor is the total amount of currency of all kinds, a suggestion which I think may account for a good many unexplained monetary phenomena, that appear to be entirely at variance with what we know of the output and labor cost of precious metals. I certainly did not advocate a fluctuating standard of value, but merely remarked that if the best medium of exchange should prove too unstable for use as a standard, people would surely find and use some other standard. If, for example, the labor cost of producing gold should increase in but a small ratio, I doubt whether prices would fall correspondingly, but think it much more likely that people would economize in the actual use of gold, and increase their use of substitutes sufficient to approximately maintain the financial basis. To the reverse of this is probably due the unexpected absorption of depreciated silver during recent years, though if the volume of this silver is swollen enough further to make it available for a sufficiently large percentage of payments, it will undoubtedly, I presume, become the real basis by which prices are measured, and these will rise accordingly.

As to my allusion to the pound sterling as being the international measure of value, what I meant was that international trade has come to accept the pound sterling as representing a given amount of goods or, more properly, of services for delivery in London. Of course, this rests ultimately on the quantity of gold in a sovereign, but its relation to a similar quantity of gold in other countries, and to more variable currencies of other countries, is constantly fluctuating, the fluctuations indicating the changes in trade relations, of which the abstract value of a pound sterling is the accepted measure.

Certain portions of my article, which were somewhat obscure, I have endeavored to elucidate in correcting the text for publication in tract form, and I hope Mr. White will see whether in that shape it better meets his objections.

——E. C. Clark writes: Since the framing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States of America, nor at any other time in the

history of the world, has such wisdom and noble courage marked the efforts of those who in any age have been called upon to shape by legislation the destinies of a people, as that evidenced by Jerry Simpson, Tom L. Johnson, of Ohio; Mr. Fithian, of Illinois; Mr. Bowman, of Iowa; Mr. Stone, of Kentucky; Mr. Hatch, of Missouri, and the 121 members who voted to lay the resolution of Mr. Burrows on the table.

Generations yet unborn, made glad, prosperous, and happy by a system of government that shall evolve out of and form the initiatory work so successfully begun by this little colony of patriots in the lower house, shall bless them. Our mutual friend, Dr. Malcolm, and myself, on getting THE STANDARD, felicitated ourselves hugely over their united happy effort and successful sparring with the disgruntled objectors, that the wisdom of "George" should become notorious through the Congressional Record. As Mr. Johnson so truly says: "They object because it hurts?" It reveals the tatterdemalion depravity of their prejudiced partisan dishonesty, and will prove to the world that they themselves do not believe in the protective theory they advocate, and that they are traitors to the moral principles of right and secret enemies to just principles of government.

This nation, when as a result of these, their labors, taking inspiration from their honest devotion to the cause of truth, and from the wisdom found in the works from which they severally quoted, having awoke from its lethargy, and clothed itself in righteousness and justice; when she has in truth attained unto that greatness and power possible only where her every and humblest subject is a sovereign, in that his every God given right is secured and made indefeasible by her laws, they, as faithful servants of an outraged people, will be held in grateful remembrance, and their names be written in gold on the page of fame.

"PROTECTION OR FREE TRADE?" IN THE RECORD.

St. Louis Chronicle.

That this device should have attracted unfavorable comment from Republicans was natural; but the conspirators will not be rebuked by the Democratic majority, with which they are affiliated.

A NATURAL RESULT.

Philadelphia Ledger.

One of the first results of the new protectionist tariff in New South Wales was to raise the price of bread. The two-pound loaf went up from six to eight cents.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES.

THE STANDARD is a weekly paper of sixteen pages, and is the leading single tax and free trade periodical of the world. Its subscription price is $3.00 a year, payable in advance.

Standard Extension List for 1892.—To introduce THE STANDARD to new readers, the publisher will receive from persons not already subscribers' subscriptions for 1892 at $1.00. This offer is *not for one year*, but for the period from date of receipt of subscription *to the last issue of* 1892.

Payment for The Standard.—All checks and post office orders should be drawn simply to the order of THE STANDARD. In remitting in postage stamps, ones and twos are preferred to those of larger denomination. By complying strictly with this request, correspondents will save the publisher much trouble.

Expiration.—The date or number opposite your name on your paper shows the issue to which your subscription is paid. A change in date is an indication that money for renewal of subscription has been duly received.

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Communications.—All communications for publication should be addressed to Editor of THE STANDARD. Business letters should be invariably addressed to THE STANDARD, 42 University Place, New York, N. Y.

CIRCULATION OF "THE STANDARD."

Regular subscriptions received this week	11
Extension " " "	38
Trial " " "	184
Total subscriptions for week ending May 9	233
Unexpired subscriptions	5,739
Sales, etc	550
On hand for future sales	150
Total circulation, issue of May 11	6,672
Less exchange and free list	305
TOTAL PAID CIRCULATION	6,367

For the purpose of enabling regular subscribers to see whether or not their respective States are sufficiently represented in the Extension List, we give the list by States. We make no comment; each subscriber may make his own. The list is as follows:

Alabama	6	Mississippi	4
Arkansas	12	Montana	14
California	64	Nebraska	31
Canada	135	New Hampshire	15
Colorado	42	New Jersey	144
Connecticut	70	New Mexico	15
Delaware	13	New York	461
District of Columbia	43	North Carolina	4
Foreign	8	North Dakota	2
Florida	10	Ohio	121
Georgia	9	Oklahoma Territory	2
Illinois	114	Oregon	84
Indiana	24	Pennsylvania	169
Indian Territory	1	Rhode Island	46
Iowa	128	South Dakota	15
Idaho	1	Texas	48
Kansas	39	Tennessee	27
Kentucky	17	Utah	8
Louisiana	15	Vermont	7
Maryland	6	Virginia	19
Massachusetts	164	West Virginia	9
Missouri	91	Wisconsin	20
Maine	43	Washington	54
Minnesota	151	Wyoming	2
Michigan	136		
Mexico	2	Total	2,666

Persons, not now subscribers, who receive this issue of THE STANDARD and wish to subscribe *for the year* 1892, for one dollar, may do so by forwarding the money to THE STANDARD, 42 University place, New York City.

All such subscribers will receive in addition to the paper, his choice from all of Henry George's works in the best paper bound edition.

The paper will be sent for four weeks on trial to any address for ten cents.

THE HOUSEHOLD.

BRIGHT ROOMS FOR LITTLE FOLKS.

ALICE CHITTENDEN.

At from five to seven years it is customary to push the babies from the parent nest, and to install them with their cribs, cots, or trundle beds in some small adjoining nook or room. The fortunate few, both of parents and children, are those who can afford a bright, well-ventilated, roomy nursery, made dear to childish eyes and hearts by simple adornments. Many of us who cannot accomplish this might still do much by giving the matter a little thought, and realizing what an important element in his education a child's room may become.

Bright pictures taken from any art magazine will fill their childish imaginations with untold romances. Put a cheap, pretty paper on the walls in preference to leaving them white, and take the little one along to have a vote in its selection. If you see him going very far astray, it is so easy to guide him and still leave the impression that he is having things all his own way. Make him in love with the dear little rosebuds, or the pretty, trailing vines with bunches of red berries, such as you and he have so often found in the woods, should he show symptoms of choosing some great, gaudy pattern.

Stain the floor a light oak and put a rug in the centre, either of ingrain or rag carpet, but tack it down with large drugget tacks, which are easily pried up, and prevent the untidy look which a loose rug has.

I have boarded at country houses where the windows had neither blinds nor shutters and only paper shades, which would neither stay down nor up, and I think there is nothing which makes a home look so absolutely cheerless and unhomelike as unfurnished windows. Neat Holland shades can be bought in any New York furnishing store for from 25 cents a window up, ready mounted on spring rollers. But for the little folks' room you must not stop at the shades. Long curtains add such a mysterious charm in a child's eyes. You can buy curtain poles of ash, oak or cherry, with brackets and brass rings, for 20 cents a window.

If rigid economy is a strict necessity look over your stores of outlawed dresses and see if you have not some old-fashioned sprigged lawn dress, past wear, whose best breadths may be used for curtains; or a crossbar muslin too fragile to stand the washtub many times if worn as a dress. You need only hem bottom and top and you may or may not trim the selvedge edge with a simple white cotton tassel fringe which you can buy for 6 cents a yard. You can buy lace-striped scrim or cheese cloth (the latter in colors, if you like), or printed Madras for 10 cents a yard. For heavy curtains there is nothing better than denim that has first been washed.

Now if the windows are not more than two or three feet from the floor, and you have a man or boy about who can drive a screw or a nail, bracket up a broad board for a window seat where the youthful owner of all these delights can sit, snugly ensconced behind the curtains, and read his favorite book of fairy tale or youthful adventure. Make a cushion to fit, and stuff it well with feathers, husks shredded small, or hay, and cover it with pretty chintz, denim, or even with one made of small pieces of new cloth of all shades and colors in a sort of crazy patchwork. You can do so much with so little for such gentle little critics as children.

The first step toward cultivating a literary tendency in a child is to furnish his room with bookshelves. He will take so much more pride in his few books, if they are neatly shelved in his own room, than if they are scattered all through the house. Any amateur carpenter can fashion a set of standing shelves. The simplest form of these calls for two planed boards of equal height; on the inner sides of these, at a distance of ten inches apart for the first two shelves, and eight for the next two, either cut out a groove to receive the shelves, or insert two screw-eyes on which the shelves may rest. Stain it ash or cherry, to suit the furnishings of the room. A little cabinet to hang on the wall can be made from any small box of thin wood, by inserting divisions or shelves, and staining in like manner. On this you can put his handkerchief, collar and necktie boxes, all of which can be made from small pasteboard boxes covered with bright silk or silkoline. It will also furnish room for such trifles in the way of mineral specimens, bugs and butterflies, as it may please him to accumulate.

Colored prints from papers are really prettier tacked up without frames. A little friend of mine is gradually covering the entire walls of his room with them, and they have beguiled pleasantly many hours of tedium and pain as he recovered from a severe illness.

Inexpensive frames, however, are easily constructed. I know an otherwise rather pretentious parlor in this city in which hangs a silvery moonlight sketch with a frame that has excited much admiration. It is of plain pine, covered with a layer or two of cotton batting to give it a rounded effect; pale blue silesia is stretched tightly over this and splashed irregularly with liquid gilt. The effect is extremely pretty. Plain pine frames can also be silvered or gilded.

A dollar and a half will buy a little cot with springs and three more a mattress. Dress this with a cover made from chintz, lined with silesia to give it body, with a single layer of cotton

batting between; tack like an old-fashioned comfortable, using Saxony worsted, and it may be washed when necessary.

Two dry goods boxes stood on end will furnish wash stand and bureau. Make the latter a little higher than the former, and if the top of the box is not of a shapely size have a board made like the top of an ordinary bureau and nail it on. One advantage of this home-made furniture is that it may fit the size of the occupant by getting boxes of the proper height. Put shelves underneath each to hold his shoes, toys and linen, keeping the latter in paper boxes, if you find the dust an objection. Drape these to match the bed or windows, or with any material you may have in the house. A friend of mine used old sheets, outlining on them a design with blue Bagarren linen floss. If a washable material is used shirr the curtain which extends around three sides of the box on a tape and tack it on every few inches. Leave it open in the middle at the front of the box for convenience in getting at the contents of the shelves. Cover the top with the same material.

Let his one or two chairs, be they ever so cheap, be prettily cushioned and of such a height that his feet can reach the floor, or, if you do not want to saw the legs off from all of them, provide the room with a low footstool, made, perhaps, from a starch box, covered and mounted on castors.

All this pretty work can be as gradual as you choose, and each new article will be a fresh pleasure to the little inmate. Encourage him to have little adornments of his own accord. Don't count as trash the bright branches of fall leaves which he may bring home, or the pretty stones, but show him how to press, varnish, and tack up the former, and interest him in geology by talking to him about the latter.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

L. F. W.—We do not give addresses. Paper at 10 cents a roll, however, can be found at any large paper-hanger's in New York City, except at such as only carry lines of very expensive papers. Since you are building a new house, I would scarcely advise you to put a ten-cent paper on the walls. At 15 cents a roll there are papers of more exquisite pattern and calculated to give better wear. I saw one with a conventionalized clover in old pink and olives on a French gray ground. Another in terra cotta on pale greenish gray. Another design of conventionalized dogwood in exquisite tones of pinks and olives on a French gray ground that would make one's wall's appear as if hung with satin damask. This is also reproduced in tones of copper on a French gray ground, and in blues and olives on a cream ground. These latter were 20 cents a roll, but required no frieze on account of the boldness of the design, all that is necessary being to drop the picture rail eighteen inches from the ceiling. Any of these papers would be charming for sleeping rooms or a sitting room. If cartridge paper for halls, dining room, and parlor is considered too costly, the lustrene papers in two tones of terra cotta, or old blue, or gray green, or warm yellows, give a cartridge effect, and cost only 20 cents a roll. Frieze to match for these is 20 cents a yard. I need scarcely remind you that a new house should not be papered within a year after the walls are finished, in order to allow them to settle.

UNEARNED INCREMENT.

EGOISM.

Walt Whitman.

List close, my scholars dear!
All doctrines, all politics and civilization exurge from you;
All sculpture and monuments, and anything inscribed anywhere, are tallied in you;
* * * * * *
If you were not breathing and walking here, where would they all be?
All architecture is what you do to it when you look upon it;
(Did you think it was the white or gray stone? or the lines of the arches and cornices?)

PARAGRAPHS.

The essential principle of property being to assure to persons what they have produced by their labor and accumulated by their abstinence, this principle cannot apply to what is not the produce of labor, the raw material of the earth. No man made the land; it is the original inheritance of the whole species. The land of every country belongs to the people of that country.—John Stuart Mill.

Lushington: "My life has been full of mistakes. I made a bad one on the first day of my existence." Smith: "What was that?" Lushington: "I cried for milk when there was brandy in the house."—Smith, Gray & Co.'s Monthly.

The first man who, having enclosed a plot of ground, took upon himself to say "This is mine," and found people silly enough to believe him, was the real founder of civil society. How many crimes, how many wars, how many murders, how much misery and horror, would have been spared the human race if some one, tearing up the fence and filling in the ditch, had cried out to his fellows: "Give no heed to this impostor; you are lost if you forget that the produce belongs to all, the land to none."—Rousseau.

The Great White Czar in Petersburg,
The Kaiser in Berlin,
Have dared each other out to fight.
So let the fray begin.

The border's dyed a deep, deep red,
In battle, war and sin:
The Czar is safe in Petersburg,
The Kaiser in Berlin.—Indianapolis Journal.

"Adam," said Eve,
As they went out the gate
When ordered to leave,
"Is my hat on straight?"
—Chicago Tribune.

I fully admit this—I stated it long ago in Midlothian, and I say it now without the slightest doubt—that if the time came when the British nation found that the land should be nationalized, and it would be wise to do it, they have a perfect right to do it.—Gladstone.

No Cause for Alarm.—Mrs. Van Neering (hiring her first butler): "And you are sure you are fully conversant with the duties of a butler, and will not need any instructions?" 'Ennery 'Obbs (reassuringly): "That's hall right, me leddy. No von shall hever know but vhat you've been used to a butler hall yer life."—Puck.

If one man can command the land upon which others must labor, he can appropriate the produce of their labor as the price of his permission to labor. The fundamental law of nature that her enjoyment by man shall be consequent upon his exertion is thus violated. The one receives without producing, the others produce without receiving. The one is unjustly enriched, the others are robbed.—Henry George.

TUNING THE PIANO.

New York Sun.

It is impossible to specify the number of times a year your piano should be tuned. A piano, to be kept in fair condition, should be tuned four times a year. So much depends, however, on the temperature, style, and make of the instrument, the manner of use, its condition, etc., that where one piano requires five or six tunings annually, another might get along fairly with much less.

In the matter of tuning there is much negligence, people preferring with singular perversity to let their piano go to "rack and ruin" rather than get a good tuner in time. This is the sort of penny-wise pound-foolish policy that buys a cheap piano for a beginner, fondly expecting musical progress to be made on a poor instrument and with a poor teacher. To sum up, buy a fair-priced piano from a reliable dealer and with a well-known name on its fall board. Keep it well after you have bought it. Don't try to play on it unless you know how, and to know how you must employ a good, not a cheap teacher, and finally employ a reputable tuner to look after the instrument.

ISINGLASS.

Chambers' Journal.

It is said that the manifestly corrupted word "isinglass" owes it change from a foreign to its English dress to the popular fancy, which, finding the Dutch term "huizenblas" (sturgeon bladder) meaningless in English, quietly changed it into "isinglass," and secured its easy remembrance from association with the "icing" purposes for which it is used and the "glassy" appearance it presents.

STORY OF A HAUNTED HOUSE.

E. Bulwer Lytton.

[Continued from last issue]—I took him in my arms; I brought him to the fire; I felt acute grief for the loss of my poor favorite, acute self-reproach; I accused myself of his death; I imagined he had died of fright. But what was my surprise on finding that his neck was actually broken—actually twisted out of the vertebræ. Had this been done in the dark? Must it not have been done by a hand human as mine? Must there not have been a human agency all the while in that room? Good cause to suspect it. I cannot tell. I cannot do more than state the fact fairly. The reader may draw his own inference.

Another surprising circumstance—my watch was restored to the table from which it had been so mysteriously withdrawn; but it had stopped at the very moment it was so withdrawn; nor, despite all the skill of the watchmaker, has it ever gone since; that is, it will go in a strange, erratic way for a few hours, and then comes to a dead stop; it is worthless.

Nothing more chanced for the rest of the night; nor, indeed, had I long to wait before the dawn broke. Not till it was broad daylight did I quit the haunted house. Before I did so, I revisited the little blind room in which my servant and I had been for a time imprisoned. I had a strong impression, for which I could not account, that from that room had originated the mechanism of the phenomena, if I may use the term, which had been experienced in my chamber; and though I entered it now in the clear day, with the sun peering through the filmy window, I still felt, as I stood on its floor, the creep of the horror which I had first experienced there the night before, and which had been so aggravated by what had passed in my own chamber. I could not, indeed, bear to stay more than half a minute within those walls. I descended the stairs, and again I heard the footfall before me; and when I opened the street door I thought I could distinguish a very low laugh.

I gained my own home, expecting to find my runaway servant there. But he had not presented himself; nor did I hear more of him for three days, when I received a letter from him, dated from Liverpool, to this effect:

"Honored Sir: I humbly entreat your pardon, though I can scarcely hope that you will think I deserve it, unless—which Heaven forbid!—you saw what I did. I feel that it will be years before I can recover myself; and as to being fit for service, it is out of the question. I am therefore going to my brother-in-law at Melbourne. The ship sails to morrow. Perhaps the long voyage may set me up. I do nothing now but start and tremble, and fancy it is behind me. I humbly beg you, honored sir, to order my clothes, and whatever wages are due to me, to be sent to my mother's at Walworth. John knows her address."

In the evening I returned to the house, to bring away in a hack-cab the things I had left there, with my poor dog's body. In this task I was not disturbed, nor did any incident worth note befall me, except that still, on ascending and descending the stairs, I heard the same footfall in advance. On leaving the house, I went to Mr. J——'s. He was at home. I returned him the keys, told him that my curiosity was sufficiently gratified, and was about to relate quickly what had passed, when he stopped me and said, though with much politeness, that he had no longer any interest in a mystery which none had ever solved.

I determined at least to tell him of the two letters I had read, as well as of the extraordinary manner in which they had disappeared; and I then inquired if he thought they had been addressed to the woman who had died in the house, and if there were anything in her early history which could possibly confirm the dark suspicions to which the letters gave rise. Mr. J—— seemed startled, and, after musing a few moments, answered: "I know but little of the woman's earlier history, except, as I before told you, that her family were known to mine. But you revive some vague reminiscences to her prejudice. I will make inquiries and inform you of their result. Still, even if we could admit the popular superstition that a person who had been either the perpetrator or victim of dark crimes in life could revisit, as a restless spirit, the scene in which those crimes had been committed, I should

observe that the house was infested by strange sights and sounds before the old woman died. You smile; what would you say?"

"I would say this, that I am convinced, if we could get to the bottom of these mysteries, we should find a living, human agency."

"What! you believe it is all an imposture? For what object?"

"Not an imposture, in the ordinary sense of the word. If suddenly I were to sink into a deep sleep, from which you could not awake me, but in that deep sleep could answer questions with an accuracy which I could not pretend to when awake—tell you what money you had in your pocket, nay, describe your very thoughts—it is not necessarily an imposture any more than it is necessarily supernatural. I should be, unconsciously to myself, under a mesmeric influence, conveyed to me from a distance by a human being who had acquired power over me by previous rapport."

"Granting mesmerism, so far carried, to be a fact, you are right. And you would infer from this that a mesmerizer might produce the extraordinary effects you and others have witnessed over inanimate objects—fill the air with sights and sounds?"

"Or impress our senses with the belief in them, we never having been *en rapport* with the person acting on us? No. What is commonly called mesmerism could not do this; but there may be a power akin to mesmerism, and superior to it—the power that in the old days was called Magic. That such a power may extend to all inanimate objects of matter, I do not say; but if so, it would not be against nature, only a rare power in nature, which might be given to constitutions with certain peculiarities, and cultivated by practice to an extraordinary degree. That such a power might extend over the dead—that is, over certain thoughts and memories that the dead may still retain—and compel, not that which ought properly to be called the SOUL, and which is far beyond human reach, but rather a *phantom* of what has been most earth-stained on earth, to make itself apparent to our senses—is a very ancient though obsolete theory, upon which I will hazard no opinion. But I do not conceive the power would be supernatural. Let me illustrate what I mean, from an experiment which Paracelsus describes as not difficult, and which the author of the 'Curiosities of Literature' cites as credible: A flower perishes; you burn it. Whatever were the elements of that flower while it lived are gone, dispersed, you know not whither; you can never discover or re-collect them. But you can, by chemistry, out of the burnt dust of that flower, raise a spectrum of the flower, just as it seemed in life. It may be the same with a human being. The soul has as much escaped you as the essence or elements of the flower. Still you may make a spectrum of it. And this phantom, though in the popular superstition it is held to be the soul of the departed, must not be confounded with the true soul; it is but the eidolon of the dead form Hence, like the best attested stories of ghosts or spirits, the thing that most strikes us is the absence of what we hold to be soul—that is, of superior, emancipated intelligence. They come for little or no object; they seldom speak, if they do come; they utter no ideas above those of an ordinary person on earth. These American spirit-seers have published volumes of communications in prose and verse, which they assert to be given in the names of the most illustrious dead—Shakespeare, Bacon, heaven knows whom. Those communications, taking the best, are certainly of not a whit higher order than would be communications from living persons of fair talent and education; they are wondrously inferior to what Bacon, Shakespeare, and Plato said and wrote when on earth. Nor, what is more notable, do they ever contain an idea that was not on the earth before. Wonderful, therefore, as such phenomena may be (granting them to be truthful), I see much that philosophy may question, nothing that it is incumbent on philosophy to deny, namely, nothing supernatural. They are but ideas conveyed somehow or other (we have not yet discovered the means) from one mortal brain to another. Whether in so doing tables walk of their own accord, or fiend-like shapes appear in a magic circle, or bodiless hands rise and remove material objects, or a thing of darkness, such as presented itself to me, freeze our blood,—still am I persuaded that these are but agencies conveyed, as by electric wires, to my own brain from the brain of another. That the brain is of immense power, that it can set matter into movement, that it is malignant and destructive, I believe. Some material force must have killed my dog; it might, for aught I know, have sufficed to kill myself, had I been as subjugated by terror as the dog,—had my intellect or my spirit given me no countervailing resistance in my will."

"It killed your dog! that is fearful! Indeed, it is strange that no animal can be induced to stay in that house; not even a cat. Rats and mice are never found in it."

"The instincts of the brute creation detect influences deadly to their existence. Man's reason has a sense less subtle, because it has a resisting power more supreme. But enough; do you comprehend my theory?"

"Yes, though imperfectly; and I accept any crotchet (pardon the word), however odd, rather than embrace at once the notion of ghosts and hobgoblins we imbibed in our nurseries. Still, to my unfortunate house, the evil is the same. What on earth can I do with the house?"

"I will tell you what I would do. [Continued in next issue.]

ACROBATIC ECONOMICS.

William Lloyd Garrison.

After long acquaintance with the American system which calls itself protection, I confess to a new conception of its greatness. The recent discussion in the press and on the stump have revealed undreamed-of beauties and adaptations. It is automatically perfect. Like the Bowery coat it stretches for a large man and shrinks for a little one. It is wide or narrow, tall or short, local or universal. It is hot or cold, fast or loose, it runs with the hare or hunts with the hounds. Its changes are protean, and when assailed in one shape invariably it repels the attack in another. Charge it with narrowing markets, and it points you to the great beauties of reciprocity. Dwell on the desirability of foreign commerce and it grows eloquent over the home market. Say that it raises prices, and you learn that its chief object is to put them down. Declare for freedom of exchange, and you are asked how our manufacturers can live and sell at the low prices at which foreign goods are offered. In Faneuil Hall cheapness is a protective virtue, while in Worcester dearness is the blessing that has built up its thriving manufactures. And as for wages, the tariff raises them, of course. By putting down the price of manufactured goods, the employer can afford to pay his workmen more. Do you see? But Mr. McKinley cannot find a man in his vast audiences who has received a dollar in improved wages since his famous bill became a law. However, we are told that the workman now buys his goods cheaper and carpets can now be had for hovels! The Boston Journal cannot find an article enhanced in price, to its shame and sorrow be it said, for it knows cheapness is a curse, and that a cheap carpet or a cheap coat is the sure indication of a cheap man.

THE DRY GOODS "JOBBER."

New York Evening Post.

This word has a curious derivation, and has a present meaning of peculiar significance in the trade. Literally, it is a provincial corruption of the word "to chop." The jobber is a man who takes the stocks of the manufacturer, either from him direct, or through the commission-houses, and chops them up in blocks to suit the retail trade; standing between the manufacturer or agent and the retail trade. * * * The jobbing trade, pure and simple, is one of "chopping." For example, a large mill will send to its commission-house its wares in large, strongly bound wooden cases. A buyer of that class of goods from a jobbing-house comes in and takes ten or twenty cases of that class of goods. A sample case is opened in the jobbing-house, and the fact is advertised in the papers that the jobber has a special attraction, and the trade is expected to "bite." Now how is this advertising done? To begin with, the jobbing-houses generally have what are known as travelers, or drummers—men with their routes, who permeate the whole country and bring to the attention of the retail trade the novelties of the season.

TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS.

COUNT MEWONOVEM.

"I dreamed a dream that was not all a dream."
A noble dreamer in my boyhood said;
The dream still floats a-down life's noisy stream;
The dreamer mingles with the silent dead.

My home, a dilapidated cottage built as far back as a century ago, disfigured an otherwise quiet, desirable building spot in a nameless locality on a "four corners" of the public highway; but in what county or what state deponent saith not. The ancient structure, as if ashamed of having stood so long, screens itself from observers on the highway in summer by a dense growth of large bushes, from among which some tall locust trees shoot up, at night investing all in impenetrable darkness; the brightest moon showing no ray through the compact masses of the foliage.

From the gateway leading up to the principal door of the house, at the time I write of, was a passage framed by two lines of trellis work, then richly hung with heavy leaves and promising clusters of grapes, the arched interlacing boughs precluding all observation from the "street."

Had the place originally been planned as a resort for shadows it could not have more effectually met the purpose of secrecy. In the hot days of summer flocks of barn-yard fowls would congregate and cluck approval of the poem, "95 in the Shade," appearing to appreciate to the last degree the line:

The day is as warm as a pie hot.

A rudely constructed "hurricane" overlapped the front entrance, the door of which was more frequently unlatched over-night than secured against visitors, so secure did we feel from depredators. Why should we not feel safe, sitting as we did beneath our own vine and locust trees? There was indeed no one to make us afraid. The theft-inclined tramp, weighing chances, would say, "I pass," making no pause. We had never been molested by invaders of any sort; nothing more threatening than the shadowy presence of a conviction of the lack of $200 to disturb the even tenor of our lives. We hadn't even a visit from la grippe; and yet the nuisance was annoying the entire neighborhood. We could say with the rhymster:

The pedlar avoids us, no mendicant bores us;
In fact, we have nothing to make us afraid.
The simpering visitor, bless her, ignores us;
The burglar would blush here to practice his trade.

Our poverty was our protection. And yet here was I inviting chances for molestation by a fruitless hunt after $200 in order to make more. Well, such is the law of civilized life, and without it there would be no advance, as it is called.

Seven o'clock was our habitual hour for retiring, and the night of our providential visit—for we had one—made no exception to our rule. The clock had struck the hour and we were laid away loosely covered for the night. I could not sleep, however, my mind, as usual, being taken possession of by the crushing torture of how to raise the needed "doodads." I had run the gamut of the impecunious in search of means: doubling the Cape Horn of necessity's sea again and again; rushing pell mell among the breakers of disappointments, and returning to land beggared almost of hope. And yet hope, with the pertinacity of Mrs. Micawber, refused to desert me.

"Hope told a flattering tale."

Why use the word told? "Hope tells a flattering tale," ought to be the reading. Hope is the Iago of our vernacular: "Put money in thy purse," it says, while it fills the heart with the rot of ambition. And yet, of all of our brave language, what word is so crammed with the witchery of emotion? We hug the dear delusion to the last. Inexhaustible, it keeps fluttering its wasted rags to the bitter end.

"Hope be hanged!" I exclaim, turning over on my best sleeping side. Heigho! Two hundred dollars wanted as so much phosphate to aid a seed mushroom-like in growth, and whose market value would rise ad libitum; that is, until some other of like character would take its place, leaving me a fortune for life in payment for my—fad call it—which would so enrich mankind with wisdom, for even fads may be profitable to society.

Among so many millionaires I cannot raise $200; and to be used for so beneficent a purpose.

"How many of them have you applied to?" inquires a bystander.

"Not any," I reply.

"Pshaw!" exclaims my interrogator.

"See here," I rejoin. "One time I was reduced by sickness to beggary. And in the perplexity of emptiness and among strangers, I sent the rash a daily paper a short notice to the public of my condition, signing myself Deadbroke."

"Deadbroke be d——," was the rude reponse. "You ought to have signed it Deadbeat."

And that is the universal response on all the streets of Christendom.

"You are mistaken," says another.

"Well," say I, "I have wintered and summered among crowds for about eighty years, and my experience ought to be worth more than that of you chap with the full beard having no gray hairs. And yet I may be wrong, as Robert the Agnostic says: 'We all reason from within.' I do.

Appeals of hunger bring exhaustion to both parties—solicitor and solicited—a fact I am more than merely cognizant of, having had the role of both parties. I know whereof I speak and testify to that which I do know. Charities are "ads," not alms; advertising individual benevolence, to the end of keeping names before the public for profitable purposes; each contribution given so arranged that all of them may in the end fruit out into recognition. It does not pay to be quietly generous. It isn't business. And so, to be a good business man involves ungraciousness of manner; and at last flourishes out into brutish disregard for others' comfort, leaving people to die of famine in the street; yet all the while they are looking out for chances to be benevolent in a business way. I know men—not merely fellows among the swarms that make up the census—nor yet of the Macalister "Four Hundred" sort, but senators, bankers, government officials, authors, lawyers, tradesmen, down to the seedy gentleman who himself lives on alms, but contrives to figure on as somebody, speak of the "dangerous classes," as the poor are called, urging the need of added armed force for the "better protection of society." Steering clear of equity, men find themselves bewildered while scanning the quagmires of discontented labor, and see in the starved victims of our social and industrial system the spooks and spectres of our voting economics, as did our superstitious fathers see in the grass of the bogs the will-o'-the-wisps now wiped out by science.

Business is the "open sesame" of the vaults of charity. I knew there were thousands right around me who, if they only knew as I did for what I sought—$200—would at once stretch out a helping hand, feeling sure of returns as if they had the collateral already in their possession. "That is biz," they would say. Two hundred dollars! Why, bless my soul, I exclaim, the sum might be repaid with a thousand per cent. in three months. My immediate neighbors on hearing me say this would stand aghast, wondering how I or any other man could, or ought, indeed, to raise a fortune in so short a time. Short a time? quoth I—short a time! I repeat. As if it didn't take evolution millions of years to fashion a brain fit to produce the plant I now offer to mankind. Yes, millions of years, and just as many millions more than my estimate of time as in your opinion it has taken to conduct humanity to the glorious Now, from the time

"When infant life lay cuddling in the tropics,
And Simian changelings sported all around,
When all the germs of mankind's varied topics
Had not yet blossomed into oral sound.
When thoughts profound, esoteric, thaumaturgic;
Witchcraft, sorcery, divination's spell;
With mystic chantings, worshipful, liturgic,
Were waiting incubation in the shell."

Two hundred dollars—Hark! what is that? Wife lay sound asleep. Rap, tap, tap, softly repeated, fell on the window pane near to the front door. In a twinkling I was on the floor. Tapping on the door I quietly asked, "Who's there?" "Open the door, please," said a soft, musical voice, sotto voice, adding, "I have a little business to transact with you. *There is no danger*, I assure you. Our transaction will not take more than ten minutes at the furthest."

"One moment," I replied. And going to the match box I struck a light, and returning to the door I unlatched it, introducing to the room a well dressed man with a couple of gripsacks in his hands and an umbrella under his arm.

"I am sorry to say it, my friend," I remarked, anticipating a request for accommodation for the night; "but, however inhospitable it may appear, I cannot welcome you. We have but one bed in the old house—the one we occupy."

"Thank you," was his gentle rejoinder, "but my business here, as I said before I came in, will not detain me over ten minutes at the furthest." And placing his baggage on the floor he said: "I have, as you perceive, too much of what Cæsar called 'impedimenta.' I am tired carrying this," he added, pointing with his boot to the smallest of the bags. "It is heavy and I do not need the contents at present. I want to leave it in your possession for a short time. I am on my way to Arizona. Will you undertake the custody? It is valuable."

"If it is valuable," I replied, "it will be out of place. There is nothing else of value here."

"Oh, yes, there is; you are valuable," he replied, with a bland smile, and the bow of a well-bred gentleman. "Come, I see by your clock my time is quite limited. I have got to be at the station to take the Southern train at 12:10 to-night, giving me barely time to tramp the distance. Do you consent to take the gripsack in charge for a month?"

"Barkis is willin'," I quoted. "It will not take up much room," I added.

"Then let me say in addition, that if I fail to return within thirty days, and you are not notified of my detention, the gripsack, with its contents, become your property."

"This is an original sort of transaction, and not quite legal," I observed. "Besides, I have nothing to pledge beyond my word ——."

"We shant discuss that feature, interrupted the stranger, "I need no legal security in this matter. I am thoroughly satisfied. Let us be a law unto ourselves. Why should we seek to be governed by the political law-giver? We are brothers." Here he picked up the sack he had retained; and, re-placing his umbrella under his arm, he extended his hand with open palm toward me, saying "good night." We shook hands, I replying "good night," and he slid out into the darkness, starting down the graveled walk into the road.—[Continued in next issue].

IN EXTREMIS.

Louise Chandler Moulton, in Lippincott's Magazine.

How can I go into the dark,
Away from your clasping hand,
Set sail on a shadowy bark
For the shore of an unknown land?

Your eyes look love into mine;
Your lips are warm on my mouth;
I drink your breath like a wine
Aglow with the sun of the South.

You have made this world so dear!
How can I go forth alone
In the bark that phantoms steer
To a port afar and unknown?

The desperate mob of the dead,
Will they hustle me to and fro,
Or leave me alone to tread
The path of my infinite woe?

Shall I cry, in terror and pain,
For a death that I cannot die,
And pray with a longing vain
To the gods that mock my cry?

Oh, hold me closer, my dear!
Strong in your clasp—ay strong—
But stronger the touch that I fear;
And the darkness to come is long.

EGG WORSHIP.

Christian Union.

The Grecian philosophers tried to prevail upon the people to refrain from eating eggs, because eggs, they said, contained the elements of life, the shell representing the earth; the white, water; the yolk, fire; air was found in the shell, and the egg contained the germ of life, which it was a sin to destroy. It is said that the peculiar shape of the dome of Mohammedan mosques is traced to the worship of eggs.

TAKE NOTES.

Blackwood's Magazine.

Get into the habit of taking notes as you read. Without this precaution, literature flows over the brain in a current, pleasant and wholesome, indeed, but unfruitful. The mind cannot retain distinct impressions without mechanical aids, and there is no condition of mental atmosphere less satisfactory than haziness. Much of the pleasure of which we are conscious exists in memory; it is plain, therefore, that very much of it must be lost by those who neglect to train, assist, extend, and cultivate the memory. Mr. Morritt has described how, when visiting Egglestone and Brignal with Sir Walter Scott, who intended to make these places the scenes of some incidents in "Rokeby," he observed him noting down everything, even to the kind of wild flowers growing near. "I laughed, in short, at his scrupulousness; but I understood him when he replied 'that in Nature herself no two scenes are exactly alike, and that * * * whoever trusted to imagination would soon find his own mind circumscribed and contracted to a few favorite images, and the repetition of these would sooner or later produce that very monotony and barrenness which had always haunted descriptive poetry in the hands of any but patient worshippers of the truth.'"

VICTOR HUGO.

I see a cat prowling and watching for a bird and hear the bird scolding the cat, and I think: Why should one life prey upon another through all the kingdoms of nature? Does no good come of this necessary struggle for existence? Is not everything on the path of evolution, and does not the monad have to go through all forms to attain clear self-consciousness in the higher? It is getting accustomed to the material through which it has to work, and gaining experience. The struggle for physical existence in the lower forms of life will become the struggle for soul existence in the higher, and the qualities of courage, perseverance and sagacity needed in the higher struggle may acquire their first development through the lower. Could such qualities grow with nothing to stimulate their growth? In the lower struggle, the enemy is without; but in the higher, the enemy is within, is of one's own household.

IMMORTALITY.

E. H. in Home Journal.

Who that has loved and has lost, who that loves and finds life too poor and brief for the fulfilment of love, who that contrasts the meagre existence of humanity with its great possibilities, who that contrasts his own poor attainment with the divine image of his contemplations can deaden his heart to the instinct of immortality?

MOTH POWDER

Quickly destroys Roaches, Flies, Fleas, Moths, Mosquitos and all other small insects. Send 25 cents to Buck & Rayner, State and Madison sts., Chicago, for a can of it free by mail. Being non-poisonous, it can be used in any part of the house with perfect safety. It always gives satisfaction and is very economical to use.

SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES.

PLATFORM

ADOPTED BY THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE SINGLE TAX LEAGUE OF THE UNITED STATES AT COOPER UNION, NEW YORK, SEPT. 3, 1890.

We assert as our fundamental principle the self-evident truth enunciated in the Declaration of American Independence, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.

We hold that all men are equally entitled to the use and enjoyment of what God has created and of what is gained by the general growth and improvement of the community of which they are a part. Therefore, no one should be permitted to hold natural opportunities without a fair return to all for any special privilege thus accorded to him, and that value which the growth and improvement of the community attach to land should be taken for the use of the community.

We hold that each man is entitled to all that his labor produces. Therefore no tax should be levied on the products of labor.

To carry out these principles we are in favor of raising

CATARRH

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all public revenues for national, state, county and municipal purposes by a single tax upon land values, irrespective of improvements, and of the abolition of all forms of direct and indirect taxation.

Since in all our states we now levy some tax on the value of land, the single tax can be instituted by the simple and easy way of abolishing, one after another all other taxes now levied, and commensurately increasing the tax on land values, until we draw upon that one source for all expenses of government, the revenue being divided between local governments, state governments and the general government, as the revenue rom direct taxes is now divided between the loca and state governments; or, a direct assessment being made by the general government upon the states and paid by them from revenues collected in this manner.

The single tax we propose is not a tax on land, and therefore would not fall on the use of land and become a tax on labor.

It is a tax, not on land, but on the value of land. Thus it would not fall on all land, but only on valuable land, and on that not in proportion to the use made of it, but in proportion to its value—the premium which the user of land must pay to the owner, either in purchase money or rent, for permission to use valuable land. It would thus be a tax, not on the use or improvement of land, but on the ownership of land, taking what would otherwise go to the owner as owner, and not as user.

In assessments under the single tax all values created by individual use or improvement would be excluded and the only value taken into consideration would be the value attaching to the bare land by reason of neighborhood, etc., to be determined by impartial periodical assessments. Thus the farmer would have no more taxes to pay than the speculator who held a similar piece of land idle, and the man who on a city lot erected a valuable building would be taxed no more than the man who held a similar lot vacant.

The single tax, in short, would call upon men to contribute to the public revenues, not in proportion to what they produce or accumulate, but in proportion to the value of the natural opportunities they hold. It would compel them to pay just as much for holding land idle as for putting it to its fullest use.

The single tax, therefore, would—

1. Take the weight of taxation off of the agricultural districts where land has little or no value irrespective of improvements, and put it on towns and cities where bare land rises to a value of millions of dollars per acre.

2. Dispense with a multiplicity of taxes and a horde of taxgatherers, simplify government and greatly reduce its cost.

3. Do away with the fraud, corruption and gross inequality inseparable from our present methods o taxation, which allow the rich to escape while they grind the poor. Land cannot be hid or carried off and its value can be ascertained with greater ease and certainty than any other.

4. Give us with all the world as perfect freedom of trade as now exists between the states of our Union, thus enabling our people to share, through free exchanges, in all the advantages which nature has given to other countries, or which the peculiar skill of other peoples has enabled them to attain. It would destroy the trusts, monopolies and corruptions which are the outgrowths of the tariff. It would do away with the fines and penalities now levied on anyone who improves a farm, erects a house, builds a machine, or in any way adds to the general stock of wealth. It would leave everyone free to apply labor or expend capital in production or exchange without fine or restriction, and would leave to each the full product of his exertion.

5. It would, on the other hand, by taking for public use that value which attaches to land by reason of the growth and improvement of the community, make the holding of land unprofitable to the mere owner, and profitable only to the user. It would thus make it impossible for speculators and monopolists to hold natural opportunities unused or only half used, and would throw open to labor the illimitable field of employment which the earth offers to man. It would thus solve the labor problem, do away with involuntary poverty, raise wages in all occupations to the full earnings of labor, make overproduction impossible until all human wants are satisfied, render labor-saving inventions blessings to all, and cause such an enormous production and such an equitable distribution of wealth as would give to all comfort, leisure and participation in the advantages of an advancing civilization.

With respect to monopolies other than the monopoly of land, we hold that where free competition becomes impossible, as in telegraphs, railroads, water and gas supplies, etc., such business becomes a proper social function, which should be controlled and managed by and for the whole people concerned, through their proper government, local, state or national, as may be.

ADVERTISEMENTS OF ORGANIZATIONS

THAT HAVE ADOPTED THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES MADE BY NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 3, 1890.

For each half inch or less a charge of $10.00 per year is made for advertisements in this department.

CONNECTICUT.

MERIDEN.—Meriden single tax club. Meets second and fourth Fridays of the month at 7.30 p. m. at parlors of J. Cairns, 73½ E. Main st. President, John Cairns; secretary, Arthur M. Dignam.

SHARON.—Sharon single tax committee. Chairman, J. J. Ryan.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Washington single tax league. President, Edwin Gladmon; treas., R. J. Boyd; sec'y, Wm. Geddes, M.D., 1719 G. st., n. w.

IOWA.

BURLINGTON.—Burlington single tax club. First Saturday of each month, 905 North 5th st. Pres., Wilbur, Mossna, 930 Hedge av.; sec. treas., Frank S. Churchill.

ILLINOIS.

CHICAGO.—Chicago single tax club. Every Thursday evening at 226 La Salle st. Pres., Warren Worth Bailey, 319 Lincoln av; sec., F. W. Irwin, 217 La Salle st., room 732.

SOUTH CHICAGO.—Single tax club of South Chicago and Cheltenham. Pres., John Black; sec., Robt. Aitchison, box K. K., South Chicago.

MASSACHUSETTS.

BROCKTON.—Single tax club. Meets Friday evenings corner Glenwood av. and Vernon st. Pres., Wm A. McKindrick; sec., A. S. Barnard, 54 Belmont st.

MINNESOTA.

MINNEAPOLIS.—Minneapolis single tax league. Every Tuesday evening, at the West Hotel. Pres., H. B. Martin, Woods' block; sec., Oliver T. Erickson, 2308 Lyndale av., N.

MISSOURI.

STATE.—Missouri single tax committee. Henry H. Hoffman, chairman. This committee is pushing a State single tax petition. Blanks sent on application. It is also forming syndicate for publication of local single tax papers throughout the United States at little or no expense. Write for circulars to Percy Pepoon, sec., 513 Elm st., St. Louis.

ST. LOUIS.—Single tax league.—Meets every Friday evening 8 o'clock in Bowman Block, n. e. cor. 11th and Locust sts. Pres. J. W. Steele Sec'y, L. P. Custer, 4233 Connecticut st.

NEW YORK.

BROOKLYN.—Eastern District single tax club. Monthly meetings on the first Monday of each month, at 94 South Third street, Brooklyn. Pres., Joseph McGuinness, 138 S. 9th st., Brooklyn, E. D; sec., Emily A. Deverall.

Brooklyn Woman's Single Tax Club meetings, third Tuesday of each month at 3 P. M., at 198 Livingston street. Pres., Eva J. Turner, 506 Carlton avenue; Cor. Sec., Venie B. Havens, 219 DeKalb avenue.

OHIO.

DAYTON.—Free land club. Pres., J. G. Galloway; sec., W. W. Kile, 108 East 5th st.

PENNSYLVANIA.

GERMANTOWN.—Single tax club. Cor. Sec., E. D. Burleigh, 13 Willow av. Meets first and third Tuesdays of each month at 4653 Main st., at 8 P. M.

PHILADELPHIA.—Single tax society. Meets every Thursday and Sunday at 8 p. m. Social meetings second Tuesday, No. 30 South Broad st. Cor. sec., A. H. Stephenson, 240 Chestnut st.

POTTSTOWN.—Single tax club. Meetings first and third Friday evenings each month in Weitzenkorn's hall. Pres., D. L. Haws; sec., Geo. Auchy, Pottstown, Pa.

READING.—Reading single tax society. Monday evenings, s e corner 6th and Franklin sts. Pres., Wm. H. McKinney; sec., C. S. Prizer, 1011 Penn st.

TEXAS.

HOUSTON.—Houston single tax club. Meetings every Tuesday evening, 7.30, Franklin st, Jas Charlton, Pres. E. W. Brown, sec. and treas.

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