Truth — An Eternal Quest
by ALFRED Y. K. AU

TIME tested and revered books, like
masterpieces of art and aged wine,
must be sipped, not gulped. Recently
I had occasion to sip a little of Prog-
ress and Poverty, the immortal work
of Henry George.

I marveled at how modern this book
is — how apropos is its message — even
after all these years. Indeed Henry
George was an advanced thinker — a
man who should have lived in our
present era in order that he might offer
us his active leadership in our present
search and struggle for the truth.

But even though his voice and his
pen are now stilled, his thoughts and
ideas, mellowed by our own experi-
ences, seem to leap from the pages
to ignite the flame of hope in the
hearts of all those who would read
his work in full contemplation and
appreciation — sipping rather than
gulping down its wisdom.

Henry George was a leader who was
not afraid of his own thinking. On
page 12 of Progress and Poverty he
expressed the dogma of a true scien-
tist — the philosophy of causation —
commonly known as the theory of
cause and effect. "In the sequence
of phenomena there is no accident," he
wrote. "Every effect has a cause, and
every fact implies a preceding fact."

This is followed with a declaration
of his dedication to truth: "I propose
to beg no question, to shrink from no
conclusion, but to follow truth wher-
ever it may lead. Upon us is the
responsibility of seeking the law, for in
the very heart of our civilization today
women faint and little children moan.
But what that law may prove to be is
not our affair. If the conclusions that
we reach run counter to our prejudices,
let us not flinch; if they challenge in-
stitutions that have long been deemed
wise and natural, let us not turn back."

These passages, in my estimation,
put Henry George "in the groove." A
thinker among thinkers, he is a man
who does not believe that "established"
thoughts should be regarded as eternal;
but that the search for truth itself must
necessarily be an eternal quest.

Mr. Au is the principal member of a certified public accounting firm in
Honolulu. He recalls that Gilbert M. Tucker of Albany, a life-long exponent
of George's theories, visited Honolulu in 1960 and spoke to him about Progress
and Poverty. "At that time," wrote Mr. Au, "I was deep in my own research . . .
Recently I got around to really knowing Henry George . . . I hope 'Professor'
Tucker hasn't forgotten that I'm not one to forget."