

tor. The subject was public utilities, and after explaining the nature of these, it was pointed out that if the monopoly feature were extracted from them, the benefit would go to landowners. We will lose in ground rent all we gain from curtailing monopoly charges. Mr. Mercer shook hands, and said that that remark was worth all the rest of the talk. He might be interpreted variously.

JAMES R. BROWN.

James R. Brown, whose portrait appears elsewhere in the *Review* and whose class in Political Economy has been one of the effective educational methods adopted by the Manhattan Single Tax Club during the winter, is perhaps one of the strongest debaters in the movement. He is a very "Hammer of Thor" with some unfortunate socialist as his opponent.

Mr. Brown has volunteered his services to the Henry George Lecture Association under the direction of Mr. Frederick H. Monroe, as lecturer for New York and vicinity. In addition to the paid lecturers whose expenses must be met by contributions, Mr. Monroe will avail himself of local lecturers in fields where speakers will give their time without cost. The only expense incurred for local lecturers will be in printing and circularizing, but Mr. Monroe estimates that \$500.00 will be needed to effectually organize each local lecture district.

Mr. Brown is a valuable addition to the forces which Mr. Monroe is so effectively organizing for agitation.

WORK OF THE MASSACHUSETTS LEAGUE.

The Executive Committee of the Massachusetts Single Tax League sent circulars, such as were referred to in the January number of the *Review*, to principals of high schools throughout the State enclosing the series of questions for debate which were given in the January number. The Committee had answers from thirty-four accepting its offer, from six who declined for sufficient reasons and from only one who refused, and accordingly sent the literature to those who were willing to receive it, and before the end of the current school season will write to those to whom literature was furnished to learn the results. The Committee was greatly encouraged by the responses received and will plan early in the coming Fall to renew the work and to furnish much more literature than it was able to furnish at the time when the circulars were sent in January. It is hoped that the responses will be such that ultimately there may be requests and opportunities for speakers to address audiences on the Single Tax.

JAMES R. CARRET, Sec.

DEATH OF GEORGE ADAMS.

Again, as is sadly customary with the passing of the quarter, we are obliged to chronicle the death of a faithful worker. This time it is George Adams, of Greeley, Colorado, whose death occurred March 12th. The grim conqueror found him with the temple of the spirit broken down, but the spirit itself unvanquished.

Mr. Adams was an old man—he had long passed the allotted three score and ten. But for years, and indeed only a few days before his death, his letters were frequent and welcome visitors. Occasionally there was a note of discouragement in the brave old fighter's epistles, but for the most part it was one of confidence in the ultimate triumph of the cause. Perhaps the chief regret of this kindly and sympathetic nature was his own enfeebled condition which left him small strength for the struggle. As late as a year ago, he wrote almost quaintly: "My time is about done here." Time is indeed done for him; let us hope that immortality has begun.

Mr. Adams was one of those present at the Cooper Union Conference now nearly twenty years passed, and of this he once wrote: "It is a continuous pleasure to me to think of those times when we were able to meet those whose memories are still very dear to us."

Brave, faithful, kindly soul! How helpful were his ministrations one example among many shall suffice, and this may be gathered from an extract from a recent letter to the *REVIEW* by Raymond B. Piper, of Greeley, one of Mr. Adams' converts to whom he left his economic library, bidding him carry on the work where he had laid it down. Mr. Piper writes: "To me he has been a savior, in that he raised the dark veil of skepticism from my eyes, and caused me to look upon nature and revelation as I had never looked before."

COMMUNICATION.

Editor of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW :

Some recent events have indicated a need for some degree of limitation of private land ownership.

The Federal Government desiring to erect a light-house, presumably for the public good, made overtures to the owner of one of the beautiful islands upon our coast; demand was made for compensation as some five acres were needed. After many years of delay and contention decision was made that on payment of seventy-five thousand dollars the light house might be built, the reservation being five acres.

Effort was made to demand one hundred thousand but the lesser sum prevailed. The entire island was assessed at sixty thousand dollars for taxation. So the papers state. Inasmuch as the entire appropriation for the building and ground

was only twenty thousand, the work is to be postponed. So private interest supercedes public needs.

A lot in Atlanta recently sold for ninety-seven thousand dollars, it was needed for building purposes; fifty years ago five thousand and would have been full value.

The public creates a value, the private individual absorbs the profit. It is by lessons like these that the truth is impressed upon the mind of the average tax payer.

Some enterprising capitalist in your section should come south and establish a colony on our beautiful cosy land; it would be an ideal Italy with none of its drawbacks.

Thoughtful men now realize that wars are costly, wasteful, wicked, and looking to the cause find that the failure to equitably adjust the land question is the controlling and influencing cause. The slaughter now going on in the East may be traced to this and no other influence. Thousands of years ago men were wiser than now. In the sacred history this story is told. "So Joshua took the whole land according to all that the Lord said unto Moses and Joshua and gave it for an inheritance unto Israel according unto their division by their tribes. And the land rested from war," Joshua XI: 23d.

Possibly there may arise in our day a Ruler wise and strong enough to cause "the land to rest from war."

If so he will owe his inspiration to the author of "Progress and Poverty."

WILLIAM RILEY BOYD.
Atlanta, Georgia.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL SINGLE TAX CONFERENCE.

The Fifth Annual convention of the Womens' National Single Tax League will be held in Philadelphia, Pa., on the 15th, 16th and 17th of June, 1905, on the invitation of the Women's Henry George League of that city.

Sessions will be held afternoon and evening on Thursday and Friday, and the election of officers will be held on Saturday morning.

Well known Single Taxers, both men and women, will make addresses, and delegates are expected from many clubs in the State.

Women who believe in the Single Tax may become members of the National League by forwarding their name, address and one dollar to Mrs. Jennie L. Munroe, 150 A Street, N. E. Washington, D. C., the National Treasurer.

For information as to entertainment, address Mrs. E. B. Montgomery, 2253 N. Camac St., Philadelphia, Pa.

The League was organized in Washington, D. C., and has held annual conventions in New York City, New Haven, Conn., St. Louis, Mo., and this is the first meeting held in Philadelphia.

BOOK REVIEWS.

ANOTHER BOOK FROM PASTOR WAGNER.*

This little book is another message from the apostle of the Simple Life, and one paragraph we venture to quote: "*One thing is necessary, that man make a good use of his life.*" Life is the highest gift we have; it must not be wasted for mere smoke (?) it ought to serve the purpose which was in the mind of the Lord of Life when he gave it to us. In order to realize that purpose life needs to be a normal one. A normal life is a simplified life disencumbered of useless baggage and working a maximum of beauty, justice, confidence in God and human bounty—a maximum of happiness with a minimum of embarrassments. Wherein simplicity fails, overgrowing weed invades the garden of life; the unnecessary, the wrong and the false take the place of the necessary, the important, the authentic."

Pastor Wagner and the Simple Life are the reigning "fads," if it be not irreverent to speak of sincere convictions in this style. We imagine that Christian Science—ignoring its professions of physical cures by faith—is teaching the same thing in much more profound and subtle ways. There is something amusing in the simple faith of Pastor Wagner in the Simple Life. This life is not possible in the civilization of today. Thoreau to practice it had to flee from civilization. And so Pastor Wagner, with his plan for a return to what is really the essence of primitive Christianity, is curiously oblivious to so much that nullifies his teachings—or, at all events, makes it largely purposeless.

J. D. M.

JOHN FARRELL.

A memorial volume containing a collection of the poems of John Farrell has been published by the friends of the late poet at Sydney. The longest poem in the book, "My Sundowner," gives its name to the collection, and there is a memoir with notes by Bertram Stevens. Five hundred copies have been printed and two hundred have been sold at one guinea a volume. It is a large 8 vo., and the frontispiece is a handsome portrait of the poet and Single Taxer who won fame by his stirring songs and his earnest advocacy of our cause in Australia.

It is not too much to say that John Farrell's poetry indicates the high water mark of Australian poetry. The following on Charles Gordon is an example of a certain

* My Appeal to America, by Charles Wagner, author of the Simple Life. Small, 12mo., 61 pp. Price, 50 cents. McClure, Phillips & Co., New York. Proceeds from the sale of this work will be contributed to the fund now being raised to buy land for a church of which Mr. Wagner will be the pastor.