

Let us take courage, then, and go forward, resolved to continue the crusade till the promised "land" is won and all men are at last free.

EDWARD D. BURLEIGH.

By SAMUEL MILLIKEN.

I disapprove in toto Mr. Aitken's proposal to preach a partial or complete compensation to landlords. I am not one of those who are incensed by his statement that our radical programme arouses opposition "at first from every man of *common* honesty." Let it be so—the fact remains, nevertheless, that "common" honesty is not honesty, but like "common" morality only such approximation thereto as amounts to a denial of the thing itself. It is always the "common" honesty which defends vested wrongs. The oppressor has always relied on the "common" honesty of the masses too ignorant to think below the surface. Truly, our social hell is paved with good intentions.

Nor can I agree with Mr. Aitken's approval of the Socialist doctrine, "From every man according to his ability, to each according to his needs," as just though impracticable. It may be high counsel of individual perfection; but that which is just cannot rightly be imposed by force. And when enforced upon the unwilling then this Socialist doctrine is the same as that practised by that practical economist, Mr. Richard Turpin, of Hounslow Heath, who despoiled travelers "according to their ability." I submit that a higher expression of justice is this: "From every man according to benefits rendered." Mr. Aitken rejects the Socialist doctrine because he does not consider it practicable. I reject it because I consider the enforcement of it unfair. I am not impugning Mr. Aitken's intentions. I think he did not see clearly.

Like most of us, I should gladly accept and occupy any outposts surrendered by the enemy, but I should not minimize or soften one whit the logical declaration of principles. To preach "compensation" is to discredit ourselves, is to acknowledge justice in landlordism. Enthusiasm may be aroused by a principle, but not by a percentage.

I think, too, that Mr. Aitken is over sanguine. He believes doubtless that slavery would have yielded to a suggestion of compensation to slaveholding oppressors (not to slaves). But history shows that that great crime developed from an apologetic spirit, which became first complacent, then aggressive, and finally contemptuous and tyrannic. The South held the colonization societies in amused contempt. Garrison it hated as Ahab hated Elijah. The monster had become a "divine institution," and any one who questioned it was anathema—compensation or no compensation.

Mr. Aitken's proposal is born of impatience. But I think it is better to do work aright than to use questionable methods or questionable materials. "Compromise! that great serpent ever twining about the tree of life!"

The Kingdom of Heaven cannot be enacted on earth even by compensation to the dispossessed Devil.



A cyclone or blizzard has many of the attributes of a protective tariff. It is a barrier to the free interchange of commodities. It produces scarcity and enhances prices. It profits a few at the expense of the many. It is a benefit to the dealer in milk or coal or meat or other necessities of daily use, provided he is caught with a good stock on hand. The cab company does not grieve over the troubles of the street-railway company. It has all it can do to gather in the harvest which enforced custom has so suddenly created.

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