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Henry George Unknown In Philadelphia

THE following from a recent issue of the *Philadelphia Record* must be humiliating to us. Forty years after the first appearance of the doctrine for which Henry George stood, so little stir has it made in the city of his birth that to a certain section of the people his name is unknown. Progress has been made, if it is true, and the pages of the Review are full of significant indications of much progress. But there is another side, of which this article gives us a striking illustration.

"Two pilgrims in search of Henry George's birthplace in an Italian quarter near the corner of Queen Street and South Tenth. Diligent inquiry brought the puzzled "Ghorgh-e. Ghorgh-c! Nobody name laika dal lif 'bout here." The strangers were watched with curiosity and suspicion as they went from one shop to another, vainly repeating their inquiry. At last they addressed themselves to a man whose profession implied education and a probable acquaintance with the works of him whose birthplace they sought. One of the pilgrims went into a brief sketch of Mr. George's life and influence. The words "Single Tax" fixed the listener's attention. "There's no tax-gatherer named Henry George in this neighborhood," he said.

By dint of much telephoning and an hour's wait the pilgrims at length learned that they might find the house they sought in South Tenth Street, near Pine. Here was a region of antique shops and equally antique gentility. At the shop on the corner the name Henry George set the proprietor thinking. For him it had some association. "Yes," he exclaimed, after searching his memory. "He lived in New York, and he was an orator, eh?" Those of the quest assented, and then the man of the shop gave them specific directions, for he knew the house.

A ring brought an intelligent and courteous colored woman to the door. Yes, a good many persons came to visit the house as the birthplace of a man named Henry George. She knew nothing of the man. Most persons came in Summertime, and some took pictures of the house. She had occupied it six years, and for 10 years before it had been vacant.

"The pilgrims saw that an extra story, with mansard roof, had been put upon the little house, and that an ornamental bay window of iron had been thrown out in front. Upon entering they found it much as it must have been when Henry George left the place as a boy. Within and without it must have been in Henry George's childhood just such a house as thousands of families in moderate circumstances occupied all over the Philadelphia of something less than three generations since. Now the region is undergoing a transition."