

City and their repairs. The Burgomasters are directed and authorized to summon after the publication of these presents before them in the City hall the owners of the lots in person, without regard to their position, and have them make the appraisal, which their Secretary is properly to record and the Treasurer is to receive the revenue. In case of opposition or refusal they are civilly to reprove the refractory person and tax his lot according to value and circumstances, under condition that the owner shall have the choice of keeping the lot, taxed by the Burgomasters, if he will pay as aforesaid the 15th penny, or if surrendering it to them for the behoof of the City at the price put on it by the Burgomasters; while on the other side, it is left to the device of the Burgomasters, either to take the lot at its owner's price for account of the City and sell it at this price to any one who desires and is ready to build, conform to the ordinances, or else to leave it to the owner, until it is built upon by him or others, when this burden, for good reasons laid upon unimproved lots, shall be taken off."

HENRY GEORGE IN ENGLAND.

. From "*The Freesoiler*," *New York*, March, 1884.

As there was no journal in Great Britain devoted to the Taxation of Land Values, when Henry George visited the country first, it may be interesting to see a report from a Land Restoration paper in New York.

All interest in connection with the land movement in England has, for the past six weeks, centered in the wonderful success of the author of *Progress and Poverty*. Mr. George arrived early in January and made his debut at St. James' Hall, London. Mr. Labouchere M.P., editor of *Truth*, presided. The meeting overflowed the immense hall; and the street in front was crowded. It had been arranged that the lecturer should meet a few friends, including Mr. Labouchere M.P., the Rev. Stewart Headlam, Mr. Davitt and others, in an ante-room before the meeting, but Mr. George disappointed them. In the language of the Bolton *Guardian*, a prominent Gladstone organ, he "quietly walked in, attired in a brown overcoat and evening dress of not immaculate fit, five minutes before the meeting commenced." The personal description of Mr. George by the same paper may not be uninteresting to his friends in America: "Small of stature, square built, with light beard and hair, and deep set blue eyes, his appearance was far from striking; and a certain blunt decisiveness of manner showed the man of the far west whose life's work has been wrought out under primitive conditions—Mr. George stepped forward, and after pacing uneasily up and down the space allotted him, began a speech of about an hour and twenty minutes, sustained in eloquence and argument. At first he gave little promise of the remarkable oratorical powers which are at his command. He spoke slowly

and made long pauses, and his gestures betokened nervousness. But as he warmed to his subject and began to feel his audience, and as his chain of consequences developed, one could feel no hesitation in classing him among the most powerful speakers of the time." It is not necessary to describe Henry George to members of the American Free Soil Society; but it may interest them to know how he appeared in the eyes of his British opponents, and in referring to his progress through the Kingdom we shall quote literally from local papers as much as possible, to prevent any accusation of personal prejudice in his favor.

Mr. George's second lecture was at Athenaeum Hall, Plymouth. The leading conservative paper of the place announced the lecture in a long adverse editorial, predicting a small audience. But the prediction was not verified. The large hall was crowded with an enthusiastic audience, largely composed of the middle class, the chair being occupied by a clergyman of the town. After these great successes the London press began to misrepresent the meetings, and the cable has reported them as meagerly attended. In fact all his meetings have been large and enthusiastic. The only one at which the hall was not entirely full was at Cardiff on the 16th of January. Cardiff is in the kingdom of the Marquis of Bute, and the attendance was consequently restricted to men who are so poorly off that they have nothing to lose by the indignation of this noble landlord. The hall was about two-thirds filled with people of the working class, however, and an active branch of the Land Reform Union was formed at the close of the meeting.

On the 23d of January Mr. George was at Birmingham. That our assertion as to the success of Mr. George's meetings in the provinces may not be unsupported, the following extracts from the report of this meeting taken from the Birmingham *Daily Post* of January 24th are given.

"Last evening Mr. Henry George, the author of *Progress and Poverty*, delivered a lecture on land nationalization, in the large lecture theatre of the Midland Institute. The building was crowded. The Rev. Dr. Crosskey occupied the chair, and among those upon the platform were Alderman Collins, M.P., Councillors Bishop, Lampard, Bloor, Eli Bloor and Thomason, Dr. Saundley, Messrs T. J. Walker, J. E. Deakin, Thomas Wright, B. Church, W. Gilliver. Mr. George, who was warmly received, thanked the audience for their cordial greeting." At the close of the lecture, and after Mr. George had answered several questions, he said, and we quote again from the *Post*, "he would ask those who stood with him in holding that vested interest could not stand in the way of natural rights, and that it was not necessary to buy the land from those who now held it, before the people resumed their own, to say aye. An enthusiastic response was made to this appeal by the majority of those present, and though there was a strong body of noes, Mr. George said he believed the ayes had it."

On the 25th January, Mr. George appeared at Liverpool, in the Rotunda Hall. The following morning the Liverpool *Courier* said: "The building was

filled despite the inclemency of the weather and the charge of 2s. and 1s. for admission. Dr. Commins, M.P., occupied the chair, and in commencing the proceedings, said the lecturer of the evening was a gentleman of world-wide reputation, who brought with him a name recognized as one of the greatest in the department he has made his own on two continents. At the close of the lecture "Mr. K. C. Spier, a Liverpool journalist," we quote again from the *Courier's* report, "proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. George for what he termed his brilliant and convincing lecture (Cheers). An old gentleman who rose in the body of the hall seconded the proposition, observing that he had been advocating the same doctrines as Mr. George for 45 years (Cheers). The motion was carried by acclamation."

From Liverpool Mr. George went to Bolton, thence to Newcastle, thence to Dundee, meeting with the same success everywhere. He is now in Scotland, whence come similar reports.

These meetings are under the direction of the Land Reform Union which is to England what the Free Soil Society is to America.

MONOPOLY is the enemy. Without monopoly the exploitation of man by man is impossible. And the root monopoly is land monopoly.

IF, by taking economic rent for public purposes, we release idle land, and at the same time encourage industry by the removal of taxes, we are respecting the rights of property with scrupulous nicety; and we shall create a demand for labor which will solve the problem of unemployment. The vice and crime which spring from slums as naturally as disease, and are, in fact, disease, will be checked at their source. Remove from the breasts of the criminals, who prey upon society, the ever-present feeling that society is arrayed against them, and that laws are made and administered for the rich, and who can say what forces of regeneration will spring into action?

WE have a faith that our Father in Heaven did not decree poverty, but that it exists because of the violation of His law. We have a belief that poverty can be abolished by conforming human laws and institutions to the great principles of equal justice. And having this faith, and having this belief, we have a destiny. That destiny is to abolish poverty, and in doing so, to fire a beacon that will light the whole world!

RIGHT in land is equivalent to the right of robbers to a road they have taken possession of, and along which they allow no one to pass without a ransom.—TOLSTOY.