

Democrats to rescue the local branch of the party from the control of Boss John R. McLean and his agent, Lew Bernard. The movement was sufficiently successful in its first test of strength at the primaries to send a delegation from Hamilton county to the State convention in which the gangsters were in the minority. When this State Convention adopted a Democratic platform and chose Herbert S. Bigelow to head the ticket, it demonstrated beyond all doubt that for the first time in many years the Ohio Democracy had been able to hold a convention free from plutocratic influences. The result of the campaign which Tom L. Johnson and Herbert S. Bigelow are together carrying on, cannot now be foretold, but more of the voters are being set to thinking than has been the case before and this is the real object to be attained. Whether the first attempt of the average Ohio voter at this unaccustomed exercise will be a complete success, is not so important as the fact that he has been made to set his rusty thinking apparatus in motion and sooner or later, he will learn how to operate it correctly.

DANIEL KIEFFER.

RABBI J. L. STERN.

Jacob Ludwig Stern was born at Creglingen, Wurtemberg, Germany, November 28, 1856; in 1864 his father from whom he takes his middle name was appointed principal of the Jewish Teachers' Seminary at Wuersburg, Bavaria. There J. L. Stern received his education, passing successively through Latin School, Gymnasium and University. Studied pedagogics and rabbinical subjects under his father and at the rabbinical school of Wuersburg. After obtaining his university degree, and passing examinations as teacher and rabbinical candidate took a position as private tutor and traveling companion in English family. Traveled for nearly two years, mostly in classical and sacred lands (Mediterranean coast.) Afterwards headmaster (1879) in English preparatory school. Came to America 1884, married 1885 to Lina Selz. Was ('85-'91) teacher at Hebrew schools in New York, St. Louis; and Rabbi in Salt Lake City, Utah, and since 1891 in his present position at Cumberland, Md. His wife, also an enthusiastic single taxer died in 1902.

Socialistically inclined in his early manhood, last years of university career, '77. His father, in frequent conversations, pointed out the fallacies of socialism; maintaining that land monopoly was at the bottom of the social problem. He often quoted Isaiah, v. 8: "Woe unto those who join house to house, who add field to field, till there is no more room, and are settled alone in the midst of the land;" and calling attention to the Talmudic statement that Israel lost its national independence on account of the nonobservance of the biblical land laws held that the principle of the latter was universal and that the downfall of all the ancient nations could be easily accounted for on that score,

aside from anything else. Observations during travels and further reading convinced J. L. Stern that his father was correct, but like the latter he was at a loss to see the way out, for having seen the operation of land nationalization in a small scale in cases where (in Southern Germany, their home) certain privileges of the landed gentry had been abolished (cash payment), and where the burden, though, perhaps not so obnoxious, re-appeared in the shape of heavy taxation. Thus when he saw early in the Eighties on a bookstall in Brighton, England, a copy of a six-penny edition of "Progress and Poverty" the words on the title page: "Cause of. . . . . increase of want with increase of wealth" immediately attracted his attention and he spent the next few nights in reading the book. To Stern the idea came as the answer to an apparently unsolvable riddle. He immediately wrote a synopsis in German for his father, who was greatly pleased. For a long while his work did not permit Stern to be what he calls a "real single taxer," usually known as a Croasdaler, that is one who not only believes in the single taxer, but who works for it. But since about '90, particularly since coming to Cumberland he has done all in his power to spread the gospel. Through his instrumentality Louis F. Post, Henry George, and J. Sherwin Crosby have lectured in Cumberland in '93, '95, and in 1902. Stern has delivered numerous lectures at home and in many towns along the B. & O. as far east as Baltimore and west as far as Parkersburg, always free. When the weekly Pentatuchal lesson of the Jewish ritual happens to contain the Mosaic land laws a straight single tax sermon is sure to be the subject of his remarks from his pulpit. He is ever watchful for opportunities to write letters to the press, and his scrap book contains some 300 columns of such communications on the single tax and taxation, municipal ownership. Through his instrumentality a provision was inserted in revised city charts of Cumberland that no franchises can be granted for longer time than 25 years.

FATHER COX.

Father Thomas E. Cox was born at Towaunda, near Bloomington, Illinois, forty-two years ago. His early education was obtained in the common schools, in one of which he became a teacher at the age of sixteen. His vacation times were spent in study, and before he finished his twenty-first year he had completed courses in commerce, penmanship and short-hand. He received his bachelor's degree from Mt. St. Mary's college, Emmitsburg, Maryland, June 23, 1886, and his master's degree two years later. His theological course was completed at Niagara University. He was ordained priest May 31, 1890, by the late Archbishop Feehan, and assigned to St. Jarlath's Church as an assistant. Father Cox is at present the senior assistant of the Chicago arch diocese, and one

of the best known priests in the country.

Father Cox is a man of excellent health, large physique and untiring energy. He is noted for his attention to the sick in the hospitals of Chicago. In the midst of a multitude of labors, he has found time to prepare articles for magazines and books for publication. His "Biblical Treasury" is a work of great research, and his "Pillar and Ground of the Truth" is widely known for its crisp and perspicuous style.

Father Cox takes an active interest in social and economic matters. For several years he has been a firm believer in the single tax theory, and an eloquent advocate of the doctrine of equal natural rights. He was chairman of the Dr. McGlynn memorial meeting in Chicago. His address on that occasion was so dignified and clear and withal so considerate and kind that both the friends and foes of the single tax were charmed by its spirit. Father Cox was one of the first persons of prominence to join hands with the Chicago teachers in their memorial fight on tax dodgers. At the great memorial mass meeting for President McKinley, in the Coliseum, Father Cox was one of the principal speakers. Some of his words deserve an everlasting remembrance.

"All history witnesses the futility of tyranny to uproot anarchy or to suppress the growth of liberty. Let us hope that this nation may never unlearn its first lessons. May the death of President McKinley never be cited to rebuke the lives of the revolutionary heroes.

"In a hasty moment we must not lose faith in the ideals and institutions of our country, nor throw away the treasures won for humanity by years of struggle. America symbolizes liberty, freedom of speech, freedom of worship and a free press. If a republic cannot foster these and flourish it cannot exist at all."

S. H. SPENCER.

Rev. S. H. Spencer, now of Ithaca, N. Y., became an advocate of the single tax on land values in the year 1886. His first sermon on the subject was delivered that year to his congregation in Henry, Ill. It appeared in *The Standard* soon afterward, under the title, "It is the Law of Christ," and then circulated pretty widely as a tract in English and in German. On January 1, 1888, *The New Christianity*, a new church periodical, was started in Germantown, Pa., with him as one of the editors; and from that date, and since January 1, 1891, when he became sole editor, many single tax editorials have appeared in *The New Christianity*. His main work, however, has been to lead many new church people to see the folly of claiming for the church an exclusively "spiritual mission" where economic conditions are against the success of such mission. To him Henry George is "the complement of Emanuel Swedenburg—the latter a prophet of the Lord for the establishment of a new

Christian church; the former a prophet of the Lord for the establishment of the necessary conditions or foundation of a new Christian church."

There are but a few of the clergymen and rabbis who are doing the work of the Lord not only in the pulpit but the field of sociology. Scarcely a city but has some representative clergyman who stands for the great principle of economic freedom. What a list they make; hardly a city is without its representative. Dean Williams, Rev. Harris Cooley, Rev. Mr. Pollen, Rev. S. S. Craig, Rev. Henry Anketill (now fighting the good fight in far-away Natal) and Rev. Harold Rylett, (editor of that excellent little paper, *The New Age*, of London).

Rev. Mr. Fuller of Boston (now on a visit in England, but looking eagerly toward Ohio, as he tells in a recent letter to the REVIEW) and many others whose names at the minute elude us. And if only those could speak whom fear makes silent, what an army it would be!

#### BOOK REVIEWS.

It is not often nowadays that we are able to welcome a work of fiction dealing with the industrial question that is not frankly or by implication socialistic in its teachings—and, therefore, superficial in its treatment. Such has been the chief characteristics of most of the novels recently published which are in a class by themselves, and belong to what has not inaptly been described as "the literature of discontent." Literature, however, would be an extravagant term to apply to these socialistic and sociological novels. They make poor reading, and leave but a very fleeting impression. They are utterly without power, either in the conception or manner of telling. Their economics are shallow, their analysis of industrial conditions pitifully inadequate. They are the faintest reflections of what the novel should be. Their protest is therefore robbed of more than half its value.

All these things considered, it is a pleasure to be able to recommend this work of William R. Pedrick ("Eminent Respectability," published by Alfred M. Slocum, 718 Arch Street, Philadelphia). It would not be true to say that some of the faults indicated are not present here, but taken as a whole, despite a certain unreality of portraiture and a distinct absence of the element of pathos, it is so much above the level of novels dealing with the industrial question that it raises high hopes of what the writer may yet be able to accomplish.

As a story, it is distinctly interesting, with a plot of much ingenuity, and possessing many dramatic situations. There is enough of the melo-dramatic to satisfy those who prefer highly seasoned fiction, and there is much penetrating and acute observation on social follies of the day.

J. D. M.