

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.