

Chas. Frederic Adams, who is an excellent Spanish scholar, speaks in high terms of it. It is full of illustrations drawn from widely different sources, and is replete with arguments which the opponents of our cause will find impossible satisfactorily to answer. It is a testimony to the power with which the arguments are marshalled that notwithstanding the radical nature of the remedy proposed, the Committee should nevertheless have unanimously awarded the prize to its young and gifted author.

It ought to be said in introducing Mr. Tejada to American Single Taxers that he has already won fame in other walks of life, and that his great public spirit and patriotic devotion to all that is best in Cuba, has made his name respected in that country. In 1901 he won a prize of \$1,500 offered by the Military Government of Intervention for the best set of plans and specifications for a Market House for the city of Matanzas. Twelve such plans were submitted to the Board. He has won other prizes for Scientific and Mechanical essays, and has to his credit as an inventor a number of mechanical devices, and an Acetylene Gas Generator.

Of Mr. Tejada personally, Mr. Alfred Martin Morales, who is sub-Secretary of Public Instruction in the cabinet of President Estrada Palma, has this to say of him whom he terms "my very accomplished and illustrious friend," in a recent issue of *El Figaro* of Havana.

"One of the greatest merits of Tejada consists in a virtue (and virtue is equivalent to strength) which is seldom met among the Cubans and which is quite common among the men of the so-called Anglo-Saxon race, i. e., the virtue of Self-Help. Tejada is a self made man.

"When just a lad 17 years old and immediately after his taking his degree of B. A. from the Institute of Santiago, he gathered the slender resources at his command (a few sterling pounds) and bravely made his way to England, where he studied naval and mechanical engineering. From England he went to Scotland and practiced in the ship building yards on the Clyde, and from there went to Toulon, Marseilles and Lylle (France). At twenty-four we find him as Chef d'Atelier (Master Mechanic) at the "Atelier Central de la Compagnie Universelle du Canal Interoceanique," (Panama Canal); and two years afterwards erecting an arsenal for the Dominican Government at San Domingo, W. I. From there he came to the United States and busied himself in different places and made himself generally useful as a consulting engineer, designer of hydraulic and automatic machinery, draftsman and writer on engineering. Mr. Albert E. Beach, founder of the *Scientific American* and one of the pioneers of American Science, had great admiration and regard for the man and treated him affectionately. He has been a contributor to that paper in both its Ameri-

can and Spanish editions, as well as to the mechanical papers, *American Machinist*, *Machinery*, *Power Record*, etc. He is a member of the "American Society of Mechanical Engineers," of the Association of American Draughtsmen, Franklin Institute, etc."

We desire to call the attention of the Single Tax readers of the REVIEW to the fact that the Board which awarded the prize to Mr. Tejada for his work on economic conditions in Cuba, and which Board was composed of lawyers, senators, representatives and professors of the University accompanied their award with the following recommendation:

"The Board further earnestly recommend to the consideration of the National Party the contents and philosophy of the work in question in order that a Committee may be appointed to inform as to the best manner in which the system of taxation therein advocated might be incorporated as the economic platform of the Party."

W. A. SOMERS.

(See Portrait.)

The news that Mayor Dunne is interested in having Mr. W. A. Somers of St. Paul make the proposed assessment of Real Estate in Chicago brings public attention to the importance of his reform in the method of doing this work. Mr. Somers is a civil engineer by profession, but aside from his training the determining factor that has placed him in the front rank of tax experts is his faculty of handling multitudinous details methodically.

Upon his entering the Ramsay County, Minnesota, Assessor's office, he was brought face to face with the chaos and confusion which characterises this branch of our municipal administration. Unlike his many predecessors he did not let this bewildering mass engulf him, but set about to master it by intelligently surveying the subject and grasping it by the handle.

He did not only reduce the assessment of land to mathematical precision, but simplified the work of assessing improvements. He realized that the buildings could not be rated at their true value as easily as the value of land, but the loose methods in vogue were replaced by more efficient machinery. He saw that to send out a large number of deputy assessors, each with his individual idea of values, and to let them make the assessment of all the buildings in their several districts, was to make such an assessment subject to errors of incompetency. To eradicate these evils he changed the duties of the field men from that of assessors to that of examiners or reporters—that is, the facts were brought into the office by these men, and an expert weighed them and made the assessment from the data at hand. To do this a "Building Slip"

blank form was provided the men for obtaining specifications with which a practical builder can rapidly and with surprising accuracy estimate the value of every ordinary building lot in a city. This work was entrusted to C. J. Buell, who is well known to REVIEW readers, and who is a builder of large experience.

During Tom L. Johnson's first term as Mayor of Cleveland Mr. Somers was called to assist in revising the assessment of that city. He found there a number of citizens who were co-operating with the Mayor in an effort to make a thorough and fair assessment of all the real estate in the city. His plans were adopted, and the work was done to the satisfaction of all the public spirited citizens who were interested in the work.

If Chicago adopts Mr. Somers's system and the work is done according to his directions, those who know of Mr. Somers' labors predict the new system will meet with unanimous approval in that city. Elsewhere will be found an article descriptive of the "Somers Method," as it has come to be known.

BOOK REVIEWS.

*TOLSTOY AS A SCHOOLMASTER.

Of course it is known that Tolstoy entertains certain views on education, that he has written upon them, and that they run counter to many if not most pedagogical practice. This work is a presentment by the leading Tolstoyan of Tolstoy's ideas on this all-important subject.

Shall we say that these theories are merely the endeavor to ascertain the workings of nature in the boy or girl, that the one word Freedom—this, and Love and the nature of the child—comprise the Alpha and Omega of the Tolstoyan pedagogy?

These theories are the result of experience, for Tolstoy has been a school teacher, and had to unlearn many of the conventional ideas on education. For example, he does not believe in punishment, and this conclusion he has arrived at by practical observation of its futility. A school in which the children were allowed to go home when they liked seems peculiar enough, yet in this school the question of truancy never seems to have arisen. Attendance at school, perhaps, under such arrangement comes to be considered not as a duty, but as a privilege.

And then we come to the question, to what extent can the idea of duty—or its inculcation by any sort of penalty incurred in its violation—be eliminated in any scheme of education? Certainly duty and obedi-

ence are factors in mental and spiritual development. But duty and obedience to what? To the will of the master—the schoolmaster? Will the ideas of duty and obedience develop out of Love? And we are thus brought again to the value of the natural, the unhindered growth of the nature of the child, out of which will spring the best that there is in him, all that is called forth by Love working under Freedom.

Mr. Crosby's exposition is sympathetic and lucid. He, too, loves children and knows their natures almost as well as does the great Russian. When he departs from exposition to treat of children, he does so in a vividly interesting way and with simple charm. He writes, too, with much keen wisdom and shrewdness upon college and university education, and upon penology as well—the latter a part of education in its way. These larger problems—if they are really larger—are treated in the concluding chapters.

Altogether this little book provides an introduction to the beautiful nature of the great Russian thinker, and we are conscious of a more intimate acquaintance with the serene philosopher whose high thought is like the balm-bearing winds from the delectable mountains.

J. D. M.

*THE COLOR LINE.

"This is the first time that the question of social, political and commercial equality for the Negro, with its inevitable sequence of intermarriage, has been treated from the scientific point of view in relation to the conditions that exist in America. The author, a professor at Tulane University, New Orleans, brings to bear upon this vital subject data from many widely separated branches of science."

This announcement on the cover of *The Color Line* by William Benjamin Smith, (McClure, Phillips & Co., \$1.50) gives promise of a valuable contribution to the important "race problem." But unfortunately the book is not scientific, or even judicial. It is a lawyer's brief. Special pleading is writ large.

Professor Smith is possessed by the fear of miscegenation and the consequent deterioration of the Caucasian (at least in the southern states) to the vanishing point. To prevent intermarriage, he argues, social equality must be denied. And to justify this denial he assiduously marshals a quantity of facts to prove the superiority of the white race to all others and the inferiority of the negro in particular.

His chief reliance is upon ethnology and anthropology. Cranial development and brain weights are tabulated, and we are

*Tolstoy as a Schoolmaster. By Ernest Howard Crosby. 12mo, 94 pp., 50 cents net. The Hammarmark Publishing Company, Chicago, Ill.

*The Color Line. By William Benjamin Smith, 12 mo. cloth, 261 pp. Price \$1.50. McClure, Phillips & Co. N. Y. City.