

## DEATH OF LOUIS BLAUL.

The death of Louis Blaul, of West Philadelphia, robs that city of an earnest and devoted Single Taxer. Though for years he has been a helpless invalid he has made his influence felt through an ever increasing circle of friends.

The funeral was conducted as he had desired, not according to the rites of any church, but by officiating Single Taxers. Mr. Ross read from Progress and Poverty, portions of the "Central Truth," and "The Individual Life." Among other Single Taxers present were Henry C. Lippincott, Chas. F. Shandrew, Haines D. Albright, Miss Musson, Dr. and Mrs. Wright, and Dr. Sullivan, of Albany, N. Y.

## DEATH OF WM. O. FOLEY.

William O. Foley, of Port Marion, Pa., died Dec. 22nd after an illness of only a few days. He was an old Single Taxer. He was a son of Gen. James Bradford Foley, of Indiana, a member of the 35th Congress. Mr. Foley enjoyed the confidence of Vice President Hendricks during the life time of the latter, and he was a friend of Wm. J. Bryan, entertaining him on his visit to Port Marion. He was cashier of the First National Bank of Port Marion until compelled by illness to retire.

## DEATH OF SAMUEL BRAZIER.

(See Portrait.)

Samuel Brazier, preacher, temperance lecturer, Single Taxer, journalist, poet, died on Dec. 1, 1909. Mr. Brazier in 1887 came to Boston from his English home in Shropshire. He was twice married, and leaves two married daughters in England, a widow, two sons and a daughter in Boston.

In England Mr. Brazier was active as a temperance lecturer, but in this country the lesser reform was soon swallowed up in the greater Henry George doctrine, to which he became a convert. He quickly saw that if the prohibition of the manufacture and sale of liquor were achieved it would not destroy land monopoly, would not divert ground rent from private pockets

into the public treasury, would not prevent extortion by monopoly, would not solve the labor problem, and would not establish an equitable distribution of wealth.

Mr. Brazier was one of the most active participants in the long battle with the city government to secure a coveted permit for the Sunday discussion of politics and preaching of the Single Tax with police protection instead of police interference beneath the elms of historic Boston Common.

The Single Taxers of Massachusetts will greatly miss him from their work and counsels. He was the first local trained speaker of the Boston "Anti-Poverty Society," afterward named "The Massachusetts Single Tax League." From that time until his death it was to him meat and drink to present the claims of the right of all men to the use of the earth, which he always did with dignity and conviction. His understanding of the subject matter of Progress and Poverty was singularly clear, and extensive; and his method of presentation correspondingly attractive. He was a zealous advocate of a cause which appealed to his understanding, to his love of his fellow men, and to that intelligent thirst for knowledge which is the attendant of clear thinking. Those who had the privilege of close intercourse with him knew him as a sincere and loyal gentleman, and would vie with each other in rendering this formal tribute to a precious memory.

In commemoration of his sterling worth, Mr. Hamlin Garland writes:

"I knew and honored Samuel Brazier for his earnest and self-sacrificing devotion to the advancement of Land Reform in the United States and England, and I am glad to know that he lived long enough to see "the Henry George idea" written into the budget of England's exchequer. He was a brave and able man. This poor clergyman, Samuel Brazier, and his fearlessness and unselfish work for the cause of humanity deserve lasting honor. I gladly contribute my wreath of praise."

Mr. B. O. Flower writes:

"It was probably eighteen years ago, when, through Hamlin Garland, I first became acquainted with Mr. Samuel Brazier. I soon found him to be one of the very few

fundamental democrats among authoritative writers of New England. He possessed the rare power of seeing below the surface of things. The great underlying principles of justice and brotherhood appealed to him with compelling force. It is not strange, therefore, that he was not only a follower of Richard Cobden and John Bright in their economic and peace philosophy, but that the Land philosophy of Henry George won his wholehearted support. He was the unyielding foe of all forms of oppression and injustice. He opposed monopoly and all other economic and political evils that are eating at the vitals of free institutions. He loved his fellow-men and strove faithfully to further the principles of justice and fraternity, which are the soul of true democracy."

The skill of Mr. Brazier in the poetic art was well known to his friends. His work in this sphere gave an imaginative touch to all his literary labors. He not only had the poet's feeling, but also the poet's appreciation of good form, of doing the best thing in the best way. This is attested by the hundreds of poems which it was his diversion to write, every one of which was freighted with his irrepressible life message, as in the following:

"Justice, thou universal Friend,  
How beautiful art thou!  
How clear the holy light that gilds  
Thy pure and awful brow!

\* \* \*

Where'er thou reignest hope springs forth,  
And gladdens the green earth;  
And love and joy and sweet content  
Spring plenteous into birth.

\* \* \*

Justice, benign and awful power,  
I bow the knee to thee;  
My life, my health, my mind, my wealth,  
Thine, only thine, shall be.

Happy, if I the toil of those  
Who live for thee may share,  
And spend my life to tell how rich  
Thy boundless blessings are."

Or, in the lines:

Ye whose love of Right is strong  
See ye not the ancient Wrong?  
Men from land divorced are sold  
Into bondage, want and cold.

All that nature's lavish hand  
Gives to man is in the land.  
Fuel, raiment, dwelling, food,  
Every luxury, every good.

\* \* \*

Ye whose hearts are brave and strong  
Rise, redress this ancient wrong!  
See this wrong from power hurled,  
See ye then a happier world!

And again:

Love of Good so pure and changeless,  
Wealth of earth so rich and free,  
Human love so warm and tender,  
All was meant for all and me.

A verse on Immortality sounds now to  
our ears like a "Nunc Dimittis":

When all my days are o'er, and in the  
grave I lie,

The good I've done, tho' I no more be  
known, will never die.

Yet I would wish some friend might  
think at times of me,

Recall some word or deed of mine, and  
bless my memory.

Mr. Brazier's *chef d'oeuvre* in journalism was the editorial department of a Boston magazine de luxe, royal octavo venture, printed on thick paper with wide margins and rough edges, called *Government*, "A Monthly Magazine of Economic and Applied Politics, Boston, Berlin, Paris, Washington, London," which unfortunately ended a meteoric career with its fourteenth number in May 1908. Each number contained perhaps half a dozen leading articles from prominent sources, followed by a dozen pages of Editorial, Political Review of the World, home and foreign, criticisms of the leading articles, book reviews, and nearly all of these pages were the work of Mr. Brazier's diligent and facile pen. The number for June 1907 contained an article of his own on Henry George, His Life and Work, with cut similar to that of Mr. Brazier which appears in this issue. His work in this connection surprised even his best friends.

Mr. E. H. Clement, Editor of the *Boston Evening Transcript*, who had intimate knowledge of his capabilities, and who introduced him to the *Government* connect-

tion, offers the following just and appreciative tribute:

"As a journalist, Mr. Samuel Brazier, although largely unknown to the public, and largely unpaid by the editors who availed themselves of his patient toil, was the peer of any of his contemporaries. His writing-style was singularly clear and elegant—with the elegance of simplicity, that is to say) his knowledge of his subjects was comprehensive and solid, and his exposition was lucid, logical and convincing. The mere mass of the work he accomplished ("good wheat bread," as intellectual pabulum, always) was in itself astonishing, considering that it was most generally executed in the face of cruelly deferred hopes and just expectations that were almost invariably disappointed. He had sacrificed an earlier portion of his life to another profession, which had been similarly unjust and unrewarding to him, although its communion had been sustained and enriched by his deep religious nature and his gifts of expression with both voice and pen. Modest to self-effacement, and too manly to crook the pregnant hinges of the knee to those in authority, he continually renewed the struggle, relying wholly and solely on the merits of his work. Best of all, he never lost the sweetness of his disposition, never gave way to bitterness; but brought ever a large, chivalrous and catholic spirit to the support of any 'forlorn hope' or a charge upon entrenched wrong in which he had volunteered."

Samuel Nixon and Chas. E. Early, Single Taxers of Duluth, Minn., debated in December with Morris Kaplan and D. M. Robertson on the question thus formulated: That the distinctive doctrine of socialism is common ownership of productive property, whereas the distinctive doctrine of the Single Tax is the equal opportunity to produce property.

Portland, Oregon, is to vote on February 15th on whether the city shall have its water mains paid for by the water users or by the abutting property owners who get the benefit of the mains.

## NEWS—DOMESTIC.

## RHODE ISLAND

RAYMOND ROBINS SPEAKING IN THIS STATE  
—INCREASED HOSPITALITY TO OUR TEACH-  
INGS—LEGISLATURE TO RECEIVE REPORT  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS THIS MONTH.

During the past two months the efforts for the reform have continued in Rhode Island. Early in December Raymond Robins visited the State, remaining here for nine days and speaking three times a day. Only a portion of his addresses dealt with the taxation of land values, but his position was repeatedly stated and through reports in the daily press was understood very generally. His personality and oratory were such as to attract strongly his many hearers and consequently lead them to favor, or at least to consider carefully, the great remedy he proposes for existing social ills.

On December 10th, Bolton Hall and John J. Murphy spoke before the Economic Club of Providence. The topic for discussion was the income tax. Mr. Luce, of Massachusetts, a very good speaker, advocated the affirmative whilst the two New Yorkers argued in the negative. Mr. Hall dealt largely with the principles of taxation as did Mr. Murphy, in the latter part of his address. It is scarcely necessary to say that both gentlemen indicated very plainly that land values were the true source of public revenue. Their radical utterances were received very favorably by the large number of business men present and may have something to do with the readiness now manifested by manufacturers to sign a petition for local option in taxation.

In December "Bulletin No. 10" was issued by the R. I. Tax Reform Association. It consisted chiefly of a list of endorsers of the bill for home rule in taxation. The total number of signatures being 483.

"Bulletin No. 11," for January, has gone to press. It contains the law petitioned for, granting home rule in taxation, and a much augmented list of endorsers and petitioners.