

## PROGRESS AND POVERTY DINNER.

COMMEMORATION OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY OF ITS PUBLICATION.

The dinner arranged in commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of *Progress and Poverty* took place on the night of Tuesday, January 24th, at the Hotel Astor in this city. Among those who constituted the committee which arranged for the celebration, and of which Mr. Hamlin Garland was chairman, appear among others less known, the names of Amelia E. Barr, R. R. Bowker, Richard Burton, Bliss Carman, Grace Isabel Colbron, Bird S. Coler, Thomas B. Connery, Samuel B. Clarke, Ernest H. Crosby, Clarence S. Darrow, George Cary Eggleston, B. O. Flower, Dr. I. K. Funk, Richard Le Gallienne, William Lloyd Garrison, Dr. L. F. C. Garvin, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, Tom L. Johnson, Josephine Shaw Lowell, August Lewis, Edwin Markham, Rev. R. Heber Newton, Walter H. Page, George Foster Peabody, Louis F. Post, Howard Pyle, Frederick Remington, Louis L. Seaman, Dr. Albert Shaw, Edward M. Shepard, Rev. Thomas R. Slicer, J. G. Phelps Stokes, Ida M. Tarbell, John De Witt Warner, Edward J. Wheeler, Ella Wheeler Wilcox. About 250 sat down, and among those present were William J. Bryan, Prof. Richard Burton, William Lloyd Garrison, Edwin Markham, Charles F. Adams, Dan Beard, John Burroughs, J. I. C. Clarke, P. F. Collier, Judge Martin J. Keogh, Dr. H. M. Leipziger, Norman E. Mack, Hudson Maxim, Lincoln Steffens, Judge Samuel Seabury, Ida M. Tarbell, John Brisben Walker, Homer Davenport, F. N. Doubleday, William Temple Emmet, Controller Grout, John De Witt Warner, and Norman Hapgood. Mr. Hamlin Garland was toastmaster.

Mr. Bryan made a speech which more than anything that he has hitherto said shows a dawning appreciation of the importance of the issue. But he confined himself for the most part to a graceful personal tribute to Henry George. He said in part:

"The greatest day of my life was that day a little over a year ago which I spent with Tolstoy. There were two Americans of whom he spoke to me. The son of one of them sits here at my right, the son of the other sits at my left.

"He spoke in highest terms of Henry George and indorsed his economic theories. He showed me something he was reading, a preface to the life of the elder Garrison.

"It is interesting to-night for me to meet here for the first time the poet whose words have touched the consciences of so many. It is a notable thing that there should be at this board the son of Henry George, the son of William Lloyd Garrison, and Edwin Markham.

"Those who deny to children born into

this world the right of equal opportunities ought to give some defense of their position. I can give no such defense. It does not require a very far-sighted person to recognize that parents who leave to their children the right of equal opportunity leave them the richest heritage which is possible for a parent to leave.

"The tendency which seems to-day to be becoming dominant is the seeking of the moral issue in all great questions. Beneath every great economic question is a moral question, and the question is never settled until the moral issue is settled."

Mr. Bryan said that the power of the heart was above that of the body and that of the mind, and he continued:

"I fear the plutocracy of wealth, I respect the aristocracy of learning, but I thank God for the democracy of the heart. I believe, too, that we are entering on a new era, that of brotherly love. I see it in all lands. I see it here. I see it in Europe, and nowhere have we clearer evidences of it than in the home of Tolstoy.

"We celebrate to-day the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of Henry George's book, and only four years before that Tolstoy turned from a life of society and ambition to devote himself to the public weal. He says that he never found in society or in literature any such reward as he is finding in his work for the people. His life is a constant spring, and he does not ask where the waters go.

"Love is his inspiration, and it was love that made Henry George what he became. He has touched the conscience of the world, the world will admit, and that he touched it because he loved it the world will not deny."

Prof. Richard Burton spoke on the influence of *Progress and Poverty* upon literature, William Lloyd Garrison on the Book's Plea for Justice, and Louis F. Post on the Economic Message of the Book. Mr. Post said:

"I hold, as did the author of '*Progress and Poverty*', that the political economy which does not reach out to morality, which does not underlie and support morality, which does not correspond to and co-operate with morality—I hold with '*Progress and Poverty*,' that any such political economy is a false political economy. It is false because it is out of harmony with natural law.

"Observe also the influence of the Single Tax idea upon common thought—not in the way of making perfect converts, but of creating a general tendency. This kind of progress may be found also in England, where the general tendency has gone further than here, and in Australia, where the principle is coming into actual use."

Mr. Henry George, jr., said:

"In August 1877 the writing of '*Progress and Poverty*' was begun. It was the oak that grew out of the acorn of '*Our Land and Land Policy*.' The larger book became

'an inquiry into industrial depressions and of increase of want with increase of wealth,' and pointed out the remedy.

"The book was finished after a year and seven months of intense labor, and the undergoing of privations that caused the family to do without a parlor carpet and which frequently forced the author to pawn his personal effects.

"And when the last page was written, in the dead of night, when he was entirely alone, Henry George flung himself upon his knees and wept like a child. He had kept his vow.

"Then the manuscript was sent to New York to find a publisher. Some thought it visionary; some revolutionary. Most thought it was unsafe, and all thought it would not sell, or at least sufficiently to repay the outlay.

"More than two million copies of 'Progress and Poverty' have been printed to date, and that, including with these the other books that have followed from Henry George's pen, and which might be called the 'Progress and Poverty' literature, perhaps five million copies have been given to the world. Such is the power of truth."

Edwin Markham read a poem "The Deathless Dead" and Ernest Seton Thompson read three fables.

Among the letters received was one from George Barnard Shaw, in which he said:

"What Henry George did not teach you you are being taught now by your great trusts and combines, as to which I need only say that if you would take them over as national property as cheerfully as you took over the copyrights of all my early books you would find them excellent institutions, quite in the path of progressive evolution, and by no means to be discouraged or left unregulated as if they were nobody's business but their own.

"It is a great pity that you all take America for granted because you were born in it. I who have never crossed the Atlantic, and have taken nothing American for granted, find I know ten times as much about your country as you do yourselves, and my ambition is to repay my debt to Henry George by coming over some day and trying to do for your young men what Henry George did nearly a quarter of a century ago for me."

Other parts of Mr. Shaw's letter, devoted to points in which that brilliant Englishman and Fabian socialist differs with "Progress and Poverty," and in which he fondly imagines he "goes further" than the teachings of that book (goes further afield or astray) will be dealt with in the next issue of the REVIEW.

Dr. Albert Shaw, who was down for a speech, and who was prevented from attending, wrote:

"I believe sincerely that in the generations to come, the life and work of the late Henry George will stand forth, in the history of human progress towards better

political and economic conditions, somewhat as the names of Adam Smith, Jean Jacques Rousseau and Thomas Jefferson must always remain as great landmarks in our study of the growth of Democratic ideals. This I say without any regard to the merits of any controversy in detail regarding certain concrete applications in statesmanship of Mr. George's views regarding taxation. We had been obliged, as the fundamental step towards the doing away of poverty, to learn how to create and build up productive capital in a poverty-stricken world. Then came a time when it was needful to distinguish clearly between the wealth produced by the individual and that belonging to the united social effort. More than any other man, Henry George helped to make that distinction understandable and a part of the economic thinking of millions of people. Already the gain to humanity has been a large one, and it has only begun."

Edward M. Shepard wrote:

"Progress and Poverty truly was an epoch making book, the fruit of extraordinary genius, inspired by the love of humanity and finding a clear voice which of itself ought to place Henry George in the highest rank of the literary men of our time. Those who, like myself, are able to adopt but a part of the practical application of Mr. George's philosophy, are hardly less indebted to him than are those who, like many of your guests to-night, adopt the whole of it. Indeed it may be said of Henry George as of other great men, that his achievement was in making the masses of men to think on the lines of human justice and of distrust or even hatred of artificial and unnecessary monopolies and repressions."

Charles Warren Stoddard wrote:

"I knew Henry George nearly forty years ago, when he was unknown to the world, but he was already aglow with the glory that crowned him later on. I pray you make me one of your honorable committee."

Rev. Dr. R. Heber Newton wrote:

"The man (Henry George) looms larger through the years since he left us—larger worldly and morally. His soul glows through his book, making it not merely a *tour de force*, but a revelation of a rare personality. The book is now seen to be truly an epoch-making book. Its ethical temper is already moralizing both political economy and religion. There is less heard now of "Progress and Poverty," but below the surface it is working everywhere."

Thomas Wentworth Higginson wrote:

"Ill health forbids me just now to attend public meetings, otherwise I should be glad to pay my tribute to the author of "Progress and Poverty"; a man whose heroic spirit and whose eminently fresh and fertile style made his books always well worth reading."

Amelia E. Barr wrote:

"I have the heartiest sympathy with the 'Progress and Poverty' ideas—for were they not the purpose and intent of my great countryman, Oliver Cromwell, if he had lived to order another Parliament."

Edward Clarence Stedman wrote:

"My admiration for Henry George was not for his special economic panacea. It was because—and though I met him but once—I realized his sincerity, humanitarianism, *his devotion to his own ideal of the highest service to his fellow men*. You do right in paying this tribute to his memory, and to the good which his greatest book wrought by enforcing attention to the evils of our so-called civilization."

Rev. Lyman Abbott wrote:

"It is impossible for me to attend the dinner, as I shall be absent from the city on the 24th of January, but I would like to put on record here my great respect for his character and for the service which I believe he has rendered to the world, by the courage with which he has faced and discussed what is one of the greatest problems of our time."

Remarkable evidences of the spread of the doctrines were contained in communications or writings received and read from Single Taxers in foreign lands. We cull extracts from a few of the more important of these.

#### FROM HOLLAND.

With the appearance of "Progress and Poverty," industrial slavery was doomed and modern history begun.—Jan Stoffel, Deventer, Leader of the Dutch Single Taxers.

#### FROM GERMANY.

"That brave prophet, Henry George, who dared to stem the tide of orthodox democratic thought. In modern America, where land speculation is directly encouraged by the government, and where a corruption without equal is growing up as the child of capitalism, the propounding of the doctrine of Single Tax was a deed of tremendous moral value."—Wilhelm von Polenz, author of a very successful book on America, entitled, "The Land of the Future."

"The fundamental thought of 'Progress and Poverty' is an eternal truth, and the manner in which this thought is propounded proves its author a mind of the very first rank, far excelling many the world calls great in public life. All those who aid in the making known of 'Progress and Poverty' help in bringing about a state of social health in which the welfare of humanity as a whole is not dependent upon chance charity on the part of some individual. The day will come when all civilized nations will revere Henry George for this one book, as one of the great leaders of mankind."—Adolf Damaschke, President of the German Land Reform League.

#### FROM DENMARK.

"What has made the deepest impression

on my mind in the teachings of Henry George is the profound truth that I should not be compelled to pay a tax on my industry and my work, but that my tribute to society should be made from that wealth or value which I have received from no merit or exertion on my own part."—George Brandes, famous critic.

"What I particularly have to thank Henry George for is that he has made me understand what Justice to All means in society's housekeeping, and that this Justice to All is far more needed as a bulwark for society's welfare than the Right of the Individual.—Svend Høgbro, Member of the Danish Parliament and Advocate of the Supreme Court.

"There are many who thank Henry George for having proved that God did not create a world incapable of providing nourishment for the inhabitants thereof, and that there is sufficient food for all who work, if man will but understand the simple principle of all human society, 'Equal rights for all to the Earth, that has been given to all in common.'—Rev. E. Koch, prominent Danish clergyman, author of important economic works.

"We are beginning to understand in Denmark, that the light which Henry George has thrown on man's relation to land, and on the development of justice among mankind, is of just as much importance to the wholesome growth of human life, as is the development of heart and mind for the individual."—From Valdemar Bennicke, prominent Danish High School Professor.

"Henry George laid the foundation for a new era of thought, he opened the way for religion's true servants, he united morality and science, [and created a new social doctrine, built up on the Ideals of Justice, for the central pivot of agriculture. In many lands there are those who greet the spirit of Henry George's teachings as the bringer of warmth and light, and as the Spirit of Truth, charity and strength, the apostle of peace and freedom."—From Sophus Berthelsen, Lawyer, President of the Danish Henry George League.

#### FROM SWEDEN

"No view of the land question has aroused such sympathy in my mind as has that laid down by Henry George. It satisfies the desire for justice as well as the desire for freedom. Our best wishes for the development of the community must be found in the hope that the future will see the adoption of Henry George's solution of a fundamental social problem, namely, of how the earth can really become a true mother to all her children."—From Ellen Key, celebrated Swedish authoress and lecturer.

"Our language has no work of social-economic trend, or of philosophic thought to show, which can equal the honesty, lucidity, and thoroughness of 'Progress and



Poverty.' I find I must return to it again and again, when I need light on some difficult economic problem, or seek encouragement in its pages, when assailed by doubts of the eventual victory of Right and Justice."—From Johan Hansen, of Gothenburg, leader of the Swedish Land Reform Movement.

The *Fairhope Courier* has become a weekly, which is an indication of the prosperity of Fairhope. We congratulate the management and Mr. Gaston, who has worked hard to make the *Courier* a success.

"The Wasteful War of Organized Labor" is an effective pamphlet written and published by Thomas Bawden, of Detroit, editor of *Our Commonwealth*. It is illustrated with a number of striking illustrations. Copies of this little booklet sold for two and a half cents each may be obtained by addressing the author at 157 Park Street, Detroit, Mich.

We have received "Letters Relating to Taxation in Jamaica," a small pamphlet published by Mr. Wellesley Bourke consisting of the author's letter to the *Jamaica Daily Telegraph*. Mr. Bourke is one of the active Single Taxers of Jamaica, is a prominent member of the bar, and was once mayor of Kingston. They are excellent refutations of the contentions often made, and forming the burden of the *Daily Telegraph* in its attempt to meet Mr. Bourke's Single Tax arguments of the supposed "unearned increment" of a chair or table, the long sanction that time and custom have conferred upon the institution of private property in land, and finally the injustice of submitting one species of "property" to the burdens of colonial and local taxation. Were influential American dailies as willing to meet, as fully and fairly and with the same admirable courtesy, the arguments of their Single Tax correspondents they would perform a distinct service to their readers. But this would be to antagonize the vested interests which determine the editorial policy of these papers through the counting room.

The *Arena* for January is an improvement even over the high standard which that magazine has maintained since it came into the hands of its present publisher. It is presented with a new and attractive cover, and with more than the usual number of illustrations. The most important of the articles are "Corruption in Pennsylvania," by Rudolph Blankenburg, "The Reign of Boodle in St. Louis," by Lee Meriwether, whose name will be familiar to all Single Tax men, and the "Divorce Problem," by Mrs. Spencer Trask. Joaquin Miller's serial story, "The Building of the City Beautiful," is continued. These articles with others not less worthy of mention, make this number of the *Arena* a notable one.

## BOOK REVIEWS.

## A STUDY OF A GREAT LIFE.\*

This book is the latest of the "English Men of Letters," edited by John Morley, whose fine critical discrimination and ripe scholarship have contributed so much to the success of the series.

Adam Smith and John Stuart Mill are the only ones among the older political economists who can by any extension of courtesy be called "men of letters." The innumerable works of countless others are so much lumber which the world would be richer if it had never possessed. And this is said even while we bear in mind the name of Ricardo and his doctrine of rent, the application of which has yielded so much to subsequent speculations. But Adam Smith did more. He remade the economic map of the world. His work is one of the great books of all time. Not Henry George himself was more in advance of his age than this studious, large brained Scot, with his singular gift of lucid reasoning and clear presentation.

We are apt to forget this when we read in the "Wealth of Nations" so much that is familiar to modern ears. Yet it sounded strangely enough to Smith's contemporaries. And how far we are even at this late day from realizing the great ideals based on the irrefutable train of argument which threads its way through the clear uplands of thought in this great work. So long as the battle of free trade and protection wages this book will be the one great arsenal for the protagonists of commercial freedom. It is an ungrateful task to point out Smith's shortcomings. It is a much more useful and inspiring reflection that suggests to us that without the "Wealth of Nations" "Progress and Poverty" itself might, perhaps could not have been written. Political economy was not to spring full-armed like Minerva from the head of Jupiter. Humanity must wring its victories from truth by successive battles—the war itself is never ending. And Adam Smith was the foremost of the great pioneers in the work of clearing the ground for the greater task that was reserved for the teacher whom Single Taxers delight first of all to honor.

One of the great tasks to which Mr. George looked forward was the publication of the "Wealth of Nations," with editorial and critical notes of his own. We must regret that this was not to be. But it should magnify our appreciation of Adam Smith to know that the author of "Progress and Poverty" contemplated such a work. It was one not unworthy of his powers.

The two men are not wholly unlike. Both had amassed much varied information

\* Adam Smith, by Francis W. Hirst, *English Men of Letters*. Edited by John Morley. 12mo. cloth. 240 pp. Price, 75 cents net. Macmillan Company, New York and London.