

Mr. Furbish had among his friends many of the prominent public men of the past and present day, and was full of anecdote and reminiscence. He had perhaps a too great impatience with those who differed with him. But he was a man of very positive convictions and large impetuosity, and to such strong emotions as were always aroused within him by the spectacle of undeserved suffering, much could be pardoned.

He had done good service for the Single Tax cause, and he could say, as was said of Heine by Heine himself, "I was a brave soldier in the war for human freedom."

DANIEL KIEFER'S CHARGES NOT PROVEN.

In a recent issue of the *American Israelite* Daniel Kiefer has a letter referring to an article of his published in the *Public* in which he attempts to trace the origin of anti-Semitic feeling to the caste spirit of the Hebrews and their devotion to plutocracy. He points to the fact that among those who are aiming to abolish special privileges anti-Semitism does not exist. If Mr. Kiefer refers to the Single Tax movement it is equally true that among us there is a like absence of anti-Protestantism, or anti-Catholicism, or any of the hateful "antis" to which anti-Semitism is allied. And the reason for this is the enlightening influence of a truth which substitutes love for hatred.

Prof. Deutsch in another and later issue of the *Israelite* opposes the position taken by Mr. Kiefer, but does so in poor taste, heading his article "The Jewish anti-Semite." If pointing out what one conceives to be a certain tendency of this class of our fellow citizen is to be a Jew hater, then, unhappily, our Jewish friend, Mr. Kiefer, is one. This charge together with a covert sneer at the Vine Street Congregational Church, of which Herbert Bigelow is pastor, and which Mr. Kiefer attends, detracts from the force of Prof. Deutsch's reply.

But we think Mr. Kiefer is wrong, and that he illustrates again the impossibility which Buckle pointed out of bringing "indictments against a whole people." The Jews are no whit more subservient to plutocracy than other groups of our citizens. The allegation that "they acted as a body in 1896 on the side of plutocracy, corruption and legalized plunder," is much too strong. Many, perhaps most, voted the Republican ticket in that year, but as did thousands who were not plutocratic. We would remind Mr. Kiefer that many Single Taxers voted that way, too.

As a matter of fact nearly all reform movements—the Single Tax movement especially—number among their foremost members those of the Jewish persuasion. Their names will occur to the reader without suggestion from us. To their great hearts and splendid intellects the cause of

which Henry George, living or dead, is the leader, owes much.

PASTORIZA'S LOG CABIN.

The log cabin of J. J. Pastoriza is famous in the city of Houston, and its fame has travelled far beyond the boundaries of Texas. The *Houston Daily Chronicle* thus describes it:

"A cosy log cabin, old-fashioned and homely, stands in the outskirts of the South End, and those who look for the first time upon its clapboard room, its mud dobed logs and its homely surroundings are reminded of the days of Daniel Boone and Davy Crockett. The cabin is newly built and the idea of the constructor to reproduce a habitation like those which dotted Texas and American soil in general a century ago, is faithfully carried out.

There is a fence surrounding it of rails like Lincoln split, and in the place of a modern gate an old fashioned stile must be climbed to get within the yard.

The cool, rough board porch fronting the south, the massive post oak foundations, the chimney and wide mouthed fireplace built of sticks and mud, are the markings of the old cabin in which American freedom and greatness were cradled.

It is the Pastoriza Single Tax Cabin—the home of the Single Taxers of Texas.

Mr. Pastoriza is a man of original ideas, and in the edifice he has constructed he has undoubtedly given a most unique monument to the great economic theory of which he is a student and believer.

The cabin stands for simplicity, honesty, sturdy yeomanry—basic requisites for a great people—and it is a worthy symbol of the teachings of Henry George—the new idea which advocates of it believe presages the coming of an Utopian period for a sadly demoralized world."

In answer to an inquiry by a representative of the *Chronicle* Mr. Pastoriza said:

"You ask me why I built a log cabin in the center of the residence district of Houston, with a population of 70,000 people. The object I had in view was to call attention to the Single Tax theory. I selected this particular spot because a company of which I was a member bought about 80 acres of land here and subdivided it into city lots, making from 300 to 400 per cent. on its investment.

"If the Single Tax had been in operation this increase in value would have been taken by the city in the form of taxes and used by it in paving the streets, extending the water mains and lighting the territory. As it is, we few individuals have pocketed the profits, but the streets are unpaved and the territory unlighted, and those who have bought the lots for residence property have not the advantage of city water or sewerage.

"When quite a young man I gave considerable thought to the social conditions of

the country, and often wondered why it was that the man who did the hardest work secured for his use the least money. I saw that the farmers, who produced everything, retained very little of what they produced, while the middle man and speculator reaped a rich harvest. The Single Tax would remedy this, and be a greater benefit to the farmer than any other class of workers.

WHAT "EQUAL TAXATION" REALLY MEANS.

The late political campaign in New Jersey was fought over the question of equal taxation, in which conquest both parties faced each other in what for the most part was a sham battle. Railroad properties in the State are taxed much less proportionately than other properties, and this has been a sore point with the citizen whose civic or direct interest as a taxpayer outruns his apathy. No one believes in the sincere intention of either party to remedy this state of affairs, for the railroads of New Jersey themselves are the final arbiters of the law-making power of the State—for such they have proved themselves to be since the time Charles Sumner confronted with scathing arraignment one of their chief representatives in the United States Senate. The nominating powers of both parties, especially in Hudson County, long the chief sink of political debauchery in the State, are hopelessly corrupt. It is therefore refreshing to read in the *Observer*, of Hudson County, an interview nearly a column in length with Mr. James McIlvaine, of Hoboken, recently appointed chairman of the New Jersey Single Tax League for Hudson County, in which he says:

"Equal taxation is or may be a good thing because of its tendency to equalize the burden of taxpayers, but it does not really mean what its name implies, nor does, nor can anything other than Single Tax, as we Single Taxers advocate, mean equal taxation.

WHAT IT MEANS.

"By Single Tax we mean the taxing of land only at its real value, that is, its market value. If that were done you would not have so much land lying idle, reducing often the value of adjoining property and not infrequently a menace and an eyesore to the community. Take, for instance, that meadow swamp in which so many lives have been endangered and lost and which came near swallowing up a team of horses with a driver and a large truck a few nights ago. That is certainly a public menace. If I am not mistaken the law requires that such property should be filled in, but you see it has not been done.

"If land were taxed on its real value, as we propose that it should, that property, which is now a menace to life and a detri-

ment to property, would long since have been reclaimed and built up.

"Why does your property owner let his land remain idle? Because he is waiting for the value to increase. Who increases the value of land but the community at large, and is it not just then that they should reap the benefit of that increase?

"With land taxed at its real market value all other taxation would be unnecessary and could therefore be abolished. Your railroads would certainly then pay more than the nominal tax which they are now compelled to pay and they would not allow so much land to lie idle. It would not pay to let it lie idle. They would build it up or dispose of it to some one else who would build. The result would be work and wages and better living all around."

GEORGE L. RUSBY.

(See portrait).

George L. Rusby is one of the strong men of the movement whose devotion to the cause is for ever at a white heat. One cannot fail to watch the intense earnestness of his attitude, the strained attention with which he inclines his ear to the arguments for the rebuttal of which he is developing the forces of his keenly logical mind, without feeling that profound interest that comes in observing a man who is intellectually alive in every pore and fibre.

It was said of Thomas Brown, of Rugby, that he rose each morning with the conviction that every question was an unsettled one. Mr. Rusby's mental attitude is of a different sort, but it leads him to regard the questions that mankind have looked upon as impossible of settlement as by no means insoluble in view of the new revelation which Henry George has given to the world, and that all such questions call for a reexamination in the light of the new truth. This manner of regarding the great problems of the universe lends an inexpressible charm of freshness to his speech and conversation.

As a speaker Mr. Rusby is calm, logical and convincing, with an excellent platform presence. His accession to the forces of the Henry George Lecture Bureau, and the fact that the management of this most efficient Bureau under Mr. Frederick H. Munroe will be able to command the services of Mr. Rusby in the lecture fields, mainly in New Jersey where he is best known, is good news for that corporation and monopoly-ridden state. It ought to put new life in the movement in New Jersey where the agitation has been allowed to wane. We desire to call attention to the article from Mr. Rusby's pen on another page.

The Ethics of Democracy is one of the books of the New Church's Educational Association's Reading Course.