

LAND&LIBERTY

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message from the honorary president

On the final Friday of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games we concluded over a year of weekly Zoom meetings studying Henry George's *The Science of Political Economy*. In this session we further explored George's take on money banking and credit with an excellent presentation by Ed Dodson. Ed drew our attention to how George argued against the involvement of government in enforcing the collection of private debts on the grounds that its abolition "would unquestionably lead to a far higher standard of personal and commercial morality, since character would then be the prime element in credit." (Georges editorial in "THE STANDARD", 11 February 1888). The psychological significance of this statement was immediately recognised and the beauty of how it resonated with what we had read in Chapter 1 of *The Science of Political Economy* over a year earlier when, in considering 'the three factors of the world' as we know it, George wrote:

Of these from our standpoint that (factor) which feels, perceives, thinks, wills; (which to distinguish we call mind or soul or spirit) comes first in order of priority, for it is this which is first in our own consciousness, and it is only through this that we have consciousness of any other existence. In this, as our own consciousness testifies, is the initiative of all our own motions and movements, so far as consciousness and memory shed light; in all cases in which we can trace the genesis of anything to its beginning we find that beginning in thought and will.

As we followed the 'motions and movements' taking place in Tokyo during the same week the importance of mind, thought and will was repeatedly illustrated. On the final day the responses of husband and wife Jason and Laura Kenny impressed me. Both won and failed to win gold medals at this games but I could not help but admire Laura's simple response when questioned about her future plans having just failed in her final event 'oh I'll continue to turn up and see what 'appens' and Jason's when asked what he was thinking at the end of his remarkable win in his last race: 'what will be will be really'. The commitment, effort and perseverance required of a successful Olympic athlete is well known and I could not help but admire their apparent recognition that 'results' are not within their control - they could only do their best.

I think it is rather like that for us as we seek to discover the truth about ourselves and the world in which find ourselves and hope against despair for a better, truer world. It seems that like Jason and Laura we have to continue with the work, 'see what 'appens' and let 'what will be, be'.

Much like our hero Henry George when, in considering 'The Problem of Individual Life' at the end of *Progress and Poverty* he wrote:

The truth that that I have tried to make clear will not find easy acceptance. If that could be, it would have been accepted long ago. If that could be, it would never have been obscured. But it will find friends - those who will toil for it; suffer for it; if need be die for it. This is the power of truth.

Will it at length prevail? Ultimately, yes. But in our own times, or in times of which any memory of us remains, who shall say?

David Triggs
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