

COMMUNICATIONS.

AN INSPIRING LETTER.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

With regard to your magazine I know of no publication which is more interesting and valuable to a Single Taxer. When I read of your splendid and stalwart work in the States I feel as if I were there with you in the fight. Your country has great area, but that after all is only a trifle compared with the intellectual and moral giants you have working with such splendid zeal in the cause of freedom. May God bless you all. There will be a glorious harvest reaped some day.

As for us we seem to be near the citadel now and hope to have the most cheering news for you before long.

WM. D. HAMILTON.

Glasgow, Scotland.

A TRIBUTE TO E. H. CROSBY.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

I read with a great deal of pleasure and interest the splendid reviews of the life of Ernest Crosby. I do not know why it is, but I was more attached to Mr. Crosby and his teachings than to any other American, and this in spite of the fact that I heard him but twice and had the rare pleasure of meeting him personally but once. But there was something about the man that was attractive and impressive, and I have a sort of intuition that it was the spirit of the Law of Love that animated his being, that made him the lovable character that he was. At all events I loved him, and not a day passes but what I think of him.

CHARLES R. ECKERT.

Beaver, Penna.

CHARACTERISTIC LETTER FROM
POULTNEY BIGELOW.

Dear Fellowcraftsman and Land Reviver:

As one of Henry George's earliest friends in New York and Ernest Crosby's life long intimate and disciple, let me thank you for sending me the *Single Tax Review* with its admirable tributes to our recent champion.

Crosby is to me the embodiment of manly out-door health. As a youngster I have tramped the Catskills with him—the last extant photograph of him is one taken here last summer—he in his shirt sleeves sharing my farm labors.

Success to your magazine!

You know that I am an old journalist and am overburdened with pressure on my purse and time and cannot subscribe to anything beyond a canvas bag in which to sew me up when my time comes to be slipped to the sharks over the side of a steamer.

So don't look to me for that which I have not, but count on me for any other form of work in the cause of Free Trade, Free Land, Free Minds.

For I am faithfully yours,

POULTNEY BIGELOW.

Malden-on-Hudson, N. Y.

DEATH OF CAPTAIN HASTINGS.

Editor of *Single Tax Review* :

I hear from Worcester, Mass., that Capt. Hastings has passed on. Twenty-one years ago we organized the Land and Labor Club and chose him our president. We had never heard of the Single Tax, but we advocated the placing of all taxes upon the value of land. Henry George, Abram S. Hewitt and Theodore Roosevelt were running for the office of Mayor of New York, Grover Cleveland was President of the United States, and J. G. Blaine wanted to be. Mr. George and Allen Thorndike Rice were advocating a scheme called "The Australian ballot system." I walked five miles to attend the meetings of the Land and Labor Club, for the horse (!) cars did not run my way. We thought to revolutionize the world, and I think we shall do it yet.

The club is probably not larger to-day than it was then, but it has leavened the loaf.

PRESCOTT A. PARKER.

Volenta, Ala.

LET DEMOCRATS SPEAK OUT.

Editor of *Single Tax Review* :

Why is it that our political leaders are so shallow in their thinking when it comes to principles of political economy?

Grover Cleveland started off finely for "tariff reform," but never got nearer to free trade than tinkering, which is worse than leaving it alone.

Roosevelt is ready to reform anything and everything but the tariff. He knows it is a dangerous subject to agitate; and Bryan, well, he is following dutifully in Cleveland's footsteps for "tariff reform," which means nothing definite one way or the other.

The Republicans are outspoken for protection. Why are the Democrats not equally honest in coming out fairly and squarely for free trade?

HENRY WARE ALLEN.

West Newton, Mass.

MR. BERENS WRITES OF MR. JOSEPH
DARLING'S DISCOVERY OF THE
BURGESS LETTERS.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

I have just written to Mr. Joseph Darling, of Boston, re the "Letters on Taxa-

tion" written to the Racine, Wisconsin, journals during the years 1859 and 1860, and subsequently reprinted in England in pamphlet form, by the widow, for private and gratuitous circulation, in 1871. They are good, very good, and the poems, too, despite all their shortcomings, reveal a fine grip of the Land Question, as well as of the one simple and effective remedy. Mr. Darling writes that he proposes re-printing the pamphlet, or rather the letters, and they well deserve it; two, at least, of the poems, "The Song of the Earth" and "The Lay of the Landless," should be added as a sample of the man's fine democratic mind. As you will doubtless have inferred from the above, a copy of Edwin Burgess' pamphlet is now before me; it came from Charles Bradlaugh's library, which comprised over 30,000 pamphlets, and is now in the Gladstone Library, National Liberal Club, London. I am advertising for copies, and shall send you one if they are obtainable. I am informed that there is no copy in the British Museum Library, but have not yet looked myself; I only heard from Mr. Darling about the pamphlet early this week. Yes, within the next few weeks I shall look up what the British Museum Library has of Thomas Spence. He wrote much, but the only writing of his with which I am acquainted is contained in the little pamphlet I am sending you under separate cover, but which, doubtless, you have already seen. I was glad to read in the REVIEW that you found my book on "The Digger Movement" interesting, even though you do not appreciate my hero's poetry, or what he thought was poetry. However, his Digger's Song is not at all bad. This week's *Athenium*, our leading literary paper, contains a fine review of the book, some four columns, and very appreciative. This may stimulate some of the other leading papers, which have hitherto not noticed it. But altogether I have no reason to complain of its reception, as most of the notices the book has received have been very appreciative, and very long. The Quakers are very lukewarm about Winstanley, as they object to anything that may possibly detract from the glory of their own hero, George Fox, who, however, was obviously not the founder or originator of Quakerism, and to my mind is not to be compared with Withstanley, either as a philosopher or theologian.

LEWIS H. BERENS.

London, Eng.

(We had hoped to present Mr. Joseph Darling's article on Edwin Burgess in this issue. But indisposition has compelled Mr. Darling to forego the labor of presenting in condensed form the material now in his possession. But he confidently expects to have it in readiness for the Autumn number.

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW.)

A FEW WORDS OF CRITICISM.

Editor *Single Tax Review* :

Two sentences in the spring number of the SINGLE TAX REVIEW invite a word of captious criticism in the interest of clear reasoning.

The first sentence is this: "The Single Tax will combine the advantage of private possession of land with the justice of its common ownership."

In "Progress and Poverty" Mr. George said: "We must make land common property," but a dozen years later, in his "Chapter on Compensation," Perplexed Philosopher, he made the following exceedingly clear technical statement:

"It will be observed . . . that Mr. Spencer, in "Justice," never so much as alludes to the proposition to secure equal rights in land by taking land values, not land. . . . In truth, the right to the use of land is not a joint or common right, but an equal right; the joint or common right is to rent, in the economic sense of the term. Therefore it is not necessary for the State to take land, it is only necessary for it to take rent."

The second sentence is—"The Single Tax persistently declines to put in the same category capital and nature's storehouse from which all capital is drawn."

Mr. George says, in "Progress and Poverty," Book III., Chap. II.:

"Rent of land does not arise from the productiveness or utility of land. It in no wise represents any help or advantage given to production. . . . No matter what are its capabilities, land can yield no rent and have no value until someone is willing to give labor, or the results of labor, for the privilege of using it."

The land values of cities and towns, and the land value in railroads and other franchises, beside which the value of "nature's storehouse" (if we except mines) is almost a negligible quantity, are not natural values, but artificial values, are they not?

STICKLER.

(It should be said that Mr. George's statement in no wise conflicts with the sentence quoted from the REVIEW that "The Single Tax will combine the advantage of private possession of land with the justice of its common ownership." Mr. George's statement was written to clear up certain confusions likely to arise from Spencer's reasoning, and has reference to the practical method of securing man's equal right to land by the taking of rent in taxation, as opposed to the communism of its possession which Mr. Spencer seems to present as the alternative.

Secondly, and in truth, there are no "natural values." All values are artificial. Land has no value until people come upon it and communities arise. But we were not