



(Dictated)

Cleveland, O.

Dec. 24, 1897.

Mr. Joseph D. Miller, 850 Broadway, New York City.

Dear Sir:--I have your letter of 21st inst. You ask me for personal recollections of Henry George. I knew him only as a boy and then only for one year at the Mt. Vernon School on Catharine St., Phila. I was 13 years old and Henry, I should judge, 12; for he was in the grade below me. We were not playmates as he lived beyond our district, and his parents did not allow him to play with boys on the street. I can recall Henry going to Church every Sunday, walking between his two older sisters and followed by his father and mother--all of them so neat, trim and reserved. Henry was then a most delicate boy, almost girlish in appearance and manner. When he was thirteen years old the doctor informed his father that if he expected Henry to live, it was absolutely necessary to remove him from his present surroundings; that he should send him to sea for a long cruise. Acting on that advice, his father secured for him a place as shipboy on one of the East India clipper ships sailing from Philadelphia. He was away over eighteen months. One afternoon, as I was walking along third street, a sturdy little fellow on the opposite side of the street called to me: "Hello Ig.!" I answered: "Who are you?" He crossed the street and taking my hand said: "I am Hen. George." In my surprise I said: "Why, Hen., you are as fat as a pig." "Yes, yes I am, I feel too truly a pig; pig in body and pig in soul." Henry George was a good, sincere and noble boy. Shortly after, he left for the West. I lost all trace of him until the early 80's, when,



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one day, while riding in the street cars, a gentleman, who introduced himself as an old pupil of Mt. Vernon School came to me and said: "Do you know, Henry George is most anxious to have an interview with you. He recalls the old schoolboy days and the opinion he had ever cherished for you." Imagine my surprise, to learn that my little, girlish companion was the famous Henry George, whose speeches I had been reading and whose name had become so renowned. I had the pleasure of meeting him afterwards, when I became Bishop of Cleveland. We had a very long discussion on his one topic: "The single tax." Whatever else may be said of Henry George, I think all must admit that his manhood was but the full fruitage of his boyhood--truth as he saw it, sincerity, earnestness. He was one of Nature's noblemen. No one can read Progress and Poverty, without admitting that he was a great and a good man.

You can use the above if you think it worth while; I do not. As the head boy of Mt. Vernon School, Henry would look up to me, but as he was in the grade below, I cannot say that we had much intercourse.

Very respectfully yours,

John H. Woodman
Bishop of Cleveland.

Done 7.