

practice and precept is in turn sloughed off by better and better ideals.

"In this great struggle which leads on toward general recognition of the dominion of the highest ideals of morality over the truest utilities of physical existence, toward the same recognition by man of the moral law that he has given to physical law, toward the adaptation of material righteousness to moral righteousness, toward the natural adjustment of human relationships both individual and social—in this battle for freedom from defective ideals and a sordid utilitarianism, many there be that fight with Sisera. But they cannot alter the predominant law. 'The stars in their courses' fight against them. They are doomed to defeat by those who, few in number though they be, attach themselves to the cause that harmonizes with the great order of things."

—Johnstown, Pa. *Democrat*.

From An Old Friend of Louis Post

WHEN Louis F. Post died the other day in Washington, America lost one of its most interesting citizens, a loss not confined to our own shores but felt also in many other lands where Post, as author, lecturer, and editor of *The Public*, a journal of fundamental democracy, was well known and admired.

As founder and editor of *The Public* from 1898 to 1913 he labored diligently and intelligently, and with the literary skill of a De Tocqueville, to impress his countrymen with the dignity and responsibility that is becoming to American citizens. His success in this endeavor is well epitomized by the verdict of another distinguished American, Mr. Charles R. Crane, when he remarked to the writer, "Lucky is the man who knows Louis F. Post. It is a liberal education to know Post." Every man or woman competent to pass judgment will corroborate Mr. Crane.

Born in 1849 Post spent his formative years in the atmosphere of those stirring times when the rights of man (even black men) seemed more important than the rights of property. They were days that might be fairly classified as our second revival of idealism, when our greatest leaders thought Freedom a prize worth any sacrifice of blood and treasure. It is not surprising that an ardent young idealist such as Post, baptized and fairly saturated in the philosophy of Garrison and Lincoln, should be actively engaged in every struggle for democracy that has agitated our country—or the world in the last fifty years.

PASSION FOR JUSTICE

Although a lover of peace and gentle as a woman, few men have had the courage and tenacity to engage in so many battles for Freedom as had this New Jersey Republican. Long before he went to Washington to act as Assistant Secretary of Labor under Wilson, he had earned the

right to rest from his long campaign. But even at Washington in what to an ordinary man would have been a sinecure free from responsibility he was not to find the rest he had earned. It was inevitable that a man with Post's early training and respect for American legal principles should refuse to permit his office to be used by any official high or low, to imprison or deport men and women not found guilty of crime. Once his duty became clear to him neither threats nor popular hysteria could persuade Post to allow any one to use the office he administered to issue warrants of imprisonment and deportation in the manner of Czaristic or Bolshevik Russian police, and in defiance of American legal principles and fair play.

From the day of his appointment in his twenties to the district attorney's office in New York to the time of his retirement from the Secretary of Labor's office, Louis F. Post fought a long campaign in defense of American ideals.

An interesting feature of Post's association with Henry George is the proof lent to the suggestion that we tend to grow into the likeness of those we admire most. It was surely so in Post's case. In the last work from his hand, "The Prophet of San Francisco," Post unconsciously, but none the less accurately, composed his own best epitaph, when he wrote of George, "With the intelligence of a philosopher, the patience of a scientist, the conscience of a saint, and the simplicity of a child, he followed the course of truth as he honestly saw its beacon lights."

HELD MORAL LAW SUPREME

The secret of Post's supremely successful life—what it was that made the life of this printer, lawyer, author, and economist a blessing to humanity—is indicated by the faith he had in the supremacy of the moral law. In the last chapter in his "Ethics of Democracy," he wrote:

"We know now that the material universe, from largest to least, is a universe of law—invariable law. Except in obedience thereto, no man—whether greatest of inventors or humblest of mechanics—would any longer think of pursuing his vocation."

* * *

"As certainly as physical law dominates matter does moral law dominate the physical. Though conformity to the laws of matter alone will enable us, for illustration, to forge a knife of keenest blade, the uses of the knife—without which it has no reason for existing and would not be made—fall within the jurisdiction of moral law. We may use it to carve things that minister to human needs or the human sense of beauty, thus serving our brethren and moulding our own characters more and more in the divine likeness, while conquering the stubbornness of external nature; or we may make it an implement for torture and murder. In the one case we advance in moral righteousness by conformity to the moral law. 'The stars in their courses' fight with us. Though the torture be inflicted and the murder done, the unrighteous purpose they were intended to serve will in the outcome inevitably fail.

"Be their cause what it may, whether material or moral, that of an inventor like the unknown discoverer of fire or the forgotten maker of the first wheel barrow, of a persecuted and disheartened explorer like Columbus, of patriots on the scaffold or of saints upon the rack, of the philosopher with his deadly potion of hemlock or the Nazarene carpenter upon the cross—whatever the cause, it always has conquered and always must conquer, in so far as it is in harmony with the great order of things."

BOOK EXPRESSES FAITH

Louis F. Post explored the fogs of a pseudo economic and political science with the lamp of a moral philosopher and verified the truth of what his friend Henry George had taught—that much of the anarchy and consequent misery of man is due, not to some inscrutable decree of Providence, but rather to a clear invasion, if not defiance of its beneficent laws. In tracing the beauty and harmony of these laws, he found more than a cure for undeserved poverty—and "a faith that was dead revived."

In the closing words of Post's last book, "The Prophet of San Francisco," he expresses the faith in which he lived and died, in a quotation from his friend George. The quotation contains some very searching questions—questions which interest most people some time or other, questions as pertinent today as when they were written some fifty years ago.

"Like the swallow darting through thy hall, such, O, King, is the life of man. We come from where we know not; we go—who shall say? Impenetrable darkness behind, and gathering shades before. The one thing certain to all of us is death. What, when our time comes, does it matter whether we have fared daintily or not, whether we have worn soft raiment or not, whether we leave a great fortune or nothing at all, whether we shall have reaped honors or been despised, have been counted learned or ignorant, as compared with how we have used that talent which has been entrusted to us for the Master's service. What shall it matter when eyeballs glaze and ears grow dull, if out of the darkness may stretch a hand, and into the silence may come a voice, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

—A. P. CANNING in Winnetka (Ill.) *Talk*.

One of a Great Company

WILL you permit me to add my small testimonial to the fine, patient teacher who has gone before. Henry George's daughter cannot claim him as solely her own. He is ours too.

Not only was he a lover of mankind, as all Christians presumably are, but he strove through his long life to acquaint preachers and laymen with the economic laws

of God. I never met him personally, but through his lucid writings I came to know him from the Primer to the Fifth Reader and through all the grades to a true course in true economics. The *Public* I took up to the last number and was a contributor to its Sustention Fund and saw with the same disappointment I knew Mr. Post must have felt the death of that fine publication.

He was long preparing for the next Great Experience and helped to prepare a good many of the rest of us for it. It is a great company to which he has gone, Henry George, Tom L. Johnson, Dr. McGlynn. Peace be with him!
Rew, Pa. E. W. PAINTER.

Memorial Meeting in Boston

A MEMORIAL meeting for the late Louis F. Post, assistant secretary of labor in the Wilson administration and a well-known lecturer and writer on the Henry George doctrine was held Wednesday evening, February 1, under the auspices of the Individualist School of Social Economics, at 719 Boylston Street, Boston. Messrs. E. N. Vollandigham, Edward J. Burke, Professor L. J. Johnson, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, Robert B. Capon, W. L. Crossman, George W. Smith, Mr. Thacher, a cousin of Mrs. Alice Thacher Post, Mrs. Alice M. Caporn, and others were among the speakers. John S. Codman was chairman.

In Memoriam

LOUIS F. POST

Responsive to the deeper needs of men,
His mind attuned to wisdom, free from fear,
Disciple of a prophet and a seer,
He taught and fought and wrought with voice and pen;
Philosophies he turned like sweeping lights
Upon the cumbered and disordered ground
Of social science that he might propound
A teaching that envisaged human rights;
And now that half a century has known
The theories that once seemed strangely new,
The verities he offered are yet true,
The faith he held is coming to its own:
His task is done; the life he nobly spent
Lights its own torch, rears its own monument.

—WM. LLOYD GARRISON, JR.

IN a recent review of some books published by the Vanguard Press, and commenting on "What is the Single Tax," by Louis F. Post, the New York *Herald-Tribune* says:

"The selection of Louis F. Post to present the essence of the single tax could not have been improved upon. For more than half his life an able exponent of Henry George's economic theories, he is eminently fitted to interpret them in popular form. His exposition of this rational method of bringing the present social order into conformity with natural social laws' is compact and comprehensive."