

Henry George School of Social Science, that only the teachings of Henry George should be taught therein, without any ifs, ands, or buts.

Thoughtless remarks disparaging to the memory of old, deceased Single Taxers were offensive to his ears. He would counter by asking how many young men have we in the movement today who measure up to the stature of the old timers. Not that he didn't appreciate the movement is making greater progress than ever, in spite of a dearth of magnetic personalities.

It seems hard indeed to lose Joseph Dana Miller. But let us be thankful for having him as long as we did. It is for us to carry on the battle. "Strong soul and high endeavor, the world needs them now."

CHARLES JOS. SMITH.

## From John C. Rose

I LOOK upon the death of Joseph Dana Miller as one of the great tragedies of recent years, for I always regarded him as one of our ablest Single Tax authors and leaders. I admired his writings and read every word he wrote, including his "Single Tax Year Book," "Verses From a Vagrant Muse," "Thirty Years of Verse Making," etc.

Miller carried on the work of Single Tax education in the noble spirit of Henry George and other predecessors. In his Single Tax campaigns and work of education, he held no personal grudges, and he never debated or argued by hurling invectives or by "calling personal names." Instead, he debated with logic, arguments and facts, and all who came in contact with him—including his political and economic "enemies"—admired his sincerity and good taste.

As a matter of fact, the very words he used to pay tribute to the late Francis W. Maguire (in his review of my book, "Philosopher and Reformer"), can well be applied to him. This tribute is, in part, as follows:

"And to this task Maguire [Miller] brought a thoroughness and devotion that set him apart with those who are . . . rearing the structure that is being built for the benefit of posterity. . . .

"Maguire [Miller] like all large-minded men, was of a tolerant spirit. His philosophy had taught him that man was innately good and that the meaner traits so often exhibited were born of the exploitation and tyranny to which he had been so long subject."—(Joseph Dana Miller, *LAND AND FREEDOM*, Vol. xxxviii, No. 3, page 93, May-June, 1938.)

I shall never forget the encouragement he gave me, at our first meeting, "that if all Single Taxers labored as earnestly and diligently as you, we would be well on our way to victory."

It was such encouragement, from men like Joseph Dana Miller, that enabled me to do as much for Single Tax as I have fortunately been able to do.

## As I Remember

Joseph Dana Miller

By ROBERT CLANCY

SERENE, with a certain detachment, yet allowing himself to be part of the event. That's the way you would find Joseph Dana Miller at meetings and gatherings. And you would usually find him in a group where people were speaking with hope, planning, and asking "What are we going to do next?" Such things would evoke his presence. But let the conversation turn into a dispute over a small matter, or an internecine feud, and he would turn and walk away. Almost like a force of nature. Certain combined compounds produce life; break up the compounds and life disappears.

Always ready for the task at hand, looking forward, but not questioning the future too far, and never lingering on the past. That was Miller in his work. That attitude kept him young—I could never think of him as aged. Somehow I got the impression that he was growing. Well, he was always on the lookout for new events in the movement, hopeful signs of progress, and he was always absorbing new ideas. "What's new? Any new lectures going on tonight? When are you coming down again? Did you see this letter I got today?" Pass some trite compliment on his latest essay and he would be tickled.

Samuel Johnson was Miller's favorite figure in the world of letters. He himself was a sort of Johnson in the movement. People would gather round him, come to him with their ideas, problems and disputes. He was father-confessor for a great variety of sins.

He was smiling, always, with a smile that gave forth benediction. Even now I see that smiling happy face. Yes, it was a happy face—he was happy in his work. He was one of those who kept at quiet, steady, constructive toil, not noise and shouting. And how imposing are the results of all those years of chronicling the movement! Great, impartial spirit, he realized that the movement was larger than himself and his ideas, hence he gave space in *LAND AND FREEDOM* to all representative ideas and activities in the movement, whether or not he agreed with them, and regardless of whether the writers criticized his own views. For instance, he allowed many stormy battles to be waged in the pages of *LAND AND FREEDOM*, over the question of interest. As for himself, he said "There is no problem of interest!"

Miller was a man of principle. He was not over-anxious to ascertain the exact figures on land values, how much rent land owners are collecting, whether there would be enough or too much for government expenses. "I don't care," he said, "whether the landowners are collecting 90 per cent or 10 per cent of the rent. They're not entitled to one cent of it. It belongs to society as a whole."



When Miller left the literary world to enlist as a full-time worker in the Georgeist movement, men of letters felt that a great leader had departed from their ranks. But if he deserted Parnassus it was to climb Nebo for a greater vision. He saw the world with serious social problems confronting it. He saw the Georgeists with the true remedy for the ills of society. He saw a great variety of efforts on the part of Georgeists to bring the truth to humanity—trials and errors, achievements and failures, even disputes which split the movement. But within all the churning, he saw a great work on behalf of suffering mankind. And he chronicled this epic for forty years.

Was this not greater poetry than verse-making?

## A Youngster's Tribute

I ATTENDED the services for our dear friend who has just passed on, and was deeply moved by the ceremony.

The likening of the character of this great man to fine tracery engraved upon steel by the Rev. Dr. Morgan was most appropriate. For as the master plate impresses its likeness upon parchment so this great character has imprinted its likeness upon those with whom it came in contact.

Truly good men do not die. They live on in those upon whom they have left their impress. The character of man develops along the lines of the influences which mold it. As fine engravings make fine prints, so strong character and high purpose reproduce themselves in those with whom they come in contact.

Joseph Dana Miller lives on, not alone in the hearts and minds of his friends, but in the very thoughts and acts of those who really knew him.

Undoubtedly there were many who paused at the bier of Joseph Dana Miller to rededicate themselves to the high ideal which he cherished through life. He has not lived in vain, for the world is a better place for his having lived in it, and is peopled with better men because of his influence. He has carried the light ever forward and, as he passed on, strong hands have not been wanting to grasp the torch and to continue the good fight.

It is my most fervent hope that LAND AND FREEDOM will continue as its founder intended and that all those who knew Joseph Dana Miller will continue to read his paper, for although no one can ever replace the editor of Comment and Reflection, the fine editions turned out in the last two numbers by the editorial associates of Mr. Miller, must have pleased him and made him feel that he could not leave his work in more loving, or more capable hands.

HARRY HAASE,

Graduate of the H. G. S. S. S. in N. Y. City.

## From the Director of the Henry George School of Social Science

A TRUTH becomes no truer because of the garb in which it is presented; but the readiness with which it is perceived, and perhaps accepted, is enhanced thereby. I recall vividly that the literary qualities of "Progress and Poverty" impelled my reading of that book before I had any idea of its economic or philosophical content.

Because of the remarkable style of Henry George one would be inclined to expect men of marked literary abilities to be attracted to his philosophy, and to use their gifts in the propagation of his theories. And there were a number who wielded the pen well in the cause of Georgeism. There were Louis F. Post, John S. Crosby, Ernest Howard Crosby, Herbert Quick, Henry George, Jr., Luke North and others whose various literary talents enriched our literature. Those who emphasized the fiscal reform were legion, and while this phase of the subject does not lend itself to literary heights, much of an informative character, good for argumentative purposes, has been left by these men; the field for such informative work is still unscratched, and much valuable research work must be done.

George Raymond Geiger, Graham Peace, Harry Gunnison Brown, among others still with us, have done some good writing. And Albert Jay Nock, one of the foremost living essayists, has just completed a remarkable word portrait of Henry George, which will be issued in August.

But, in the quarter century I have been connected with the movement, my impression has been that the orator rather than the writer has been developed. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the movement was nurtured in the political arena, and in a period when verbal pyrotechnics from the tail of a wagon was the accredited means of political propaganda.

However, there was one writer who for nearly forty years did yeoman service for the movement, of whom the movement may well be proud. He was a mid-Victorian, in the best literary sense. Always he knew the phrase that would best express the thought, the correct word, the proper sentence structure. But though he was a consummate craftsman, he was much more than that. He never submerged or minimized the thought, or the message, in his art. His talented pen was always the obedient slave of his ideas.

For over twenty years I have looked forward to the bi-monthly "Comment and Reflection" of Joe Miller. Always this well-turned commentary on current problems or moot doctrinal questions or matters of method made me feel that this bright beacon light was an assurance