

movement. These will undoubtedly be dealt with at length by those most competent to do so. But to him, as so profoundly to Henry George himself, the Single Tax was not an end in itself, but the mode of applying a vast and universal principle in the economic field. His lucid mind, never sidetracked by appearances, penetrated to George's prophetic vision of the whole area of democracy and liberty. It was unthinkable to him that freedom and justice should be applicable within a limited range, and not in every sphere of human existence. The value of a truth may be measured by its universality. When, at the funeral of Mr. Miller, our beloved Frederic Leuchter read the majestic passages from the last chapter of "Progress and Poverty," the hearts of all of us who listened were thrilled anew, as we were reminded of the prophetic vision which moved onward and upward from the discovery of the basic means of solving the problem of involuntary poverty in the midst of advancing wealth, to the sublime realization of the moral grandeur of the universe. For so any glimpse at one aspect of reality can never be limited to itself alone, but must proceed, link by link, until the chain is found which binds together all the realities of the universe in one supreme law under guidance which can never fail. Thus each laborer for the truth is in the end at one with the central soul of things. Our companion and leader, so long our guide and inspirer through his presence, has passed from our present ken, but not from our hearts nor from the reality to which his life bore unceasing witness. He is, by many a token, ours more fully and permanently than ever. Wherever the high spirit which is his may find its new field of action, it cannot be that any of us, who have known him and with him have known the truth to which he bore witness, should faint or fail in the continuing struggle. Like unto him, we also may all of us pass from this sphere of being before the ultimate day of economic justice shall dawn on earth; but it will be our glory to have held our faith and continued our labors to the end, and to have borne our part in preparing the foundation-stones for the temple of truth and freedom, toward which Henry George has pointed the way, and for the creation of which already a noble fellowship, no longer visible to the eye of flesh, have devoted themselves even unto the death. And as we hold fast the memory of this latest of our dear and honored comrades in the noblest crusade on earth, so in the coming day of achievement a place of high renown will be reserved for the gallant spirit known to us and to thousands of men and women as Joseph Dana Miller.

From Francis Neilson

[AM deeply grieved to hear of the death of Joseph Dana Miller, and I am very sorry indeed I could not see him before he passed away. He was a good friend. Please present my deep condolences to his relatives.

How I Knew Joseph Dana Miller

By GRACE ISABEL COLBRON

AS Comrade in the Faith, co-worker for Single Tax, naturally. But mainly as editor, as amiable and understanding editor.

The position of an editor for whom professional writers are expected to work for nothing is not an easy one. I have often wondered whether the comrades who were not writers by profession really understood just how difficult Joseph Miller's position was. And how well he carried it off.

Of course, we professionals who contributed, for no monetary returns, to his magazine, were all working, as he himself was, for the Cause in which we believed. And we realized, as perhaps the laity could not, how much Joseph Miller was giving of himself and his ability, for small recompense. He had literary talent which he might have sold, elsewhere, for greater money return. Which is why we liked to work for him, for we felt he understood, because he also knew what it was to work for nothing because of one's belief.

And it was a pleasure to work for his magazine, for he kept up its standard of literary excellence, never forgetting that standard in his devotion to the Cause for which his magazine stood. The standard never relaxed during the many years when the magazine was first known as *The Single Tax Review* and its later incarnation as LAND AND FREEDOM. The magazine stood for no particular line of Single Tax work. Its aim was to furnish an accurate chronicle of all phases of the work for Henry George's doctrines, never forgetting the ethical background of deep understanding of fundamental principles while keeping its readers in touch with activities all along the line.

It formed an excellent, valuable and necessary companion to magazines like *The Public*, for many years so valiant a fighter for justice and liberty, so actively in touch with all effort along the line of work for fundamental economics.

The *Public* was actively in the fight, the *Single Tax Review* chronicled and preserved the record of what was done. The two publications together were, during many years, indispensable to all of us who were in the thick of the fight of those active years, or studied it from the side-lines. And yet, of the two, valuable as was the *Public*, it was Joseph Miller's magazine that one kept, as a record of what happened, a record of the things worth while.

I wrote for both, and enjoyed it. The more active "hard-fisted" (as one might call it) participation of the *Public*, and the calm philosophical understanding demanded for the *Single Tax Review* kept us in balance.

Joseph Miller's comments were absolutely up-to-date

in what they touched on. But he put into them a clear understanding of what was fundamental, what was work for the future as well as for the moment.

This clear understanding he kept until the last, as long as his failing health permitted him to participate in the active control of LAND AND FREEDOM. As years went on, he grew more mellow, but never lost his clear perception of fundamentals.

And he demanded these qualities from those who worked for him and with him, which is one reason why—for those of us who make claim to intelligence, it *was* such a pleasure to work for him. Another reason too, which may not be as clear to the comrades who are not writers by profession. He demanded a standard of writing, simple but clear style, and good command of language. He possessed it himself, and set the pace for his magazine. An occasional "open letter" might have more force than excellence of style. That was permissible. But for definite contribution, good writing was demanded.

The "News Notes and Personals" kept us in touch with our fellow-workers in the Cause throughout the world. And here, too, Joseph Miller kept his pages open for any line of endeavor that furthered the teachings of Henry George.

One pleasant memory will always remain for me, I fancy, for many of the occasional contributions to his magazine. When we stopped in for a chat in the little office in Nassau Street, generally to talk over a possible contribution, Joseph Miller would discuss all sorts of matters concerning Single Tax work and opinions, very openly. In his earlier years when, as is natural, one's opinions are more strongly marked, he could sometimes be quite sharp in his comments. But as editor of a magazine read by all his comrades, he never allowed his own convictions to blind him. He was always fair and just, and always realized that his magazine was to represent and encourage all workers for Single Tax, not just those that happened to agree with him on any particular line.

This, it would seem, is first and most important requirement for an editor. But not every editor, in any sort of magazine, holds to it. Joseph Miller did. And he made all who wrote for him want to do likewise. He never commanded it, or even suggested it. But his example was enough.

Now that he has gone from us, I feel as if I would like to say a few words on a phase of Joseph Miller's literary activities which few of us seem to know—or if we know it, hardly gave it much attention during his lifetime when, to us, his position as editor of LAND AND FREEDOM was all-important.

This was Joseph Miller as poet. One book "Thirty Years of Verse Making," published in 1926, sums up what he has done in this line. It is a book which those of us who knew him well will cherish. For it shows sides of his nature which we, his comrades in Single Tax work,

and his professional comrades in writing for LAND AND FREEDOM, did not know of, or glimpsed but vaguely.

Most of his poems on our work we know. The fine "Poems of Social Aspiration," the "Tributes to Notables," have often appeared in his own magazine, some of them in *The Public*, and many have been read at meetings, the reason for which furnished inspiration for the poem. I remember with pleasure the magnificent "Thomas Jefferson," which I had the honor of reading at a Jefferson Dinner of the Manhattan Single Tax Club, in 1900, a ringing poem which it was a pleasure to read just because of the richness of the words, the strength of the rhythm as well as the fine thoughts it expressed.

There are many of the "Poems of Social Aspiration" which should be better known today than they are, for they express the universal longing for freedom, the universal groping for a hope of greater liberty and justice in the world, in fine strong ringing phrase. Yet always under them is the understanding of where that light can be found, if one will but seek.

But there are several groups of poems in the book which Joseph Miller never mentioned in the magazine, and which indeed belonged to his more personal life and likings. His poems about books, in the group entitled "From the Library," will appeal to all who love books, who feel something above and outside of ourselves in the enjoyment of a good book, the something that carries us upward to heights above the world's troubles. These thoughts Joseph Miller has simply and sincerely expressed in the little group of poems. And this one of his comrades, at least, is willing to acknowledge that, although loving books as greatly as he did, she knew these poems less well than she did those connected with his beliefs on liberty and justice. But a closer study of them brings its own reward to one who loves books. "Fields, Woods and Sea" show Joseph Miller as an understanding lover of nature; and in "Verses Occasional and Topical" there are, among poems of wider import, some deeply-felt very personal revelations of sorrow, of happiness, that Joseph Miller did not often let us know of. For of all workers in the Cause, he seemed somehow the least personal or rather the one who had most entirely merged his own personal life in that he worked for. Probably it was because his work as editor of so important an organ of our thought required strict impersonality. Which is why this book of poems will be, for many of us, a charming memory of the rich, deep, many-sided character of one whom we mainly knew as that most impersonal of all personalities, a fair-minded impartial editor, chronicling all phases of the work to which his life was given.

From the point of view of stricter literary criticism the verses, as verse, are not always perfect. But they breathe through them all so fine a spirit, that we could have no better monument to what Joseph Dana Miller was, what he believed, and what he worked for.