

## The Spirit of Henry George

—PRISCILLA DUNWIDDY—

A boomerang is a primitive weapon. It would scarcely serve a purpose now, nor would we have the skill to use it. What we remember most about this object is that it returns to the one who has thrown it.

While the boomerang is now only a curiosity, its returning action has set the word in our vocabulary to connote resulting actions which reflect forcefully an initial action. Though we have surpassed the primitive man who invented this ingenious instrument, we are still subject, more often than we realize, to retaliatory action.

In most affairs there is a human tendency to be critical — and criticism is a boomerang unless it has a creative purpose. Its highest use is exemplified in such professional attitudes as the architect at work in construction, or the surgeon clearing the way for better health. Here the critical judgment is actually contributing to the welfare of others.

Henry George has given us first principles, and humanity suffers lack and injustice for want of their recognition. For one who sees clearly the good that would come by following the basic tenets of Henry George, the natural response to people who seem stubbornly to resist plain truth is one of disturbed, if not exasperated criticism.

### *Faults of Others Are Easy to See*

It is easy to feel exasperated with a negative attitude of people who are blocking their own progress. Words of bitter criticism are apt to be leveled at such opposing forces. We would be wise to remember the boomerang, however. It may cleave the air and make great circles of motion without having anything to show for its mission except frustrated feelings. Such an inward storm leaves a person less able to reflect faith and the calm wisdom of Henry George.

There is, meanwhile, a power within us which longs to accomplish its highest aim. The function of criticism is then simply to get something done better. When there is a failure to produce this result, one should remain calm rather than give vent to emotional outbursts which only cloud the attractiveness of the first principles.

Instead of resenting failure and expressing it aimlessly to others whom it doesn't concern, it is best to desist at once and thoughtfully consider what other course could be followed to achieve the highest result.