

intentions. Therefore, the London *Spectator*, is probably right when it says, "They will be all the wiser for going for a time into opposition."
J. D. M.

CALLING THINGS BY THEIR NAMES.

"Let us speak plain; there is more force in names
Than most men dream of; and a lie may keep
Its throne a whole age longer if it skulk
Behind the shield of some fair seeming name
Let us call tyrants, tyrants * * *
For men in earnest have no time to waste
In patching fig-leaves for the naked truth."
—LOWELL.

Classes engaged in nefarious businesses dislike to have their occupations called by their right names. The slave holders of the South did not like the terms "master" and "slave." They much preferred the more euphonious term "Peculiar Institution," "Patriarchal Institution" and "Domestic Institution." This latter phrase, curiously as it may seem, has now become the exclusive term for the "servant girl problem." Even the burglar speaks of his "profession" among his fraternity. All such phrases are in deference to a sentiment that persists in perpetuating that which it instinctively feels to be wrong.

We are confronted with a problem as old as that of the riddle of the Sphinx, but which our *Œdipus* has not only solved but has pointed out the way in which we should go to put it into practical effect. The one first and fundamental reform which he has proposed, he tells us, is the one which will make all other reforms easier and without which no other reform will avail. And let me insist that this is not a mere fiscal reform; it is an eternal truth of God, and as surely as God works in the moral world through and by His human creation we have it in our power to accelerate or retard the movement and must so do according as we succeed or fall behind in our zeal. The first essential step to bring about this reform is to convince the people of the gigantic robbery of land monopoly. The public conscience needs to be aroused from its apathy, and one of the most effective means to this end is to "speak plain"; to show it up in all its hideousness and grossness; to use harsh language; for the truth is necessarily harsh to the apathetic evil doer, and doubly so if the evil doer is unconscious of his doing. When a friend of Garrison once remonstrated with him for the heat of his language he replied: "I have need to be on fire for I have mountains of ice about me to melt." We need Garrisons and Phillipses skilled in the use of word weapons, the only weapons, by the way, fit for settling the grievances of human society. I repeat, let us call this thing by its true name, robbery! And we may with truth go further and call it mur-

der! for it is the great juggernaut who as iron wheels go over the good, the true, and the beautiful that might spring from human lives. It has ever been the inspiration of every war waged in the name of a spurious patriotism.

I do not mean to imply that we should pick out this or that beneficiary of privilege and call him, in particular, names. Far from it, for many are victims rather than criminals, but those "sleepers on beds of down, the product of their fellows tossing upon pallets of straw" should be made to understand that they are participators in a system that morally is responsible for more of robbery and murder than the committal of all the mere legal crimes named in the statutes. None can wholly escape responsibility or lot in the matter, for being all of one blood and all a part of one body, "the greater man," it is impossible, to avoid being partakers in the sins of ones fellows even to the third and fourth generation. We are all implicated because of the commonality of the sin; and the softening of the sentence can only come by the acknowledgment of the sin and the determination to overcome it.

While some of the minor reforms which the more radical element in the Democratic party has been pressing to the fore, good enough in their way, it seems to me that something of the old time aggressiveness of the Single Taxers has been waning; that instead of going forth in the spirit of the Apostle Paul when he said, "I determined to know nothing among you save Jesus Christ and him crucified," they have stepped out of the main road to linger awhile in the side pasture of municipal ownership and other kindred fields, not without a laudable purpose, I fain would admit, for I see all the time their faces set steadfastly toward the celestial city. But in this connection, and by way of a gentle remonstrance, it may not be inappropriate to call attention to the message to the angel of the church of Ephesus, "I know thy works and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil; nevertheless I have somewhat against thee because thou hast left thy first love."

The taking over of public utilities will have seemed easy when the real fight is on for the recovery of forest and mine, of dock and harbor privileges, railroad grants of land and city lots. Think of this great domain of ours plastered all over with every conceivable kind of bond and mortgage, and imagine, if possible, the holders of these powers over present and future production surrendering without a desperate struggle! Truly we have mountains of ice about us to melt, and it behooves us to make an early beginning by forcing the light into the black holes of the great iniquity. Let us begin the attack now from the standpoint of "calling things by their right names," for the

enemy is so strongly entrenched that there must be many a battle before the outer works can be taken and victory inscribed upon our banners.

JOSIAH EDSON.

TOUR OF JOHN Z. WHITE.

During October of 1906 John Z. White visited Delaware, taking part in the campaign regarding the advisory, initiative and referendum. Some open air meetings were held near the middle of the State, and a good degree of interest was shown, but it was plain that some of the so-called leading citizens were a little afraid of anything in the way of a change. It is a curious frame of mind that leads one to oppose change merely because it is change. Do these people not know that improvement involves change? However the vote, as readers of THE SINGLE TAX REVIEW have learned, was a pronounced victory for direct legislation, and it will be followed with the usual vigor as well as caution of Francis I. du Pont and his supporters. A feature of the situation is that the three counties of Delaware, Newcastle, Kent and Suffolk, are very unequally represented in the legislature. Wilmington, which is in Newcastle county, contains about one-half of the State's population. This county has much less than its proportionate share of the representation. Some of the leading citizens were afraid that direct legislation would overcome this injustice, and give to each voter his due weight in matters political. It really is a trifle odd that opposition should be based on a clearly stated fear of justice. Congressman Williams, of Mississippi, spoke at what was claimed to be the largest meeting during recent years held in Wilmington. Mr. White followed him, and claimed for direct legislation the power to heal most of the ills of which the Congressman complained. It was a pleasure to observe that during a speech of an hour and a half Mr. Williams took no position and made no argument antagonistic to Single Tax doctrine. He also applauded the specific direct legislation proposed. Men who are well acquainted in Wilmington said that a considerable fraction of the audience were Republicans. Altogether it was very encouraging, and the election furnished further cause for gratification.

Early in November a number of cities near Chicago were visited, the first being Streator, Ill., where a very fine audience greeted the speaker. A number of questions were asked, and a fairly clear understanding of the matter was evidenced. Very little of the old spirit of violent antagonism is now exhibited by inquirers.

At Wilmette, Ill., an audience smaller but of equal quality came out. The atten-

tion was close, and the people were without doubt well pleased to hear Single Tax views. As the average citizen becomes familiar with the possibility of a genuine "square deal" in social affairs he gives and will increasingly give his adhesion. Constant repetition of Single Tax thought is the one solution of what, in a message to Congress, the President said is the most important matter with which the world has to deal—the labor problem.

At Aurora, Ill., on a very rainy evening, a lecture was given on Public Ownership of Public Utilities. The audience assembled in the New England Congregational church, and it is the custom for a class of young men to use the lecture as a basis for discussion on a subsequent evening. The speaker was assured that much opposition as well as support would develop at that meeting. None appeared in his presence. Ownership by the public or genuine regulation by the public body granting the privilege, is the goal of public utility discussion. Regulation that will regulate is possible if the United States courts will "let the States alone." Otherwise public ownership is inevitable.

A fine audience was met at Chicago Heights, Ill. The subject was the French Revolution of 1789, and the gathering was not slow to note the parallel between that day and our own time as developed by the speaker. Privilege versus Freedom is the only social problem of that or any other age. Privilege is always political in form and deals with religion, the bodies of men or with the land and roads they must use if they would live and be civilized. The people of Chicago Heights seemed to have aspirations in those directions, but after an evening seemingly extremely agreeable to everyone concerned, the local paper gave a report of the meeting which would compare favorably with the opposition in a warmly contested political battle. It is doubtless true that financial considerations make misrepresentation necessary to a certain portion of the press. To be good is to be great—therefore is the press little.

West Pullman, Ill., furnished a small audience, but for all that a very enjoyable evening was spent, for not only did we find some thoroughgoing Single Taxers, but also a number of earnest seekers for the truth relating to industrial matters. The world is becoming more attentive to the teachings of the modern prophet.

At the Hammond, Ind., high school hall we found a most excellent audience, which was other than friendly for some time, but finally gave evidence of a more cordial feeling. Some of the speakers' remarks evidently had a local application, for the audi-