

progress to be made in their native cities. Walter Roebuck resigned the secretaryship to strike into the northern Temiskaming District ahead of a prospective Government railway. His first job was driving a construction team on the railroad. He hoed potatoes and sawed wood. From this he stepped into clerking in a general store. But his chance came, as chances usually come in new countries to those who make opportunities.

The proprietor of the local newspaper in New Liskland needed a man, and in this case he wisely hired a boy. The paper was a "dead-alive" affair under the old management and in three months' time the young fellow bought out the entire plant, giving therefor his own guarantee and a deposit of \$100.

With Walter H. Roebuck as editor and proprietor the publication became a power for good in the new country. It attacked "graft" with unsparing vigor and it advocated freedom to the extent of all that word can mean. In less than a year the paper trebled its circulation, and under the management of the boy just past his teens, was fast becoming financially as well as editorially powerful.

Then came the blow. New countries claim many victims. "I have typhoid," read a telegram to his brother Arthur, "you must take my place," and on October 23rd he died in Toronto, at his mother's residence, thus closing a life at the age of 22 that had been as full of experience in well doing as many well intentioned lives of twice the duration.

FOR GARRISON AND GEORGE TABLETS.

It so happens that William Lloyd Garrison, the great leader in the abolition of chattel slavery, and Henry George, the great leader in the abolition of land slavery, died within a few doors of each other on Union Square in New York City. Steps have been taken to place suitable bronze tablets upon the houses in which they died, and a single committee has charge of both memorials. Upon this committee some of the leading men of the country have already agreed to act, and the owners of the two buildings have given their consent to the plan. Preparations have not yet gone far enough for the REVIEW to publish the details, but in our Spring number we hope to be able to announce the time of the unveiling of these testimonials to the fame of two men whose life-work was, in the last analysis, along the same lines.

The record price for land in lower New York was reached in a recent sale of a small plot in William Street, opposite the Cotton Exchange building, which changed hands at \$650 per square foot.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

MORAL CONSIDERATIONS PARAMOUNT.

It is not strange that reformers who expose popular wrongs should be out of vogue. The social fabric is adjusted to present conditions and disturbance brings discomfort to the prosperous. It is things of "good report" that are demanded. Optimism is essential to subserve a system based on foundations consciously unsound. The pickets of convention are watchful and alarm is sounded when unwelcome truth is declared.

Popular esteem is the bribe for subservience. The favorites of the day can be named by the dozen, satisfied and smiling, defenders of things as they are, welcome in lecture courses, of excellent repute in the press, preachers of the doctrine that principles change with circumstances. Magazines compete for their smooth essays and official honors fall easily into their laps. "Success" displays their smug pictures in its pages as object lessons to aspiring youth, and popularity in colleges brings rewards denied to scholarship.

Although worthless as contributors to current thought, these time-servers are powerful to hinder progress, discourage zeal, and obstruct earnest reforms. Gifted with the skill of ambiguous speech, shunning definiteness, they pervade humanitarian conventions, in which their platitudes often receive the loudest applause. Their vagueness has a charm for certain minds. They abhor plain speech, praise gradualism and are ever counselling effort on the line of "least resistance." Their association weakens movements that need fronts of granite and uncompromising purpose. They are more to be feared than unmasked opponents.

The anti-slavery cause furnishes many examples. Had the resolute leaders listened to these siren voices, modified their demands or diluted their stern language, the movement would have been wrecked. They never ceased to see the suffering victims of the slave power or to hear their beseeching cry for aid. They scorned expediences and reiterated the broad principles of human freedom which are scoffed at as academic, knowing, like Emerson, that "only the great generalizations survive." Until the infamy ceased no words could be too harsh, no demand too immediate, no action too vigorous. By this sign they conquered.

The Single Taxers have a cause similar in nature but covering the wide earth. American slavery was a concrete institution and its supporters were unconcealed. But the liberation of the land from monopoly encounters the organized privilege of the world. No greater incentive to holy knighthood ever appealed to mankind. The advocates of the Single Tax need to be on fire, for, like

the abolitionists, they have mountains of ice around them to melt. But the tendency to shift the burden of the conflict from the impregnable moral ground to political effort is everywhere apparent.

That parties must spring out of moral movements is inevitable, yet their success depends upon the public sentiment generated by moral agitation. Henry George might have written a dozen masterpieces on fiscal and practical lines and failed utterly to kindle the conflagration which his impassioned utterances for truth, justice and mercy have produced. How marvellously his bugle-call to high and generous souls was answered! We miss it in these days of economic argument and wrangle over definitions; of attempts to sugar-coat the pill of truth and induce the patients to swallow it unwittingly. Details and clever devices tend to crowd out the all important and insistent work of changing conscience and conviction and forgetting consequences.

It would be a great service to make a selection of Henry George's writings, eliminating every practical suggestion, leaving only those inspirational passages that have the weight of the old Hebrew prophets. They will never be out of date, and are potential as long as one man seeks to thrive at the expense of his fellow-man. We need the courage to denounce and expose evils and evil doers, regardless of election prospects or the fear of repelling from our ranks material which will add weakness instead of strength. We need

"A hate of tyranny intense,
And hearty in its vehemence,

As if our brother's pain and sorrow were
our own."

WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

The constitutions of at least twenty-four states contain limitations upon the power of the legislature which render impossible the adoption of any sensible system of taxation. The constitution of Ohio is as bad as the worst, and contains a typical restriction: "Taxes must be equal and uniform and imposed on all property, both real and personal." The taxation provisions of the constitution of Minnesota were copied from the constitution of Ohio. In 1902 the Minnesota legislature proposed an amendment providing at great length that the legislature might impose an income tax and might do various other things. The people very properly rejected it. The legislature of 1905 adopted an amendment and if the people ratify it at the election in 1906 the material part of the constitution of Minnesota relating to taxation will be as follows: "The power of taxation shall never be surrendered, suspended or contracted away. Taxes shall be uniform upon the same class

of subjects, and shall be levied and collected for public purposes."

At the election in last November the people of Ohio ratified an amendment to the Ohio constitution providing for the exemption of state and municipal bonds. This amendment is entirely inadequate, and it seems probable that at the coming session an amendment similar to that recommended by the Ohio State Board of Commerce will be adopted. That amendment as adopted in 1908 by the legislature was as follows: "The General Assembly shall provide for the raising of revenue for all state and local purposes in such manner as it shall deem proper. The subjects of taxation for state and local purposes shall be classified, and the taxation shall be uniform on all subjects of the same class, and shall be just to the subject taxed."

Unfortunately it failed of ratification by the people, receiving more than ten times as many votes for it as against it, but not receiving a majority of all the votes cast at the election as is necessary under the constitution of Ohio.

The general movement for constitutional amendment is gaining headway in many of the western states, and it may well be that before the close of 1906 the Minnesota constitution will be amended and amendments adopted by the legislatures of Ohio and Kentucky.

LAWSON PURDY.

THE GEORGE PHILOSOPHY.

Fatuous indeed must be the optimism of the man who can walk through the slums, or read the newspapers, or keep his eyes open as he goes about his daily business, and still hold with Pangloss that everything is for the best in the best of possible worlds. Nor can he who thinks give entire adherence to the dictum of Dr. Johnson:

"How small of all that human hearts endure,
That part which laws or kings can cause or cure!"

Government, through its tax laws, has a vast deal to do with the existence side by side of individual luxury and individual poverty in contrast so enormous that the apologist for things that are who seeks an analogy in the differing mental and physical powers of mankind invites reflection upon either his sincerity or the length of his ears.

Government and taxation are almost interchangeable terms, and not only unearned wealth and undeserved poverty, but also the oppression of some men by others spring alike in the main from bad taxation and depend upon it. What the world needs, to rid it of this fruitful source of misery, at least, is a system of taxation that would be, in the language of the moralist, just; in the language of the scientist, natural. It is the glory of Henry George that he conceived such a system. Whether it would do all to