

From Emily E. F. Skeel

"Only the actions of the just
Smell sweet and blossom in the dust."

NO one could meet Joseph Dana Miller, even briefly, without being impressed by his justice. His temperateness always seemed to be keeping his judgment suspended while he pondered any question, viewing it from all points and from within out. Then in his final decision, the clarity, the impartiality and the justness were incontrovertible.

This rare control of mind over emotion may easily be misunderstood. So used are we to letting our preconceptions guide our decisions, so frequently do we give our prejudices the right of way that we may attribute to coldness or indifference such quiet power of reasoning as his. But no one who had the privilege of reading his editorials could ever question the warmth and fervor of his convictions. With their swift and steady stride they took us over a wide sweep of landscape to high mountains whence we could overlook far countries of the mind.

And thus we came to know that though his love of justice kept him apparently unmoved, he bore, as an unquenchable flame, the passion for liberty. Those two ardencies were the compass by which his course was steered. The *justness* of his thought was a twin courser to his yearning for freedom for all men.

Had this fine gentleman chosen to offer his pen to other spheres of journalism than that devoted to our cause of Single Tax he would indubitably have gone far in renown and in the power to influence other men. For his was a broad culture, he wielded a varied and significant vocabulary and in verse as well as prose he expressed his thoughts and aims to be understood of all men. Yet never did he swerve from the "strait and narrow" road he chose in early life. After reading and meeting Henry George his whole soul was dedicated to apostleship. And no one could ever impute to him even a consciousness of his own selfishness.

Whatever difficulties, disappointments, or privations lay along his path he moved on steadily, bravely and convincingly. He was as truly of the ministry as if speaking from a pulpit. His ringing words came forth crystal clear from the spring of his deep feeling and purpose. These were kept ever on so high a plane that he could not fail in tolerance or charity. For all his burning zeal, his cogent reasoning, his direct and forceful style, always was he so true a Christian as to be incapable of cruelty or the sarcasm which bruises rather than convinces. To the pages he controlled every shade of opinion, every phalanx of fighters were given free access. He held the editorial ship on an even keel.

His spirit was indeed "strung to finer issues."

However we mourn his promotion, we accept his legacy to us to uphold the hands of those on whom he placed his mantle.

From Clifford H. Kendal

I have known Joseph Dana Miller over thirty years, my active association with LAND AND FREEDOM dating back about ten years. His office was a meeting place for all his Single Tax friends, much of his inspiration coming from them and the conversations which took place there. I used to drop in frequently, and there developed a friendship resulting in cooperation in the work.

Notwithstanding these years of cooperation, I feel that any characterization of Joseph Dana Miller by me, will be inadequate. He was the trained journalist who devoted his life to the Single Tax. He lived it and was not to be turned from his way of carrying out his purpose. He was very receptive to the ideas of others, putting forth his own views quietly and in few words. He preferred to keep all controversy out of his paper, and, having distinct ideas as to how such a paper should be conducted, did not depart from these ideas to any extent. In my opinion he never wrote a poor editorial, his "Comment and Reflection" always bringing letters of praise from his readers.

I admired his broad, quiet tolerance and his unvarying kindness. His was a world vision regarding the Single Tax, the question as to when or in what way it was to be brought about, of little importance compared to what was to be done about it. He had little interest in hair-splitting theories, especially if they contributed nothing to promote the Cause. While he favored the philosophical and dwelt on the moral aspects of the Single Tax, he was very sound in its practical and fiscal side. He listened attentively to criticism of Henry George but required substantiation. His comment, however, was, "How is it so many Single Taxers think they can improve on Henry George and yet fail to explain their viewpoint. They are enamored of their own subtleties." But he also said he didn't care how many side issues or criticisms anyone wished to indulge in, and that if anyone worked for a Single Tax on land values, he was with him. He revered the memory of Oscar Geiger and his heart and hope were bound up in the School. Unremitting in his efforts for the Cause, a friend of every phase of the movement and every one in it, he was confident of its ultimate victory.

From Dr. Walter Mendelson

IT was with genuine sorrow that I read of the death of Joseph Dana Miller.

I have always had a very high respect for him. He had an excellent mind and an excellent heart and knew how to combine both into fine and clear language. His poetry was beautiful. I always admired the deep philosophical spirit, free from all pettiness or bitterness, that characterized all he wrote. I always read LAND AND FREEDOM with pleasure.

He will be greatly missed.