

Tributes to Oscar H. Geiger

I am deeply grieved to read of the death of Mr. Geiger and can only hope that his work will be continued.—REV. MERVYN J. STEWART, Bishops Stortford, England.

I cannot tell you of my deep regret upon learning of the death of Oscar Geiger. No one will miss him more than I for though I saw him only once I wrote him often. I need not tell you of my great admiration of his sincerity and the splendid work he was doing. It was with a keen sense of personal loss I learned of his passing. Please convey to Mrs. Geiger the assurance of my sincere regrets.—ABE D. WALDAUER, Memphis, Tenn.

I am shocked to learn of the death of Mr. Geiger. It seems that fate is treating us unkindly. Mr. Brown's death was a sad loss indeed. Now that Mr. Geiger has been taken what can be done?—DR. F. M. PADEFORD, Fall River, Mass.

May Mr. Geiger's noble adventure be carried on by the younger adherents and the assistance of friends to a great success.—EMIL KNIPS, Fairhope, Ala.

It was with the keenest anguish that I learned a little over a week ago of the death of your dear friend and associate and humanity's servant, Mr. Geiger. I never enjoyed seeing any two persons together so much as you and your "Oscy" as I used to like to hear you call him!

Honor to him who knew no compromise,
The loyal soul, who when his strength was spent,
And there were mists of death about his eyes.
Betook him, like a soldier from his tent—
His people called—he loved them and he went.*

[*From "Henry George—Anniversary Ode," by Joseph Dana Miller, read by James A. Herne, of Shore Acres, at Grand Central Palace, this city, 1899.]

During those all too short years that Mr. Geiger devoted to the Henry George School of Social Science he lived what to many men I believe would be a life-time. Of course he did more than start the School. He demonstrated a method of propaganda that will be adopted widely as the years go on. Without having known of Mr. Geiger's passing Mr. Albert J. Milligan and I had been talking of establishing a Pacific Coast branch of the School in San Francisco. Mr. Milligan has conducted several classes in "Progress and Poverty" but he was hoping that he could go East this fall and study with Mr. Geiger to learn the secret of his great success as a teacher.—JOHN LAWRENCE MONROE.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE LIBERTY OF THE PRESS

Harry Weinberger has won an enviable reputation as a defender of those who speak for despised or unpopular causes. It may be guessed that with some of these causes our friend has scant sympathy, but like Voltaire he is willing to champion the freedom to express them. For, as he says, "The liberty of the press is the right to say foolish things as well as the right to say sensible things."

It must be remembered that only recently there has emanated from administration circles a threat in which the licensing of the press was covertly concealed. The haste with which it was disavowed may help to reassure us, but only by eternal vigilance can liberty be made safe.

In these two addresses bound together in board covers and neatly printed our distinguished friend tells of the early struggle for the

freedom of the press in this city, a freedom which we cannot be too certain is permanently secure. Indeed Mr. Weinberger points out that only recently the New York Court of Appeals has decided that street meetings could be prohibited by municipalities. "Yet the American Bar is not shocked, the American Bar is not aroused and the people are too busy with their economic problems, or too indifferent, to protest and correct this invasion of their liberties."

In the first address delivered at Independence Hall before the Philadelphia Bar Association Mr. Weinberger gives an interesting account of the trial of John Peter Zenger for criminal libel during colonial days. Zenger had expressed views contrary to those held by the autocratic governor.

The second address was made before the New York Bar Association, and the subject was Andrew Hamilton, who had come from Philadelphia at the age of eighty to defend John Peter Zenger without fee. Andrew Hamilton protested the court's decision to have the jury decide only the facts; he contended that the jury should decide both the law and the facts, and he won out, and John Peter Zenger departed a free man.

Hamilton's triumph was complete. The Common Council which included the Aldermen and Mayor presented him with the freedom of the city and money to buy a gold box to enclose the seal of said freedom.

Mr. Weinberger has told the story well and with occasional eloquence and a full apprehension of the significance of this great fight for the liberty of the press.

The little work can be had for \$1.50. It contains a photostat of the affidavit of John Peter Zenger never before published. It came recently to light in an old house that was being torn down in New Jersey.—J. D. M.

GEORGE MISREPRESENTED

Our friends, the "liberationists" of West Australia, contend for the abolition of interest as the inevitable result of the adoption of the collection of the full annual rent of land. They indict George's theory of the origin of interest as well as his defense of its justice and persistence.

The author of this work agrees with our West Australian friends that interest will not persist in a society where the full economic rent is appropriated by government. But curiously as it may appear to many of our readers he defends his thesis by a direct appeal to the teachings of George himself.

To do so he is forced to wrest certain factors out of their due relation and to give a new and wholly unjustified meaning to a number of George's statements. When he says that "interest will not go to the individual for the use of capital" we wonder where the maker of capital, preferring to lend rather than to consume, comes in.

We question the validity of most of the author's premises: For example this: "The payment of interest for the use of wealth—capital—implies the payment of a price greater than the cost of production."

And this: "Interest is not produced by labor or capital either singly or collectively. *It is a land product.*" (The italics are ours). Yet the author tells us that "interest is swallowed up as rent and wages." Then it is received by labor and we do not escape the reality by changing the name. We need to remind the author that interest is a part of wages paid to the creators of capital who prefer to lend rather than to consume. To deny the justice of this is to deny the justice of wages, since a man owns what he creates. The author contends that "capital cannot earn interest because capital is inert." This is a palpable evasion of the economic truth that capital is not inert when united with labor.

Mr. Green expresses the opinion that "rent will neither rise nor fall as a result of a change from slavery to freedom." We think it dem-

*The Profits of the Earth, by Charles A. Green, 12 mo., clo., 143pp. Price \$1.25, The Christopher Publishing Company, Boston, Mass.