

In Memoriam Alice Thacher Post

By ANNA GEORGE DEMILLE

WHEN I WENT to Washington in November to see the beloved Alice Thacher Post, I realized it was for the last time. She was more on the Other Plane than on this one—although she wrenched herself back to mine and spoke to me in almost the old strong voice and amazingly with the old strong spirit. But it was not until February second that she went the rest of the Way Across.

Those of us who loved and revered her can only rejoice that release has come to her after her 92 years of fighting the good fight. All who really knew her will grieve for their own loss; will miss the periodic opportunity of going to her for spiritual strength and worldly counsel; for her broad view of life's meaning and for her interpretation of the word Charity.

It was through her dedication to the teachings of Emanuel Swedenborg that Alice Thacher reached to the philosophy of Henry George and came to know the latter's disciple Louis Freeland Post and then to marry him. Seeking to do good to others in spreading truth as well as in attacking evil, she shared with her husband and through her brilliant pen and editorial gifts she helped him build his weekly, *The Public* into the power it became.

Partners in the truest sense, these two great people lived gently and bravely, sked little and gave much. They blazed a trail of spiritual dedication to human betterment for all of us to follow, and those of us who knew them personally, who were privileged in calling them not only guides and leaders but also friends, are indeed blessed. But we, who have been in the habit of asking help from Alice Thacher Post, who have depended on her words of encouragement and wisdom that she has sent back to us by return mail, in neatly penned or typed letters, will have to turn to some of those messages received in the past recent years:

"Personality does count, especially with some types of mind, but Henry George's message transcends personality and will persist under more than one form. Hold your courage to the high standards commensurate with the greatness of the message, and have GREAT FAITH. My own faith in the essence of the message is greater than the language of this world can express."

"As I see it there are two kinds of important persons in the world: those of impressive personality without any one continuing message, though with attributes of leadership, who exert great influence on their contemporaries; and those who, while they may have personalities just as powerful and delightful, have in addition a prophetic message for their time. If it is a God-given message, as it must be to have reality, it must transcend their personality. Examples: Martin Luther, John Milton, Thomas Jefferson, Henry George."

"Our social co-operative life may make bad choices from time to time: we can later reverse our choices and once more go ahead. Have faith in that Creative God who is making real humans out of us. Your splendid Father believed in Him."

"We do not want personalities but principles to be brought to the fore. As I see it, we do not want to say 'past' but 'future', in connection with this growing change in the world. We are working for a bigger thing than a technique or a formula. We are working in the interests of a great change which is now marching on in the world, and has already gone farther than any of us could have dreamed fifty years ago . . . Truth

has a way of going on as if unhampered . . . You can't stop God. Shall not that thought bring peace to our souls? Take heart afresh."

"Hold it fast while life shall last,
That priceless thing which we inherit—
The freedom of the Human Spirit."

—Alice Thacher Post