

THE LATE W. W. KILE.

W. W. Kile, who died in July of this year at Dayton, Ohio, known as "the first Single Taxer" of that city, was born in 1839. He served for two years as private in the Fourth Ohio Volunteers. For many years he kept a book store in Dayton, which became well known to book lovers. Many meetings of radicals and Single Taxers were held in the back of the store. In 1907 he went to Fairhope, the Single Tax colony on Mobile Bay, and spent three years with his wife and daughter.

Any tribute we could pen to the memory of this devoted spirit would be less adequate than the following from the pen of a man who knew him well—Marshall Beck, of Moline, Ill.

"On a certain Sunday, early in 1888, Mrs. Beck and I found ourselves in Dayton, cut off from receiving our current copy of *The Standard*.

"In our unguided wanderings in search of a 'News stand,' we suddenly found ourselves before the 'display window of 'Kile's book-store,' and which window was given up to the 'display' of a single article, viz:—*The Standard*, many copies, deliberately disposed at each and every angle best calculated to catch the attention of those who should pass, whether friend or foe. The time was 'out of business hours,' but we knew in our hearts that we had found the central haunt of the Dayton Single Taxers; and, promptly on the Monday morning following, we renewed our disturbed connection with *The Standard*.

"When Mr. Kile had accepted our credentials as Single Taxers, we found, to our grateful joy, that such recognition carried with it, also, the great privilege of meeting and co-operating with every true-hearted man or woman in Dayton or in that section of the State, who desired and hoped for, and worked for a better social justice, through the one true means, economic reform; for they all came, and went, to and from his master station on the 'underground railway' to economic liberty.

"As the accepted pioneer and leader, he gave, in his earnest, unostentatious way,

more than all of his spare time and strength and means to the cause, in comparison with which, in his view, nothing else counted as an immediate social necessity. He brushed aside all proposed readjustments of rights which were not fundamental and final, for, perceiving the whole social truth so clearly as to make the vision the pole-star of his dedicated life, he knew, in advance, what discouraging waste of time and energy must befall from half measures and skulking deceptions.

"In season and out, he forced the all-including issue. Wherever he was, the thing had to be assented to or contested. Anything to keep it at the front, for the healing of the nations. Like an uplifted religionist, a true Samaritan, a passionate champion of the inalienable right of universal human happiness and goodness, like one high-called to the altar of truth and justice and love in human life, he unceasingly interviewed, interrogated, wrote, privately and publicly, spoke, privately and publicly, appealed, besought, counseled, and, when the apologists of plutocracy rushed to arms, leaving the field of fair discussion, they felt the unerring thrusts of attack from his ever drawn and flashing sword of reason and truth.

"But notwithstanding this almost lifelong shock and turmoil, his personality was such as to hold him almost wholly immune from attacks upon himself, personally, and from wasteful breaches and bitternesses in his personal relationships.

"His unselfishness and modesty, and inbred civility, and ingrained kindness and moral courage, and dedicatedness were so great, in themselves, and so harmonized in the man, that even those who most bitterly opposed his economic views and his uncompromising crusade for their realization, still respected and honored him as a citizen and a man.

"Although death has fixed a limit to his personal activities as a pioneer of a broader human justice, the life-work of W. W. Kile is not ended. Thousands of men and women whose economic convictions and reform activities were awakened and determined and quickened by his ceaseless appeals and resistless reasoning, are, today, in succeeding steps

and stages, grandly advancing the work for humanity in which he lived and died. It is impossible to compute the sum of influence for good of such a man, as, like the waves in the pond, from the thrown pebble, it spreads and widens to all the shores.

"His best prototype, to my mind, especially in American life, is the sainted Benjamin Lundy, of the 'abolition movement;' though the abolition movement to which our saint and hero gave a life as unselfish, as zealous and as sincere, is far deeper and wider and more saving than even the noble dream of Lundy.

"Next to the upraised, perceiving seers of our race, come the torch-bearing pioneers, each in his own place, in the spread and application, to life, of newly perceived truth; and every true man and woman who knew the work and character of W. W. Kile, while he lived, will write his unstained name and enshrine his beloved memory on this glorious honor roll of unsundering, pioneer 'Soldiers of the Common Good.'

"This letter has far outrun the limits of my original intention, though I have included but a beginning of all the things which ought to be set down in 'appreciation' of this true man."