

have earnestly studied social and economic questions, and have long ago concluded that the slavery of children exists because of the industrial slavery of their parents.

The march of invention has long since made unnecessary a condition so unnatural. That ten millions of people in the United States should be condemned to poverty and millions more to the fear of poverty is a social crime. It exists because we support laws which deny the equal right of all to the use of the earth. We make private property of the great storehouse of nature—the coal fields, mineral deposits, timber lands, the rich plains and fertile valleys, which, manifestly, are for all the children of men. We give to individuals and corporations immense values which belong to the people collectively and then rob industry for the support of government. We grant privileges to respectable grafters who dictate the teachings of our public instructors, so that when Political Economy dares to make clear the simplest of truths which run counter to vested wrongs, it is gagged by those who imagine they profit by this injustice.

If a man who earns his living by catching fish has five out of every six taken from him by force, fraud or cunning, he will be forced to put his children to work when they ought to be at school and is likely to become debased and embruted. Is not this true of labor to day? Even our conservative experts tell us that labor only gets one-sixth of the wealth it produces.

So long as labor and productive capital are robbed by privilege, special laws may keep children out of factories, but the children will then be driven to beg, to steal, or to starve."

#### DEATH OF PREMIER SEDDON.

The death of Premier Seddon, of New Zealand, is a distinct loss to the progressive movement of that great forward colony. The advances that New Zealand has made are due in no small measure to the liberal open mind of the late premier. Under his leadership nearly 60 municipalities have adopted the land value tax for local revenues, and this approach to the Single Tax has so approved itself in practice that no backward step now seems possible.

He was hospitable to new reforms, and New Zealand has embarked upon other experiments in government which the Premier and the enlightened officials of his administration did not regard themselves as justified in opposing. Some of these may perhaps be abandoned; others will stand the test of time. But this is the value of Democracy, that it must learn by experience, and it is to the honor of Premier Seddon that as the people gave evidence of a desire to test new theories of taxation and administration no stupid conservation of an obstructive government was allowed to interpose.

#### BOOK REVIEWS.

##### LEO TOLSTOY.

This is the first volume, to be followed by two others, which recount the life and work of the great Russian, "Compiled by Paul Birukoff and Revised by Leo Tolstoy." This volume deals with his childhood and early manhood. Wherever possible the biographer has allowed Tolstoy to tell his own story—it is thus largely autobiographical, and will remain for long the authoritative repository of the main incidents in the life as well as the intellectual growth of the Russian novelist and prophet—perhaps the greatest moralist of his time, certainly one of the greatest moralists of all time.

There are many books from the perusal of which one may rise wiser; this is one of the few which makes us morally and spiritually better. We are admitted to the intimacy of one whose superiority even in his early manhood to those around him—to the aims and ideas of the civilization in which he moved—is immediately manifest. We become aware of how much that even the world agrees to call greatness is really in essence moral—spiritual, if you will. A symmetrical body of doctrine is not essential to this greatness; doubtless flaws may be found in Tolstoy's philosophy, as in that of Buddha, or Mohammed, or Swedenborg. But we feel that we are in the presence of one whose sense of nearness to the infinite and whose boundless and embracing love for humanity permit him to look pityingly upon all its crimes and sordid follies, and set him apart from his fellows.

It is of value to our movement that this man has recognized the truth we stand for. Maybe he does not apprehend it in its fullness and breadth. This seems to be indicated in the importance he attaches to questions whose solution is really involved in the adoption of our principles. He is too much given, it may be, to attacking forms of privilege when he might apply the axe to the props which give to the whole system of privilege its stability. But the value of his endorsement, his admiration of Henry George, and his brave words against landlordism, have immense weight, nevertheless.

This volume does not bring Tolstoy's life down to the date of its final awakening. We find him still involved in habits of thought and conduct which left him much to regret. He still gambled, and showed on more than one occasion the petulance and violence of his disposition. His quarrel with Tourgenef, which came almost to the verge of a duel, which, in the then temper of Tolstoy, might have resulted fatally to

Leo Tolstoy. His Life and Work. Vol. 1. Childhood and Early Manhood. 8vo. 370 pp. Price \$1.50 net. Charles Scribner Sons, New York.

one or the other, is little creditable to him. Yet there were signs of clear moral vision, of a spiritual awakening. Even as an army officer his sense of justice led to quarrels with his brother officers and serious differences with his superiors. He had written much, and his work had obtained recognition. But though his conviction of the office of a novelist was an elevated one, he had not yet conformed his practice to his higher convictions. All this was to come later.

The narrative will be continued in the volumes that will follow, and they are certain to be quite as intensely interesting as the one before us. Certainly to those who believe that—in spite of certain shortcomings and extravagances—the later Tolstoy is not only what his friendly enemy Turgenef, whose pathetic efforts to establish friendly relations with him is one of the tragedies of their intercourse, called him—"the great writer of the Russian land," but the greatest living moralist, whose slightest word has more potency for mankind than the proclamations of the Czar, though acclaimed by his legions of foot and spoken amid the thunder of the steeds of his Cossacks.

J. D. M.

#### A VALUABLE PAMPHLET.

Here is a little book which is an effort, in the words of its author, "to examine the essential characteristics of the human frailty known as race prejudice, and to trace it at least roughly to its origin." The silliness and superstitious basis of negrophobia are successfully exposed, and the reasoning is for the most part cogent and convincing and moves always upon a high plane. Few phases of the situation are overlooked, though perhaps the economic basis of race prejudice in so far as it concerns the negro in the South is not given its real importance. The failure to examine more fully this phase of the subject is perhaps responsible for the allusion to Henry George, Jr., as "small minded" because he "advocates opening the doors of the United States to white races alone." This is evidently a somewhat sweeping allusion to Mr. George's views respecting Chinese immigration. Mr. Morton must be aware that Mr. George's position on this point is not a matter of race prejudice. Though we may differ with him, we must recognize that Mr. George bases his opposition to Chinese immigration on the ground that—under existing conditions—such an influx of the yellow race as might result from unrestricted immigration would serve to further intensify the economic struggle, and make more difficult the effort for social betterment by multiplying those

The Curse of Race Prejudice. By James F. Morton, Jr., A. M. Paper, 78 pp. Price, 25 cents. Published by the author, 244 West 143d street, New York City.

racial distinctions which Mr. Morton deplores. We will not deny here that perhaps this position is susceptible of refutation, but Mr. Morton does Mr. George a real injustice in his valuable pamphlet by failing to indicate the grounds of the latter's opposition to unrestricted Chinese immigration.

J. D. M.

Years ago when Dr. McGlynn pointed out that there need be no fare charged on street railways owned and operated by the city, since these public advantages add to land values, and the cost of service could then be more cheaply collected by an increased tax upon land rent, just as the cost of elevator service in large office buildings is added to the office rent instead of being collected from each passenger, much cheap wit was expended by the metropolitan press in ridicule of the suggestion. Yet here comes Dock Commissioner Bessel, of this city, who says it is only a question of time when no fare will be charged on ferries owned and operated by the city. This for the reason that it will help to build up the city, and, of course, at the same time provide an increased fund from which to draw upon for the cost of public services. How fast these politicians learn! They learn much faster than the newspapers, for the *Commercial Advertiser*, affecting to regard this as a perilous acknowledgment, says: "It is obvious that the same reasoning that supports free ferries would support free subways." Quite so.

In this connection the following paragraph is interesting. It is cited from a little monthly publication, *Sanitary Progress*, issued by the N. O. Nelson Manufacturing Company:

"St. Louis has been excited over getting a new free bridge for the city. As one result of this agitation, the Bridge Terminal Association has reduced considerably the transfer charges. This reduction has already boomed the price of real estate. What the railroads give up, the landowners will take."

A copy of the latest issue of the *Single Tax Review* rests upon Count Tolstoy's reading desk. So reports in a private communication a recent visitor to Yasnaya Poliana.

#### FROM AN INTELLIGENT YOUNG INDIAN.

*Extract from private letter written by William A. Scott, twenty years of age, a descendant of the noted Indian Chieftain, "Billy Bow-legs."*

"I have been studying Single Tax a little, and I am an enthusiast. I believe it's the thing for everywhere and fits everything, and it will be a force some day, or at least ought to be."