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MIRAC What is it? Simply a Varnish and Paint Remover that removes effectually old paint, varnish, etc., right down to the wood without injuring the latter or raising the grain.

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NEW YORK JOHN LUCAS & CO., PHILADELPHIA CHICAGO

"THE MENACE OF PRIVILEGE."

Painters & Decorators May 26 1906
A BRIEF REVIEW OF AN INTERESTING BOOK.

Those who have been in the labor movement for 20 years respect and love the name of George. Aside from his great work as a preacher of the economic belief with which his name is linked, Henry George accomplished wonders in making clear the wrongs and aspirations of the working people. Himself a trade unionist of years' standing, he never failed to say the good word long after he had ceased to work at his trade.

Henry George was true to the masses; he could have been rich and the idol of the classes, but he preferred to die poor and execrated by the well-to-do that he might contribute his great powers to lightening the burdens of those who toil. We and generations yet unborn shall reap the fruits of his sacrifice.

The great George left a son who is a chip of the old block in his sympathy for the downtrodden and abhorrence of wrong and oppression. Henry George, Jr., is a newspaper man and few there are who have not read articles from his pen and been stirred by his recitals of wrong or cheered by his ever-present faith in the people being able to overcome all difficulties. He has recently published a book entitled "The Menace of Privilege," in which he points out clearly that there is in the United States a favored class which has fattened off the masses until it threatens the very existence of the Republic. This was designed as the land of equality, and in Revolutionary days work was a badge of responsibility and respectability, for was not Washington a real surveyor and Franklin a dirty-fingered printer? Now it is the land of inequality, with a greater disparity between the very rich and the poor than in any other country, and to be a workingman—no matter how meritorious and deserving—is to be ostracised and despised to such an extent that newspapers speak of him without the designation "Mr." and his wife is referred to as "the woman." Those at the top of this social heap are immoral in all phases of life. Mr. George has no patience with the Miss Nancy cant

that "no change can occur until the people return to the old moral precepts of public and private honesty;" which means the people will become good when they are good. "What is needed," says our author, "is to correct the thing that corrupts general morals; that is the unequal distribution of wealth. Correct that, and morals will correct themselves." This gives a taste of the plain speaking and clear thinking that permeates the book.

Mr. George plays havoc with the pleasant fiction that our leading citizens—the captains of industry, if it please you—acquired their wealth through expert knowledge of their business or through a capacity to select men, which is esteemed a great quality. There are the Astors; the original dealer in pelts was probably a shrewd trader but the fortune he accumulated was small as compared with the wealth that has been gathered by the generations which never worked or showed particular shrewdness. They simply bought land, let it lie there until the work and enterprise of their low, despised neighbors made it valuable and the idlers penalized the workers for working. Then there are Mackay and other mining kings. "Industry," as commonly understood, had little to do with their rise in the financial world; they got a corner on precious metals in the bowels of the earth which were put there for the benefit of mankind, but ancient laws devised in the interest of the few gave them the privilege of "owning" great quantities of one of nature's gifts. Then there are those who have in later days become wealthy through thefts of lands in the west, and by reason of appropriating the city streets under the guise of municipal franchises, too often obtained by corrupt means. So on down through the list of Carnegies and Rockefellers travels Mr. George, proving that privileges and sharp practices such as railroad rebates were the foundation of their success and stock-jobbing and stock-watering the cap sheaf of it all. These are the men who control the destinies of the nation. That they are honest

ported case," and "no foundation in principle." That should seem to be conclusive, and the layman might say "government by injunction" had received a knockout blow from the law lords of England. Perhaps so across the water; but not in the United States. Such are the peculiarities of the law that thirteen years after their lordships had delivered that blow, some New England shoe manufacturers wanted to enjoin their striking lasters, and the judge found a precedent in the original ruling mentioned here, and not only conveniently forgot the English judge's doubts as to jurisdiction, but ignored entirely the decision of the higher court which rendered it void. This is the foundation of injunction proceedings of which some of our "better classes" appear to be proud. Mr. George tells us that a few years later British courts issued injunctions based on American precedents, and now Canadian judges cite recent English cases as ample authority for restraining in labor centers. Soon doubtless some new atrocity will be sprung on us based on a Canadian precedent. As of the wicked, it may be said of labor injunctions that they flourish like a green bay tree.

But space checks the temptation to quote freely from this well of fact and philosophy, and we must be satisfied with little more than a reproduction of the table of contents. The chapter on "Government by Injunction" treats of the growth and effect of that feature, while "The Bayonet in Civil Affairs" and "The Federal Army in Strikes" are divisions of the book calculated to make the average American gasp as he contemplates the rapidity with which we are moving toward militarism in industrial disputes. In passing it might be mentioned that there is an enlightening and well written account of the invasion of Chicago during the Debs strike, which exposes the pretensions of the law-and-orderites who prate of that act. "Judges and Senators have been bought for gold" is the quotation that prefaces the chapters dealing with the riot of privilege in "National Politics," and "State and Municipal Politics." There is also a world of light to be found under the headings "Bondage of the Press," "The Hand on the University," and "Dependence of the Pulpit." The chapters on "Centralization of Government," "Foreign Aggression" and "Civilizations Gone Before" contain much information in a small space that cannot fail to be interesting, especially to those whose educational opportunities have been and are limited. The last three chapters are devoted to the remedy, and, being a son of his father, Mr. George's central idea is a tax on land values, by which he would free natural opportunities from the curse of private ownership and give back to

the people their own. The interesting book is published by the Macmillan Company, of New York City.