

## Letters (...and Corrections!)

### *The Blessings of Cities*

*Yisroel Pensack's essay in our last issue should have included the following footnote — which, he says, should answer the objections of some who contend that "rent isn't good". — L.D.*

To keep the unthinking reader from wandering astray, I should note that with the application of the full single tax, all speculative and monopoly rents would be annihilated, and, as a result, only a relatively small portion of the total land area would yield any rent.

On the other hand, even though literally millions of acres would become available free of rent to whoever wanted to use them, it seems unlikely that a very substantial number of persons would choose to avail themselves of that opportunity, once life in more populous areas was set on its proper foundation of justice. High aggregate rents, of course, are associated with close settlement and urban living; and although population would no doubt become more evenly dispersed than at present, it is absurd to assume that the single tax would lead to a wholesale escape to "back to the land" lifestyles — which now seem appealing mainly because of the rot of contemporary "civilization".

It seems to me that as Georgists we should recognize the inherent merit and superiority of the urban setting over the pastoral as a motor for progress. After all, the Divine Presence, although it first revealed itself to the Jewish nation in the wilderness at Mount Sinai, ultimately chose to establish its Devine "abode" — the Holy Temple — in the great city of Jerusalem. — *Yisroel Pensack*

#### *Artwork Credit*

Thank you for the lovely review of *Birthright in Land... And the State of Scotland Today* [in GJ #91]. But: the artwork was done by Alan Torrance, not me. (My "artwork" is confined to 3D in the garden!) — *Shirley-Anne Hardy, Perthshire, Scotland*



*More by Mr. Torrance—from the back cover*