

RELATED THINGS

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"A LITTLE SUN, A LITTLE RAIN."

A little sun, a little rain,
A soft wind blowing from the west—
And woods and fields are sweet again,
And warmth within the mountain's breast.

So simple is the earth we tread,
So quick with love and life her frame;
Ten thousand years have dawned and fled,
And still her magic is the same.

A little love, a little trust,
A soft impulse, a sudden dream—
And life as dry as desert dust
Is fresher than a mountain stream.

—Stopford A. Brooke.

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A PARALLEL.

From *The Chancellor*, Published by L. J. Quinby,
at Omaha.

A slave wished to purchase his freedom. His master said, "You are too valuable to me; I could not think of selling so valuable a property." "But if I am so valuable," said the slave, "it is due to my effort and not to yours. Why, then, should I not have the results of my effort?" Said the master, "The reason is that the law gives that result to me. It is the return to me upon my investment in you—a property. It is due to me because of my 'foresight' in bringing you up. If my property earns wealth, that wealth logically belongs to me." "But," rejoined the slave, "if I am property of value and belong to you, there must be some figure in dollars and cents which will represent that value. Name that figure and I will buy my freedom." "Well," said the master, "I would not think of parting with you for less than two thousand dollars." "The condition is cruel," said the slave, "but since it is the only condition I may hope to meet, I will accept it and buy my liberty."

So the slave toiled early and late. He performed his services for the master according to the usual requirement, working overtime that the excess of his earnings might be saved to buy his liberty. In the course of a couple of years he again went to his master and said, "Here is the price of my liberty—let me go." But the master had seen a new light, and said, "You have, during these last two years, much increased your value. If you could not only earn the usual wealth for me, but in overtime labor save \$2,000 in two years, you have only the more proven that you were not only of more value than I thought, but through your greater effort during these two

years you have increased your earning capacity. No; I would not accept \$2,000 for you. You are worth double that."

Then the slave resumed his bitter task of earning wealth with which to buy his own liberty. But the more competent he became and the more wealth he produced, the higher became the price for him. The bitter wrong to him was in the fact that through his own efforts he was making it the more difficult for him to secure his liberty. When he had about reached the point of desperation, an emancipation proclamation was issued, declaring him a free man. His value immediately began to decline, not because he became less competent, nor because he worked less hard, but because there was no longer a market where human flesh and blood were sold.

Now for the parallel. Through their effort, thrift and enterprise, the people of Omaha have added great value to a certain spot of earth, say the corner of Sixteenth and Farnam streets. Nobody attempts to show that this value is due to anything but the thrift of this community. Surely, no one is absurd enough to attempt the proof that the owner, who happens to live in the East, has ever done a thing to increase the value of that spot. On the contrary, he has not even shown enough interest in Omaha, nor enough regard for his own interests, to put upon that spot a decent building. He has allowed a miserable, one-story shack to remain on that spot. But the spot is valuable, and for the privilege of using this spot, not the building but the site, a druggist is obliged to pay to this owner the sum of \$500 per month. No; the druggist does not pay it; he only collects it from the community and turns it over to the "owner," and the crime of it is in the fact that the very people from whom this druggist collects this \$500 per month are the very people who are increasing this value year after year. And the more these people strive, the more enterprising they become, the more they beautify this city, the more they increase the value of this spot of earth, the more they are obliged to pay to this idle parasite, who lives in luxury upon the results of the toil of thousands of "slaves" whom he does not even deign to visit. Time was when that particular spot had practically no value. That was because enterprise had not settled there, and industrious people had not thought of building a city about that spot. Then this owner, or his forbears, or someone from whom he obtained it, fenced it up, and now justifies taking the wealth of this community on the ground that he had foresight—that is, he knew that if a city should some day be built upon this spot of earth, which we call Omaha, this land would be valuable. It so chanced that a city was built here, and thereby the parasite became a "philanthropist." Wonderful transformation!

Therein lies the parallel; but it will not always

be so. Some day another emancipation proclamation will be issued that will so change the status of the master and the slave that the values which the slave creates will go to the slave, and the master will become a truly worthy citizen, and himself go to work. Yes, we'll

Pay ransom to the owner,
And fill the bag to the brim,
Who is the owner? The slave is the owner,
And ever was. Pay him!

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EDWARD OSGOOD BROWN.



As candidate for judge of the Circuit Court in Cook County, Illinois (the Chicago county), Edward Osgood Brown (vol. v, p. 395; vol. vi, p. 243; vol. xii, pp. 554, 565; vol. xiii, p. 1034) received at the election last fall (vol. xii, pp. 1057, 1095) the largest vote and the highest plurality polled by any candidate for any office at that election.

Judge Brown's total vote ran up to 174,107. As the entire opposition vote was only 150,851, and that for the next highest candidate was only 121,868, his majority amounted to 23,256, and his plurality to 52,239.

It was a "Democratic year," to be sure, and he

was the Democratic candidate; but his previous service on the bench had made a record for him which doubtless counted for more than party considerations. His strength was augmented also by the fact that he had been defeated as his own successor eighteen months before, by the appearance on the same judicial ballot of another candidate of the same name. Much of his support was thereby diverted, and his retirement from the bench came as a surprise to the public and to the bar. The accident has now been repaired in a manner highly complimentary to him.

Judge Brown is known by followers of Henry George throughout the United States and Canada and in Great Britain as one of their number who came into the movement in its earliest days.

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Born in Salem, Massachusetts, 60 years ago of a seafaring ancestry which links up genealogically with that of Joseph H. Choate, former Ambassador from the United States to Great Britain, Judge Brown became a graduate of Brown University and of the Harvard Law School, meanwhile teaching at Southboro, Mass. He was for a time assistant clerk of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, where he was admitted to the bar, and where he practiced for two years.

In 1872 he came to Chicago with a college friend with whom he formed a partnership under the firm name of Peckham and Brown—now Peckham, Packard and Walsh—which has long numbered the First National Bank among its principal clients. It was in Chicago that he made the acquaintance of his wife, Helen Eagle, a niece of Father Eliot of the Paulists.

In the middle 80's Judge Brown became interested in the economic and political doctrines of Henry George. Knowing him to be a free trader, George A. Schilling advised him to read George's "Protection or Free Trade." This delighted him and he followed it with "Progress and Poverty." Consequently he became a George convert and one of the earliest members of the Chicago Single Tax Club, of which Warren Worth Bailey, now editor of the Johnstown Democrat, was president.

During Governor Altgeld's administration, Judge Brown served as the attorney of the Lincoln Park Commissioners, and was afterwards their special counsel in much important litigation. He was a candidate for appointment to the Federal bench when Cleveland was President, and had strong support; but his single tax proclivities were effective arguments against him. At the judicial election in June, 1903, he was elected to the Circuit bench in Cook County for the first time, and was soon assigned by the Supreme Court of the State to the appellate branch of the Circuit Court (vol. vii, p. 468) where he served until the expiration of his term of office. His record there commanded general confidence at the bar and