

Bolton Is Back

Selections from "Free America" and Other Works by Bolton Hall. Loompanics Unlimited, Port Townsend, Washington, 1987. 199 pp. \$8.95. Reviewed by Mark A. Sullivan.

In his day, Bolton Hall was one of the leaders of the Georgist movement. With Henry George he founded the Manhattan Single Tax Club and later founded the single tax enclave of Free Acres in New Jersey. A "mystical anarchist", he was deeply inspired by Leo Tolstoy, and was a good friend of Emma Goldman, with whom he shared such causes as free speech, birth control and opposition to World War I.

Loompanics Unlimited, a press of interest to libertarians, has just published these selections from Bolton Hall's writings. It includes my introduction which places Hall in the company of the "Third Tradition" - a tendency in social thought and action which rejects the extremes of materialistic consumerism and state socialism to embrace a spiritual personalism and voluntary communalism.

Free America, originally published in 1904, is a critique of an unfree America, written in genteel and humorous style. It examines the problems of monopoly, corruption and inadequate solutions. Hall makes this guardedly hopeful conclusion: "The present system takes all the people can pay. Could a new system take any more? There never have really been more than two opposing parties; the supporters of privileges on the one side and the People on the other. When such an issue is squarely presented to the American people, there is no doubt as to the result of the fight between Slavery and Freedom."

Bolton Hall is still relevant today. Selections from Free America lists for \$8.95 but may be purchased for \$6.00 from the Henry George Institute.

(Mark Sullivan is also co-editor and co-publisher of Benjamin R. Tucker and the Champions of Liberty, dealing with the 19th century anarchist. Items of Georgist interest include articles about George Henry Evans and Laurence Labadie and Tucker's dispute with Henry George by Jack Schwartzman. It may be ordered for \$7.95 from the Mackay Society, Box 131, Ansonia Station, New York, NY 10023.)