

HENRY GEORGE'S PERSONALITY

EDITOR SINGLE TAX REVIEW:

In a paper, extolling the life and philosophy of Henry George, from the pen of Mrs. William R. Myers, of Anderson, Indiana, and read by her before the Tourist Club of that city in the early Nineties, I was particularly struck with a passage describing the appearance and personality of Mr. George. The manuscript, yellow with age, has just come to my view and that makes the passage in question all the more interesting.

In your issues of Nov.-Dec., 1916, on page 300, Mr. Thomas E. Lyons says of Mr. George that he had "a refined and intelligent face, but was deficient in emotional expression,—an agreeable but not particularly prepossessing presence, * * * * and was wholly devoid of the spell of magnetism which strong personalities exert."

This description is so out of harmony with the impression I dare say nearly everybody gets from reading the inspiring thoughts of Henry George, that it is refreshing to note the following description given by Mrs. Meyers. "I read *Progress and Poverty* in the early Eighties. I was carried away with the beautiful spirit of the book. Very shortly thereafter I met Henry George in Indianapolis. How often one is disappointed in people whose books we have enjoyed—but not so with me. As I looked into his face, there was brought to mind an account of an interview wherein Leigh Hunt, after meeting Charles Dickens, said of him, 'He has in his face the life and soul of fifty human beings.' One might multiply that a score of times and then fail to describe the face of Henry George. And his last portrait is a revelation. Twenty years of thought and action have left their impress."

Besides confirming the impression all of us have about the great personality of Henry George, this paper reveals the old time zeal and lofty moral protest against the ravages of land monopoly which inspired the adherents of the great philosopher when some of us were in our bare-foot days.

These pleasant ghosts of the past are a great pleasure to some of us of the younger generation who may sometimes think that the

desire for social justice and zeal for its consummation are almost entirely the product of our own day. The desire for justice is the golden thread that binds all eras of history. It is not the monopoly of any single period. That is the most inspiring element in the history of the race and it cannot be kept too vividly in mind, particularly by the young enthusiast who is just beginning his economics and social philosophy.

Mrs. Myers shows such a grasp of her subject and such balanced enthusiasm that even though she may declare that she has served her allotted span of usefulness, she should be a power for the Single Tax in a State that is sorely in need of such propaganda.—THEODORE TREPPE, Seattle, Wash.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE LAND AND SLAVERY QUESTIONS*

In the preceding number of the REVIEW we gave a critical summary of the contents of the first volume of Dr. Miller's new book on "American Debate," that dealing with purely constitutional questions. In this number we continue the same method in reviewing the second volume which treats of subjects that are essentially economic, land and slavery, though in the case of slavery constitutionality was the main issue in the controversy. The fundamental economic aspect of the questions has, however, enabled the author to discuss them from the standpoint of the Single Tax. In his preface in particular, taking advantage of the desirability of informing the reader of the logical plan of the volume, he has presented in epitome the economic philosophy of Henry George. He has not suggested, however, that this is a peculiar philosophy by branding it as the "Georgian" or "Single Tax," economy, for he believes that, owing to the almost universal acceptance by economists of the doctrine of the "un-earned increment" which is the basis of the

*"American Debate," a History of Political and Economic Controversy in the United States, with Critical Digests of Leading Debates. In two volumes, with separate indexes. I: Colonial, State and National Rights; II: The Land and Slavery Questions. By Marion Mills Miller, Litt. D. (Princeton). \$2 50 per volume. G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.