

HENRY GEORGE AND THE NEW YORK MAYORALTY

The candidacy of **Henry George** for the New York Mayorality marks a new departure in both politics and the social conditions of the day. It is as a social philosopher and a political economist that **Henry George** has made a name, and the department which now supports him in his candidacy is the one whose interests he has had at heart in his works, and whose gratitude now raises him to the municipal purple. We agree with **Henry George** in many things — which are matters of fact; but we also differ from him in many things — which are matters of theory, and this because theories propounded for the conduct of human affairs have no right to deal with an impossible state of things. We can scarcely expect that the workingmen who propose to elect **Henry George** have discounted the Socialistic tendencies of his views.

He does not propose Anarchist measures to give a local habitation and a name to his Utopia of the land, but they — what will they do? They are human beings with the passions and feelings of men. A millennium is held out to them, and this millennium is totally subversive of society as it now stands. They are besides chafing under restraints and sufferings the existence of which cannot be denied.

What Deus ex Machina is there to step upon the scene and to prevent them sooner or later from going down the Socialistic incline, unless the moral restraints of Religion hinder their Socialistic aberrations. But will Religion be at hand to save, when the votaries of Socialism and their dupes are imbued with sentiments and aims hostile to her admonition. An angry moment under a sense of wrong, as has often happened in Europe and threatens to happen in this country, has led a discontented mass of laborers to attempt the realization by violence of the golden age which Socialistic writers and Socialistic speakers have told them in their birthright and is only withheld from their grasp by the tyranny of the richer classes.

We agree with **Henry George** in his denunciation of certain evils of the political economy class, such as a protective tariff, which artificially and cruelly raises the price of food, clothing, and other necessities of life for the workingman. For though we believe that both Protection and Free Trade are necessary to the welfare of a country, yet no argument can convince us that the application of one of them alone to the trade of a country can be beneficial, especially when experience has shown that the necessities of life and the interests of certain classes of the community are injured by such a course. Witness the Protective United States for the necessities of life, and free trade England for the interests of certain of her industrial classes.

It is as a Socialistic philosopher, and as indirectly pointing the way to Anarchy, that objections can be justly, made to the candidacy of **Henry George** for the Mayorality of the first city of the country. Should he, however, be elected to office, we have little doubt that the experience he will acquire of human nature as it is, will lead him to modify any of his visionary notions, which his works have contributed so much, in conjunction with other writings and speeches of the same class, to make others reap the whirlwind of which they have sown the wind.