

Ernest Crosby has gone away to a friendly shore, but his work will live wherever the spirit of Jesus Christ finds a lodgment in the human heart. Things of brick and stone may crumble into dust; monuments of marble may stand as silent symbols of forgotten heroes, and then topple and fall to the earth; the work of men's hands may decay and fade from memory, but the noble souls who write their names in love on the hearts of men will find a surer welcome as each succeeding generation learns the lesson that "Love is the fulfilling of the law."

These men, who are vanguards of the better day to be, who teach us that liberty, not restriction; peace, not war; love, not indifference; justice, not privilege, are the end and aim of true civilization—these men are the sanest leaders of the race.

Standing in their midst, I see the figure of Ernest Crosby, lofty in the purity of his motives, exalted in the splendor of his ideals, holding in his hand a white banner on which his own words, "Justice and Peace forever one," are inscribed; and my heart assures me that his memory will live in the affections of all the generous and good through all the years to come. My friends, I commend to you the man and his message.

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### TRUTH.

**Ernest Crosby in "Plain Talk in Psalm and Parable."**

Our highest truths are but half-truths.  
Think not to settle down forever in any truth.  
Make use of it as a tent in which to pass a summer night, but build no house of it, or it will be your tomb.

When you find the old truth irksome and confining,  
When you first have an inkling of its insufficiency, and begin to descry a dim counter-truth looming up beyond,

Then weep not, but give thanks.  
It is the Lord's voice, whispering, "Take up thy bed and walk."

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The truth is one with the way and the life;  
It is the climbing, zigzag road which we must travel;  
It is the irrepressible growth which we must experience.  
Hail the new truth as the old truth raised from the dead;  
Hail it, but forget not that it too will prove to be a half-truth;  
For sooner or later we shall have to dismiss it also at another and loftier stage of our journey.

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### THE LAND QUESTION IN THE BRITISH WEST INDIES.

From the Issue for Dec. 6 of The Federalist and Grenada People, Published at St. George, Grenada, B. W. I.

The process of assimilation by which the large landowners are absorbing the holdings of the peasants, if allowed to continue unchecked, will soon bring the community face to face with a very serious and difficult problem. Just as the rise in the price of cocoa has taken place, and just as the peasants are looking forward with hope that they will, therefore, be able through this opportune occurrence to write much if not all their liabilities off, foreclosure suits are instituted, and week after week a string of properties are offered for sale. It is need-

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less to say that these valuable holdings which at other times would excite keen competition can find no purchasers, except here and there a large landowner who buys the property at his own figure, leaving its unfortunate former owner still in debt. Men of the peasant class have no money now to invest in landed property, and merchants are not only disinclined to make advances but are calling in their money. Under such conditions the landed property of the island is slowly but steadily passing into the hands of a few families. The last census showed that the quantity of land available for each man, woman and child in Grenada was but one acre. Where the total area is so small and the quantity available so insignificant it can scarcely be a good thing for the community that three or four men should own an entire parish or one man four or five thousand acres of land. Trouble must eventually arise out of such a state of things, and the sacredness of property will cease to fascinate and restrain the landless and the dispossessed.

Government's duty in this economic revolution is plain. It must prevent the creation of the forces of disorder by protecting the peasants and preventing them from being sold out. It must strengthen the bases of law and order and buttress the conservative forces of the community by taking measures to increase the number of landowners and to allow of their increase. To do these, it must establish Land Banks where peasant proprietors can obtain money on the security of their properties on a reasonable rate of interest and at reasonable conditions. It must compulsorily acquire all such lands that are not profitably utilized by their private owners, and it must also, where a peasant holding is being compulsorily offered for sale, become the purchaser, returning that property to the same or some other peasant who would become a tenant of the State until the whole amount is liquidated. The gradual extinction of the peasantry is due to the fact that they can, in the majority of cases, get money only under such conditions as must eventually bring them to ruin. Here, then, the government can intervene with a Land Bank scheme. The Savings Bank fund could form the nucleus for this scheme and government should be able to build upon and supplement it by borrowing money for the purpose from the Imperial Government. Forty thousand or £50,000 invested in this manner would save the colony from ruin and restore its prosperity.

New industries are necessary to supplement the island's staple, but as our well-informed St. Patrick's correspondent recently pointed out they will not be undertaken by the large landowners whose properties are generally covered in cocoa, nor can they by the embarrassed peasants whose holdings are already established. They must, therefore, be carried out on empty lands by peasants not overburdened with cocoa lands and by laborers who are without lands at all. Where are the lands to come from to grow cotton, fruit and other paying industries than cocoa and spices? From the uncultivated areas of the large landowners. Let government, for instance, purchase the Chambord estate in St. Patrick's—there are other properties of big landowners lying idle which should also be acquired—divide it in five-acre lots and offer it to small peasants and laborers for the growth of cotton, stipulating that

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no cocoa must be grown thereon. Let them do so in every parish, selling the allotments on the same system as in Carriacou. In a few years every cent expended in the purchase will be repaid with interest, and several new industries will have been established, especially with the Land Bank to keep the new enfranchised peasants from the clutches of the money-lenders.

## BOOKS

### A PHASE OF THE IMMIGRATION PROBLEM.

**The Italian in America.** By Eliot Lord, John J. D. Trenor & Samuel J. Barrows. Published by B. F. Buck & Co., New York. 1905.

"The design of 'The Italian in America' is to present clearly the contribution of Italy to American development and citizenship." "Italian Settlement in American Cities," "On Farm and Plantation," "The Call for Better Distribution," are some chapter titles in this book of 250 pages. To anyone who has been trying to see through the present agitation for greater restriction of immigration and to make up his mind for or against the immigration bill in Congress, this book may prove helpful. The chapters, most of them, are written by Eliot Lord (Special Agent of U. S. Census), some few by J. J. D. Trenor, and one on "Pauperism, Disease and Crime," by Dr. Samuel J. Barrows (Secretary of the Prison Association of New York).

There is first given a statistical analysis of the flow of immigration to America from Italy; the numbers recently as compared with a few decades ago, and those from Italy and other Southern European countries as compared with those from the north of Europe. There follows a historical reminder of what good stock the present-day Italians spring from, and their recent most remarkable progress as a united nation—progress industrial, political, educational. And next is described the careful and very effective regulation of emigration by the Italian government, a system so thoroughly planned and carried out that it gives an assurance of decent treatment and intelligent action for every departing Italian, as well as a fairly good guarantee of his bodily and mental soundness.

Once landed in America, according to the writers, the Italian has proved himself far from a bad citizen, even in the large centers of population. He is industrious almost without exception, temperate and frugal. In all kinds of gardening in the North, in the rice and cotton plantations of the South, in the vineyards of California, wherever he has tried his hand at agriculture, the Italian has attained marked success. The Southern States are demanding his labor and offering all sorts of inducements, finding in him the solution of many of their problems. He can stand the climate, keeps steadily at his business, and will work alongside of the Negro. There is a rising demand in many sections of the United States for the Italian immigrant. His illiteracy is only a temporary matter. He educates his children, being less clannish about this than many other foreigners,

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