

ance, and so escaped these furious charges at the hands of crazy partisanship. Yet society will some day come to see that Cardinal Manning and Mr. Warner were right—that many of the crimes against property spring from the original denial to men of access to the means of livelihood, and that the perpetrators of such acts are morally guiltless.

There are other contributions to this symposium, but few of them merit more than passing comment. That of Carroll D. Wright is full of piety, and piety mixes ill with economics, and especially with such economics. Of course the *Journal's* title of these serial contributions, "How Shall Labor and Capital be Reconciled," is in itself misleading. As between themselves, labor and capital have nothing to reconcile. The conflict is between these two factors on one side, and monopoly on the other. The real reconciliation will be sought in the destruction of monopoly.

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### James E. Mills.

FROM THE CHICAGO PUBLIC.

(See *Frontispiece.*)

This name has no familiar associations to the mere newspaper reader. Whether its bearer lives or dies is not to that great mob-like public of the least concern. His fate would interest them more if he had been a horse jockey or a prize fighter. But there are circles into which the news of Mr. Mills's death will come with something of a shock. He died on the 25th of July, in Mexico, where he had been located for several years in the service, as mining expert, of a large American silver mining interest. In years he had almost lived out the allotted three score and ten.

James E. Mills was a native of New England. His scientific studies were pursued at Harvard college under Agassiz. He afterwards became an assistant of that distinguished naturalist, with whom he remained always upon terms of intimate friendship. Mr. Mills and Prof. Burt G. Wilder were accounted the greatest pupils Agassiz ever had.

Like his fellow student, Mr. Mills was a disciple of Swedenborg; and like their preceptor, he was a Christian evolutionist. In the latter respect he agreed also with his professional and personal friend, the eminent Joseph Le Conte, whose death preceded that of Mr. Mills by less than a month.

As a Swedenborgian, and for a time a minister of that faith, Mr. Mills was distinctly and decidedly averse to all ecclesiastical tendencies, but especially to those of organized Swedenborgianism. His religion was a philosophy rather than a creed, an adjustment of spiritual principle rather than a set of ritualistic observances. The effort of his adult life was to help strip Christianity of its human accretions.

This religious faith commended to his acceptance the economic principles popularized by Henry George. He consequently became a devoted disciple and valued friend of that "prophet of San Francisco."

A close thinker, Mr. Mills was also a fluent writer; but the productions of his pen are limited to essays and pamphlets. These, however, are profound and durable contributions to the subjects of which they treat.

Those subjects are scientific, religious and economic. In the first category is an essay on the building of a sierra. On religious questions strictly Mr. Mills's principal paper is intended to show that repentance is not remorse, but a development of character away from wrong and in the direction of right. All his writings on economic subjects are a blend of the economic and religious. To him economic righteousness was an external or outward expression of spiritual righteousness. One of his valuable papers along this line is a plea for service instead of sacrifice. Self-sacrifice, as usually taught, he held to be morbid, and at the bottom of all the excuses for enslavement and impoverishment. Equilibrium of service was his ideal.

In Boston, New York, San Francisco and other American centers of scientific, religious, and economic thought, Mr. Mills was long a familiar and respected character. Having made changeless principle, as distinguished from shifting expediency, the standard of all his thinking, he has contributed to the progressive impulses of his period.

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## Signs of Progress.

(St Paul (Minn.) *Globe*.)

The system of taxing personalty now in vogue is a scandal and a disgrace. It is a burden to the honest and thrifty poor; and it is a very hot-bed of perjury and fraud. The makeshift methods resorted to from time to time to work out some sort of solution of this deplorable state of things partake in themselves of the most undesirable characteristics of the evil aimed at.

(J. F. Cowern in Concord (N. H.) *Daily Patriot*.)

The firm of Miller & Lux, in California, owns 14,530,000 acres of land, nearly all of which is unimproved. It is equal to the area of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut together, and but little smaller than Ireland. While our present system of private ownership in land exists putting a premium on the holding of land out of use, it is nothing to wonder at that millions of men and women seek in vain for a chance to earn a decent living.

(Daphne (Ala.) *Standard*.)

Dr. Shradly gives out the opinion that the number of suicides increases with advancing civilization. One wonders if this would be so were the civilization really what it purports to be.

(New York *World*.)

Gen. Frederick Grant states that while he was in foreign lands his baggage was never examined. This experience is not unusual, though at Continental frontiers the search of men's effects for tobacco and liquors is sometimes thorough. But in no other country is the traveller obliged to take oath to his purchases and then examined on the assumption that he is a perjurer; and in none would such robbery as is above described be inflicted upon a lady under the law.

Of course ours is in the main a civilized country; but the traveller, native or foreign, who enters its chief port is tempted to doubt it.

(St. Louis *Republic*.)

The perpetuation of the high protective tariff threatens now to precipitate trade war, waged against this country by a European alliance, which would be of infinite costliness to American trade. The high protective tariff now only further enriches American trusts. It taxes the American consumer for this sole purpose. It is time to abolish the high protective tariff.

(Cincinnati (Ohio) *Times-Star*.)

Taxation directed against any kind of productive enterprise inevitably reduces the profitableness of such investment and to that extent reduces the willingness of capitalists to invest in undertakings which are subject to or threatened with special taxation.

The inevitable result being that production is hampered and wages fall because of the diminished demand for labor. This may be said to sum up the whole matter so far as the taxation of tangible and intangible personalty is concerned.