

RELATED THINGS

CONTRIBUTIONS AND REPRINT

FAITH.

Dora Sigerson Shorter in the London Nation.

I hear the thrush and blackbird sing,
And blackbird sing.
Their hoied voices wake the sleeping spring,
The slothful spring;
And as each lovely note sighs forth and soars,
Green to the bough doth come, and bloom restores
The earth from mourning for the year at rest.
She holds the golden babe upon her breast,
The new-born spring, the waking spring.

Their glorious tune I dare not hear,
I dare not hear.
Nor April's flower behold without a tear,
Without a tear.
And friends will come to beat upon my door
With "Open wide thy casement, for before
Was never spring so fair nor song so sweet";
I push the bolt and to my heart repeat,
"I dare not hear, I dare not hear."

And comes a child to call upon my name,
Taps on the pane,
"Oh, look thou forth and listen, ne'er again,
Oh, ne'er again
Shall thrush and blackbird sing as now they tune
Their voice in chorus for the birth of June."
Swift from my window wide I lean and cry
What to his curious elders I deny—
And speak my pain, and speak my pain.

"The blackbird's song how can I hear,
How can I hear,
When he who held their singing ever dear,
Who held it dear,
Sleeps sound though all the golden thrushes sing?"
Thus to the child, still idly loitering,
I weeping said, and he did make reply—
"How can he hear, when thou dost sob and cry,
How can he hear; how can he hear?"

Oh, little child, who wouldst not me deceive,
Thou dost believe
That his dear spirit still to earth doth cleave,
Doth cling and cleave,
And in the glory of the earthly air
Finds gladness yet, and still can take a share;
Nor lies he soulless in eternal sleep.
I fling my casement wide, no more to weep—
I must believe, I will believe.

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A WINDY DEBATE.

For The Public.

"It's an ill wind that blows no one any good," said the Protectionist. "It consequently follows," he continued, "that two ill winds will blow twice as much good as one, and if we make enough ill winds blow we can blow benefits to every one.

Therefore it is as plain as day that the way to prosperity is to establish and maintain a beneficent system of ill winds."

"You are wrong," answered the Tariff Reformer, "Ill winds blow far more evil than good. We only want enough of them to blow good into the public treasury. Anything more than that is unnecessary and wrong."

"Then why have any ill winds at all?" butted in the Free Trader. "Good winds are far better than ill ones to blow good into the public treasury and everywhere else. Why not abolish the ill winds entirely?"

The Protectionist and the Tariff Reformer could not help laughing at the childish ignorance of the Free Trader.

S. DANZIGER.

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OLIVER T. ERICKSON.



Oliver T. Erickson, the candidate for councilman of Seattle, who took the lead for nomination at the open-for-all primary last March and was elected a few days later by the largest vote ever cast in Seattle for any candidate,* was born in

*See The Public, current volume, page 251.

Red Wing, Minnesota, in 1858. He spent his boyhood on a Goodhue County farm, where he received the frontiersman's education in hard work.

At sixteen he joined an older brother in Minneapolis as a carpenter's apprentice. Passing successively from apprentice to journeyman, foreman, and superintendent, he helped erect many of the large buildings of Minneapolis in the later eighties and early nineties.

He was elected a County Commissioner of Hennepin County in 1886 and served four years. During that time the legislature created a Court House and City Hall Commission for Minneapolis and Hennepin County of which Mr. Erickson was made a member. He served on this Commission twelve years, and in a history of the Commission published in 1909, received a fine tribute for efficient and faithful service. The last seven years of his residence in Minneapolis he was superintendent of buildings and machinery for Wm. Donaldson & Co.

But the cold winters of Minnesota made inroads upon his health, and in the spring of 1900 he resigned his Donaldson position and his official place on the Court House Commission and moved to Seattle, where he organized the Erickson-Wyman Company for the manufacture of electrical machinery. Through the eleven years of this company's life, Mr. Erickson has been its president.

Mr. Erickson's connection with the single tax movement dates back to 1885, when his brother, E. G. Erickson, who was then living in Chicago, sent him a copy of "Progress and Poverty." It was a case of true love at first reading, and no political affinities have since arisen to disturb its course. He regards his education, so far as he admits having any, as having begun with the reading of that book. The tone of the man's character may be caught in this extract from an address delivered in a campaign for Mayor of Seattle a year ago: "It has not been my good fortune to receive the benefits that come from a university education. I have had to rely on the daily papers as my teachers, the magazines as my professors, and the university of hard knocks as my alma mater. If I have any fitness for the high office friends have asked me to seek, the credit is due to those educators, to an affectionate brother, and to twenty years' association with a cultured and thoughtful wife."

It was Henry George and his books that made Mr. Erickson a politician; but a politician for a cause. Never out of season but tirelessly within season, he has worked for his cause with the same forethought and energy he has given to his business; and political activity has afforded him one of his greatest opportunities. Whether a candidate himself or not has made no difference to him; he has worked just the same. But such a man—masterful though modest, clear-headed and courageous—would inevitably be thrust into the lead in any enterprise he might enter upon. So it was

that he became the Democratic candidate for Congress from Minneapolis in 1894, that fateful year of popular reaction against Grover Cleveland's administration, when a Democratic Congress of 94 majority in the lower House was turned into a Republican majority of 142. In a nominally Republican district, this democratic Democrat and pronounced free trader, stood no chance whatever of election, and he was defeated; but his campaign was among the first of those progressive fights which Tom L. Johnson began in 1888, and which are now becoming national in their magnitude.

It is interesting to note that Thomas G. Shearman made a special trip from New York to Minneapolis to speak for Mr. Erickson's election in that campaign, and that Henry George was his personal friend and political mentor. It was Mr. Erickson who in the middle '80's brought Henry George from Chicago to Minneapolis to lecture in the latter place after his first lecture in the former.

Since going to Seattle, Mr. Erickson has changed in nothing but the growth that comes with experience to all who are of open mind and faithful purpose.

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RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN POPULAR GOVERNMENT.

Portions of a Speech Advocating the Popular Election of Senators, Delivered in the Senate of the United States, Feb. 14, by the Hon. Jonathan Bourne, Jr.

Recent discussions by some of the opponents of the pending resolution providing for direct election of United States Senators have enriched literature, furnished well-rounded periods and beautiful diction, resurrected the Athenians and Romans and carried us back thousands of years, but have absolutely failed to prove that selfish interest rather than general welfare is the better motive power of government or that the individual legislator is wiser, more unselfish, better developed, or more competent to legislate or select public servants than is the composite citizen.

A Brief History of the Evolution of Popular Government.

The art of printing was discovered in 1456 and gave to the day of general intellectual development its dawn. Cromwell (1599-1658) taught kings true sovereignty—the sovereignty of the people. John Locke (1632-1704), the son of a captain in Cromwell's army and a graduate of Oxford, among other things printed for the world his theory of popular sovereignty, which theory no doubt was cradled in the uprising of the English people under Cromwell. Hume (1711-1776) in England and Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) in Paris and Geneva, contemporaneously