

bad men in politics, a majority, even a large majority, but that only proves its need for clean men. If it were all right there were no need for reformers. The presence of large evil is the proof of a need for great men.

We are now at the opening of a new era in nation building. The dishonest public servants will be weeded out; the wrongly directed public policies will be abandoned; and new policies, new men, and new opportunity will take their places. But this change must be effected by men.

And shall we despair of the possibility of honest statesmen when we see the La Follettes, the Woodrow Wilsons, the Tom L. Johnsons? Shall we say that an honest young man of determination and high purpose can do no good in politics, when such men, by their lives, have proved the possibility?

The Senator from Wisconsin started his reform work in his home State. He rose gradually in esteem there; and now, probably there is not in the nation a more loved and honored man than Robert M. La Follette. You and I, schoolmates, can only read of the terrible fight which he waged while Governor of Wisconsin. But you parents can recall it. It was a mortal struggle between right and wrong—between the demanders of special privilege and the protector of the public rights. One cannot express, can only feel the appreciation for this the grandest figure in American politics today.

Our country mourned, a few months ago, the death of a man who was essentially a city server. Public Service was Mayor Tom Johnson's dream of the night, his vision of the day, the work of his life. It was Tom L. Johnson, Steel Magnate, Street Car Owner, Millionaire, who, reading Henry George's book, "Progress and Poverty," conceived the vision of Service. He served the public in Congress when he opposed a tariff on steel, though he as a business man would profit by it. He served the public in Cleveland.

He found us striving each his selfish part.
He leaves a City with a Civic Heart,
Which gives the fortune-fallen a new birth,
And reunites him with his Mother Earth;
Which seeks to look beyond the broken law
To find the broken life, and mend its flaw.

. . . Nay, no demigod,

But a plain man, close to the common sod
Whence springs the grass of our humanity. . .
And is he fallen? Aye, but mark him well;
He ever rises further than he fell.
A man is passing! I salute him, then,
In these few words: He served his fellowmen!

"He served his fellowmen!"

Ever striving to be true to this vision, ever trying to consummate the ideals here pictured by our teachers, may we go forth to do our work in our country's service.

BOOKS

A MARKED FIGURE IN HUMAN PROGRESS.

The Life and Letters of Martin Luther. By Preserved Smith. Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston. Price, \$3.50 net.

The author of this new biography of an active agent in the making of religious history offers an apology for bringing another coal to Newcastle. "A glance at the catalogue of any great library—that of the British Museum for instance—will show that more has been written about Luther than about any man, save one, who ever lived. . . . One main reason is to be found in the extraordinarily rapid advance of recent research which within the last twenty years has greatly changed the knowledge of the man." With these new sources of information at his command, Mr. Smith has been able to give his readers what they have hitherto missed in the study of Martin Luther—a revelation of the man rather than of the theologian.

In the copious extracts given from table-talk and letters vivid glimpses are caught of the real Luther hidden so long behind the theological mask in which he has been always presented by the historian. No trait of his heroic character is left untouched. His indomitable will, his loyalty to conscience, his courage "never to submit or yield" are qualities associated with his name, but the warm heart, the ready humor, the capacity to penetrate to the very essence of things have not been so fully revealed. It may be further noticed that the coarseness of the uncultivated nature with its bursts of uncontrollable temper is manifested more than once in the story of his life. It was the coarse fiber and fighting quality of the man, undoubtedly, that made him the powerful force that he was in the resistance of Church tyrannies and iniquities to which his eyes had been opened during his seven years of monastic life when, as he said, he looked for Christ and it seemed as if he saw the devil.

The heretic of the twentieth century may fail to understand why Luther stopped short in his denunciation of Church doctrines that impute human frailties and absurdities to Divine Love and Intelligence. For the heretic of today sees in the creed of Luther himself the narrowness of vision, the harshness of judgment, the limited conception of Divine Law which he brought along with him out of the wreck of his faith in Papacy. Perhaps the highest expression of tolerance for those who differed from him may be found in his remarks on Cicero who he said did not "fool" like the Greeks Plato and Aristotle.

"I hope God will forgive such men as Cicero

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO LIBRARY

their sins. Even if he should not be redeemed he will enjoy a situation in hell several degrees higher than that destined for our Cardinal of Mayence." This was admirable charity in one who thundered anathemas at the Church.

Yet the Modernists of the present time may find inspiration in the magnificent courage of Luther with his unconquerable will and tremendous power of resistance to the evils that he found entrenched in the very heart of the Church to the holiest offices of which he had aspired. The author of the new biography brings out the innate integrity of the reformer while leaving his own words to betray the human weakness of some of his judgments.

If his ideals of marriage were not of the highest order, if he was of the opinion that bigamy was a lighter sin than divorce, he appears none the less to have been unselfish in his choice of a wife and to have been affectionate and faithful in all family relations.

Perhaps it was inevitable that a man of such strong convictions should have been lamentably intolerant toward his fellow reformers whose convictions of truth differed from his own. But he set in motion a mighty wave which, rolling down the centuries, has purified itself of many falsities and deepened a channel of religious thought in which all waters may meet, if not to mingle, at least to run harmoniously together toward the great ocean of truth where all is clear.

Who ever is interested in the history of the Reformation will find the Life and Letters of Martin Luther a valuable contribution to the literature marking that era in religious progress.

A. L. M.

PERIODICALS

Tom L. Johnson in Hampton's.

Besides the Tom L. Johnson installment in Hampton's for August, which tells of Mayor Johnson's experience with taxation problems, this magazine contains a vivacious and instructive (for such as have eyes to see) semi-satirical woman suffrage story by Mary Lavinia Bray, the title of which is "The Speech Impromptu."

Free Trade Broadside.

No. 1 of volume 3 of this publication, the first since the death of William Lloyd Garrison, who was devoted to it and dictated from his death bed the last editorial appearing in it prior to its revival now by Louis R. Ehrich and Roger Sherman Hoar, bears the date of July and holds in its 16 pages an excellent selection of material. Congressman Redfield's "American Wage Standard" is of special importance at the present time, for this demonstrates the point for employers to consider with reference to wages that "it is not the rate of wages but the rate of output," "not what you pay, but what you get for what you pay, that counts."

+ +

The Single Tax Review.

The May-June number of the Single Tax Review (150 Nassau St., New York) has been delayed by the plans of its managers to make it a special number on Vancouver, and the result has justified the delay. Having sent Luther S. Dickey to the Pacific Coast as its special representative for the purpose, the Review presents from his pen the most minute and complete report on the Vancouver experiment in land value taxation that has yet appeared anywhere. An edition of 50,000 of this number has been printed, and the editor and publisher, Joseph Dana Miller, asks Singletaxers wherever they may be, to promote its circulation. He is not quite correct in editorially describing Vancouver as "the first Single-tax city in the world"—there are Australasian cities that might regard that distinction as invidious—but Vancouver is the first on our Continent, and doubtless the most important in the world. In announcing that this is the initial step in a new line of work, the Review gives promise of a useful career toward which Singletaxers generally and those of the American continent especially cannot afford to be indifferent. The next number is to deal with Edmonton as the present one does with Vancouver.

+ +

The French Single Tax Review.

The first issue of La Revue de L'Impot Unique, the organ of the new French League for the Single Tax, has come to hand, bearing date of July 1. In lively, crisp and picturesque style the editor, Georges Darien, tells of the formation of the new League and its indebtedness to "the generosity of an American who has consecrated his energy and his fortune to the spread of the doctrines of Henry George." The Revue has been launched to fight "against the stupid

Crying in the Wilderness

has been the role of The Public during its life until of late.

It is being read now by an ever-widening circle of those who are actually making political history.

Won't you contribute to this widening process by sending some subscribers.