

Death of Edward D. Burleigh.

One of the earliest Philadelphia disciples of Henry George, Dr. Edward D. Burleigh, died on the 2d. He and his wife, Florence A. Burleigh, who survives him, were active and prominent a score of years ago or more in that group in Philadelphia, which in those old days of the Anti-Poverty crusade, included both Arthur H. Stephenson (vol. v, p. 437) and Frank Stephens. The devoted and sincere personality of both the Burleighs will be recalled far and wide by their fellow pioneers of that old movement which is now passing into its second and vastly more influential stage. They were among those of its pioneers whose faith never gave out.

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Making Socialist Voters.

Impressed with the election of the Socialist candidate for Congress from one of the Milwaukee districts, Victor Berger, the newspapers have ignored the fact that Mr. Berger's election only happened to be a few hundred votes on the winning side among many more Socialist candidacies that fell only a few hundred short. Mr. Gaylord, for instance, the Socialist candidate for Congress in the Milwaukee district adjoining Berger's, was defeated by less than 500. In Minneapolis the Socialist candidate for mayor came within a thousand or so of election. And in Columbus, Ohio, where the corporations crushed a street car strike (p. 925) under exasperating circumstances, the Socialist candidate for Congress polled 11,000 votes, although the most that had been conceded him was 5,000. Whether the "gangs" in Big Business and politics are making Socialists or not, they are making Socialist votes with dexterity and in wholesale quantities.

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Occidental Barbarism in the Orient.

A committee of which Hutchins Hapgood is chairman and Leonard Abbott, Emma Goldman, Dr. Reitman and Rose Strunsky are among the members, makes an appeal for American influence against a wholesale execution of progressives in Japan. This appeal says that "Dr. Denjiro Kotoku, his wife, and twenty-four other socialists and anarchists" have been arbitrarily convicted and sentenced to death for "plotting against the Imperial family." The Japanese government refuses to disclose particulars, and the crime is believed to consist only "in spreading radical ideas and in translating the works of Karl Marx, Leo Tolstoy, Peter Kropotkin and Michael Bakunin.

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It is a significant fact that the same bloody and

futile efforts at suppressing novelty in opinion, which have characterized the development of democracy in the past, are still pursued. They are futile because nothing can stop the truth, and error fizzles out of itself when unopposed. Then why kill persons who think for themselves, merely because their thinking disagrees with prevailing thought? It only adds to the horrors of a civilization which nothing can perpetuate in so far as it is false. That Japan should borrow Occidental brutality to cope with new Oriental thinking, instead of meeting thought with thought, is a blot upon her. If the Japanese Ambassador could impress his government with the view that in the United States, despite all its barbaric characteristics, there really is at bottom a human feeling that Japan and all the rest of the world ought to be hospitable to discussion, he would not be wrong as to the fact, and he would help on the development, both in his country and ours, of the best there is in Western civilization.

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WHITE SLAVES AND SLAVERS.

With the sanity and courage that characterize all her work, Mrs. Raymond Robins reminded an audience before which she recently spoke with reference to the petty arguments in behalf of labor "sweaters" in the Chicago strike (p. 1137) that there is one great fact that cannot be pushed aside. This fact, "which," she said, "stands out starkly in all this cloud of technicalities, is that the girls and women employed in the garment working business are being literally worked to death at wages grossly insufficient to keep body and soul together." Proceeding with the thought, she argued:

Society must not expect girls to remain pure who month in and month out are systematically overworked and underpaid. The toxin of fatigue will ultimately undermine the strongest constitution, and the girl physically worn out at the end of her work day lacks the physical strength to resist temptation and seeks in morals the line of least resistance. This is the law of nature and none but the strongest characters can resist it.

It were well if society would recognize that menacing fact.

There are in very truth no greater enemies of society than those employers who stand out for the right to drive hard bargains with working girls—except, of course, the persons who encourage them to do it. Here are the real pirates of the "white slave" traffic; and the more respectable they appear to be, the worse they are. Bishop Williams of Michigan analyzed them when he described them as men with "a dual conscience," being

"careful in their religious duties, generous in giving of their means and even of themselves in the work of charity, leaders in ecclesiastical activities, often irreproachable in personal morals, faithful as fathers, neighbors and friends, and yet in the larger relations of life in the commercial, political and industrial realms they seem utterly devoid of conscience—unmoral, perhaps, rather than immoral."

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Would you understand the method whereby those "white slavers" fleece their victims? It is by playing the hopeless poverty of one person off against the hopeless poverty of another in their bargain driving. Here is an example. A garment worker of the name of Yacullo—a "scab" in the slang of the labor war, which is equivalent to "deserter" or "traitor" in other kinds of war—shot a striker and killed him. Yacullo explained: "I cannot afford to strike; I have a wife and seven hungry children to support."

There is the secret of the power of the oppressive employer. He prates about the right of the worker to work without molestation, whether he gets enough out of it to live on or not. Judges echo these employers. They have perverted the law of injunction to help them out. And preachers garb their greediness in religious masks. What such employers really demand—masks off—is the right to play timid victims of a plundering industrial system against braver ones. Men who cannot afford to strike because they have hungry wives and children to support, and girls who cannot afford to lose work because they have feminine virtue to conserve—these are among the hapless creatures upon whom your gordid strike resisters rely to defeat strikers and to fleece both strikers and "scabs."

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And those employers wish it so. If you don't believe it, make the experiment of proposing such improvements in social adjustments as would loosen up monopolies. They would resist that too.

Of course they would be virtuous about it. With sickening hypocrisy they would tell you it would be confiscation. Oh, how they do object to confiscating property after it is in the hands of labor exploiters! But they have no objection to confiscating property as it passes through the hands of its producers.

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Political liberty, when the equal right to land is denied, becomes, as population increases and invention goes on, merely the liberty to compete for employment at starvation wages.—Henry George, "Progress and Poverty."

EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE

THE BRITISH SITUATION.

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On the whole, politically, we have had very quiet times, and yet times of steady and continuous progress. Land reform on the lines of the taxation of land values, is taking a firm hold of the minds and is dominating the thought of the progressives throughout the country. Even reactionaries have had to take refuge in pseudo-schemes of land reform, by which they vainly hope to remove social ills without removing social wrongs.

The land valuation has done and is doing a great work. It was the valuation which prompted the House of Land-Lords to the unprecedented and unconstitutional step of rejecting the Budget last year; and it is the valuation, and all that it foreshadows, which is giving the Liberal party a hold on the country such as it has not enjoyed, nor indeed deserved, since the passing of the last great Reform Bill.

Lloyd George is still guiding the thoughts and voicing the aspirations of the progressives of Great Britain. He does not indulge in what you aptly describe as "weasel words," but speaks straight from the heart and hits straight from the shoulder. His recent broad and philosophic speech on the social problem, at a public meeting held at the City Temple in support of the work of the Liberal-Christian League, attracted general attention, and gained him the praise of some of his most pronounced political opponents. Yet it probed more deeply into the root question than any of his previous speeches. His final counsel to the people—"to enlarge the purpose of their politics, and, having done so, let them adhere to that purpose with unswerving resolve through all difficulties and discouragements until their redemption is accomplished"—is being followed and will bear its fruits in the near future.

Yes, Lloyd George has already done much for his country, more especially for the disinherited landless masses of the people, and may lead them to still greater victories. For the inevitable policy of the Liberal party of the future is now steadily revealing itself.

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Behind Lloyd George, however, stands the great, powerful, inscrutable personality of Mr. Asquith, a man honored both by friends and opponents, and of all modern British statesmen the most difficult to read. Less democratic, less warm-hearted, and less broad-minded than the late Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, he may be; but as a politician and as a political leader he is stronger and more forcible; and I am still convinced that without his tacit but loyal support Lloyd George's fire and zeal for the cause of the people would have been far less fruitful. Lloyd George fires the bullets; but, even if not forged, they have been tempered and approved by the man who today rules the Cabinet and the country, and is trusted by the Cabinet and the country as few Liberal leaders ever before.

The following extract from Asquith's fighting speech, delivered at a luncheon at the National Lib-