

Governor Garvin

WHILE the last issue of the REVIEW was in press the news came of the unexpected death on Oct. 2nd of Lucius F. C. Garvin, who deserved the designation of the "Grand Old Man of the Single Tax Movement," better than almost any other of the adherents of that idea. Only two weeks before his death he was a conspicuous figure at a gathering of progressive-minded people assembled at Nantucket on the invitation of Hon. Frederic C. Howe to discuss the burning questions of the hour. His vitality, both physical and mental, excited the wonder of his associates, and many comments were made as to the hospitality which his mind showed to ideas regarded as ultra-modern. Eighty-one years of militant effort for the spread of democracy had neither weakened his hope of its ultimate success nor had it made him impervious to the changes of form in its realization which recent years have revealed to be necessary.

He was born in Tennessee in 1841, the son of James Garvin, Jr., native of Vermont, graduate of Amherst in the class of 1831, and professor in the East Tennessee University. How profoundly James Garvin was interested in education is shown by the fact that he named his son for Lucius Fayette Clark, one of the distinguished educators of his time.

The father did not long survive the birth of his son. The family moved to Greensborough, North Carolina, where Lucius F. C. Garvin attended a Friends' School. When ready for college, he came North, entered his father's college, Amherst, from which he graduated in 1862. He enlisted in the United States Army upon his graduation, and joined the Fifty-fifth Massachusetts' volunteers and served principally in North Carolina. After his discharge from the army in 1864, he settled in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, chiefly because many of his regimental associates lived there. He then began the study of medicine, and, having completed his studies, and passed his examinations at the Harvard Medical School, he was awarded a diploma in 1867.

He began his medical practice in Lonsdale where he maintained an office for fifty-five years. He had the distinction of being the only member of the medical profession ever elected Governor of Rhode Island. For forty years he was active in the political life of his State. Five times a candidate for Governor, he was elected twice. He sat in the Legislature for nineteen years, being elected to the Assembly sixteen times, and three times to the Senate.