

subject around to the fundamental principle of single tax, with a humorous smile at his own enthusiasm. In his speeches he chose always to speak of the ethical side of the question, rather than of its more abstract economic side—another proof of the depth it had sunk into his heart. For I must repeat how absolutely he believed in the theory. He loved and revered the great expounder; he believed that Henry George had solved the problem with absolute finality.

But while the single tax satisfied him that all other remedies were useless or at best were half-way measures, nevertheless he welcomed every effort toward reform. That is why he so ardently supported Mr. Bryan's two campaigns, for he belonged to no party. In the earnest campaign of last year the Democratic platform seemed to him to stand for all that is good and noble in our national traditions, and with many others he fought against dangers that seemed to threaten the very existence of our Republic.

My father's last public speaking was done two nights before election day last November. Then he laid away his written speech, and I have found this inscription on the package:

"The epoch-making campaign of 1900 is closed. The fate of the nation is now in the hands of the people. To-morrow is a fateful day for this Republic. I hope for the best." It can be seen how much his heart was in a victory for Mr. Bryan and the Democratic party. It can be imagined how deep was his disappointment at the result of the election. But it was not discouragement. As he often said on the platform in speaking of the effect on him of "Progress and Poverty:"

"My reading of this great book and my meeting with its author changed the whole trend of my reasoning, and I became mentally free. All of Mr. George's followers are at least mentally free; that is, they know just what they want, and they keep asking for it, intelligently, persistently."

He was not to see the Promised Land which the new prophet had pointed out. But I do not think he ever hoped for as much as that. To a reformer the joy is in doing; his work is its own reward. It is much to be "mentally free." Whatever work my father was able to do for the cause, nothing is perhaps so important or essential as the fact that he believed in the single tax, first of all; that it was to him at once faith, politics, and patriotism.

---

### Unpublished Letter of Count Tolstoy to Henry George.

DEAR SIR:—The reception of your letter gave me a great joy, for I have known and loved you a long time. Though the paths we go by are different I do not think that we differ in the foundation of our thoughts.

I was very glad to see you mention twice in your letter the life to come. There is nothing that widens the horizon so much, that gives so firm a support or so clear a view of things as the consciousness that although it is but in this life that we have the possibility and the duty to act, nevertheless this is not the whole of life, but only that bit of it which is open to our understanding.

I shall wait with great impatience the appearance of your new book, which will contain the so much needed criticism of the orthodox political economy. The reading of every one of your books makes clear to me things which were not so before, and confirms me more and more in the truth and practicability of your system. Still more do I rejoice at the thought that I may possibly see you.

With sincere affection

I am truly your friend,

LEO TOLSTOY.