

## THE SINGLE TAX A RELIGION.

(*For the Review.*)

By **W. H. T. WAKEFIELD.**

The chief thing to be considered in relation to the Single Tax is that it is first of all justice—righteousness—among men. The purpose of the George Philosophy is to make true religion the practice as well as the profession of men and women, to render society as a whole as good as its average membership.

Many now pray: "Thy Kingdom come on Earth as in Heaven" who would be the first to yell: "Anarchy! Nihilism! riot! ruin of the country, disruption of society! Confiscation of property, call out the militia!!" if their prayer were suddenly realized.

To pray for a thing and not to work for it is hypocrisy, or a dead and worthless faith that has degenerated to a mere degrading superstition.

To those who fully comprehend them, the economic principles of Henry George are a vital religion—the practical expression of Christ's doctrine of a common Father and a common Brotherhood of Men; a belief that human statutes should conform to divine or natural law, and that it is the duty of all good people to try to bring the "Kingdom on Earth as in Heaven."

Can one imagine an aristocracy or a plutocratic landlordism with pride and arrogance of wealth in Heaven? Can one imagine a late arrival in the celestial city going to the office of an early settler there and cringing bargaining for leave to stay some portion of his time elsewhere than on the (perhaps) crowded golden pavements? If the evils of landlordism, with its long train of heartless cruelties, are out of place in Heaven, are they not equally unchristian on earth?

I have made considerable effort to interest clergymen in this view of the question, but find most of them too indifferent to pay any attention to the subject and others actively hostile to it. One who claimed to have read *Progress and Poverty* said he feared there was infidelity concealed in it, as in most reform books; another said he had been taught how to preach the gospel and needed no help from Mr. George or his disciples; another said it was not the business of the Church to reform the world, but to save souls, etc.

As this was the attitude of the Church on the slavery question and the liquor question until these institutions became unpopular, so we may expect a similar reversal of policy when the Single Tax becomes popular and too strong to need assistance. When that time comes, what an abundance of good texts for sermons will at once become available.

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## A RAINY DAY SYMPOSIUM.

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By **W. H. T. WAKEFIELD.**

When Solomon said: "The destruction of the poor is their poverty," he would have struck a truer note had he said "ignorance" instead of "poverty," for in this day ignorance is the mother of poverty, especially as applied to the industrial classes.

Not long ago a rainy day and a washed out bridge left a Chicago traveling