

individual accountable for his moral delinquencies, and place the blame where it truly belongs, upon our defective social organization."

The mission of Henry James to the world is to point the sharp distinction between moral and spiritual life, and to break down our reverence for old institutions. That of Henry George is to show a practical method by which these institutions can be abolished and others more in harmony with Divine justice established.

M. CEBELIA HOLLISTER.

THREE ACRES AND LIBERTY.

The subject of intensive cultivation is one of perennial interest, and to say that Bolton Hall's new book, "Three Acres and Liberty," contains the latest and most reliable information on the subject is merely to state in other words that Mr. Hall is the author. Perhaps one should rather say, the editor, for quotation marks are liberally sprinkled throughout the volume and Mr. Hall seems quite willing that his authorities should tell their own story. As an editor, however, Mr. Hall displays the same ability that marks his authorship, the selections in every case being full of meat and right to the point. Government reports are ransacked and expert testimony presented on every phase of the subject from irrigation to honey bees and from fertilizers to pheasants. Nor are the reports invariably rosy. In the matter of poultry raising, for example, which is popularly supposed to be one of the most lucrative forms of small farming, "a good average man," as Mr. Hall describes him, writes in an extremely pessimistic vein, and while he, himself, is quite willing to admit his possible unfitness for the business as the cause, Mr. Hall, upon reflection, is inclined to exonerate him and charge his failure up to the conditions of the business, among which he mentions the "subsidized hens of the farmer" and "the pauper hens of Canada and Denmark." It must have been pauper hens *Punch* was thinking of when he perpetrated the following: "'Arry, wet sort of a 'ouse would do for a fowl 'ouse?" "Why, me dear boy, henny 'ouse." Yet, while not disposed to grant its paramount importance in the poultry business, Mr. Hall does not always treat the personal equation so lightly, as witness: "Some persons are just naturally so successful with plants that if they stuck an umbrella in the ground we should expect to see it blossom out into parasols." After reading this we cannot help fearing that all the astonishing statistics of celery and asparagus have been furnished by these inspired gardeners and that "good average men" like ourselves would

meet the same fate with our vegetables that our brother did with his poultry. Still, Mr. Hall assures us, that on three acres "An energetic man could clear one thousand dollars a year besides his living, unless some predatory railroad corporation could confiscate his profits before his products reached the market." A very large "unless" indeed! What does Mr. Hall think railroads are in business for if not to confiscate farmers' profits? Does he expect a merely "good average man" to get ahead of Mr. Harriman? The matter of transportation, however, is one to which Mr. Hall, while admitting its importance, devotes very little space. In fact, he considers it half settled already.

"Well begun is half done," says the proverb, and regarding transportation Mr. Hall remarks: "The first step, *now well under way*, is railway control by the Government." Such serene confidence in these troublous times is indeed comforting. This confidence, however, may well be partly assumed, for Mr. Hall clearly perceives that without some assurance of fair railway rates his prospective farmer's outlook is not encouraging. That view he expresses in the following emphatic though somewhat cryptic utterance: "Equal access to transportation is as essential as equal access to land, for transportation is indeed an attribute of land." This is surely a case of a sound and sensible conclusion deduced from a lame and impotent premise. Since when, pray, has transportation been an attribute of land? Single Taxers like Mr. Hall used to teach that immobility—the very antithesis of transportation—was an attribute of land, and for that reason land was a good object of taxation. "Land lies out of doors. It cannot be hidden and it cannot be carried away; therefore a tax on it cannot be evaded." Has Mr. Hall forgotten his Single Tax catechism?

But if transportation receives little attention, that other bugbear of the small farmer, the middleman, receives less. And truly when the prices paid by the consumer are compared with those received by the farmer, the middleman looms up as even a worse extortioner than the railroad. To be sure, as our socialist friends point out, the chief trouble here is perhaps with our wasteful system of distribution rather than with the individual merchant, but whatever the cause the small farmer, who is at the mercy of the average commission man, is very liable to spend most of his labor for naught. To complete the subject Mr. Hall should follow up this book, which is really a treatise on improved methods of production, with one on distribution, an equally important and even more urgent question. After all, though, the phase of the subject most interesting to readers of the REVIEW is the "land question," which the advertisements assure us "of course appears in the book." Here, if anywhere, we might

*Three Acres and Liberty, by Bolton Hall. Red cloth, 12 mo., 419 pp. Price \$1.75 net. The Macmillan Company, New York, N. Y.

expect that Mr. Hall would be his own authority and preach us a good, wholesome Single Tax sermon. Yet here again his editorial instinct or habit asserts itself and he presents the views of another. Well! you say, why not? "With George and McGlynn and Shearman to draw from, why should Mr. Hall not be permitted to follow the dictates of his native modesty and call to his aid the eloquence of the mighty dead?"

To this reasonable query your humble reviewer can only reply in the picturesque language of the vernacular, "search me." For amazing to relate, the authority on the land question invoked by Mr. Hall is none other than a "professional land shark." "Satan called on to rebuke sin," do you say? Wrong again! Here is no stern rebuke or even mealy mouthed apology, but much carefully considered advice how best to deliberately plan to profit by the labor of others. How to get possession of "that land which others must have in order to work or live." In short, how to take advantage in cold blood of that wicked system which Henry George said produced a veritable hell upon earth. Of course, the plea of necessity is understood—that if you don't do it to others, others will do it to you, but this is a cause for regret and apology not for cool and cynical satisfaction. Surely it is not either necessary or virtuous to thus attempt to make a virtue of necessity.

P. AITKEN.

ELBERT HUBBARD ON GEORGE.

Perhaps we ought to feel grateful for this one of "The Little Journeys to the Homes of Great Reformers," it being a sketch of Henry George's life and a not unfair, though wholly inadequate treatment of his philosophy and the reform of the Single Tax. But, somehow, our gratitude wanes when we read the many inaccurate statements of incidents in George's life, which Mr. Hubbard has somewhere picked up and set down, utterly careless, as he always is, of verification.

And not only does our gratitude wane, but it fades altogether when we see the chief Roycrofter looming large on the canvas, and Mr. George visible only when it becomes necessary to trot him forward to enforce Mr. Hubbard's more or less questionable philosophy of life.

It is an open secret that most of the great reformers have only existed—though they walked the world unconscious of the fact—that they might some day provide themes for the Fra to descant upon in his *insouciant* and delightfully reckless manner. In all of this there was to be no attempt "wrought in sad sincerity" to get at the heart of their philosophies. In place of such attempt there was to be persistent

attitudinizing—not the search for truth and sober utterance. Only the pose—the pose!
J. D. M.

The Report of the Special Committee of the House of Commons on the Rating of Land Values, 32 pages, can be obtained of the *Review* for five cents a copy. Substantial reduction will be made on the price in quantities.

PERSONAL.

Ralph Hoyt writes us that the Single Tax is growing in Southern California.

It was that old and ever-active Single Taxer, Mr. Chas. H. Govan, who at the last meeting of Typographical Union No. 6 introduced the resolutions calling for a reconsideration of the recommendations of the Postal Commission to limit the advertising matter of periodicals admitted to mailing privileges.

It was through Mr. Govan's activity that the Dickens Fellowship (the Manhattan branch) has become a flourishing organization.

The death of a pioneer Single Taxer of Atlanta, Ga., is announced in the person of J. Henley Smith, who was the editor of a paper called *Confederacy*, published in Atlanta during the Civil War, and who in 1869 joined with Alexander H. Stephens in establishing the *Atlanta Sun* which was afterwards merged with the *Constitution*. Mr. Smith died in his 78th year.

Miss Elizabeth Magie, inventor of the Landlord's Game, the advertisement of which will be found on our back pages, has an article in the March number of the *Editor*.

Mr. William Lloyd Garrison was a recent visitor to this office.

Mr. Edwin Harding, of Queensland, Australia, writes us under date of January 24th: "Since it appears that the SINGLE TAX REVIEW is to be the medium of Single Taxers throughout the world, I would suggest that some effort should be made to make us acquainted with the various workers and writers. This you do in grand style when they die." Brother Harding will take notice that in this issue we "make him acquainted" with some of our foremost British comrades.

In praising in the highest terms Dr. (Col.) Wm. C. Gorgas for his great work of sanitation in the Panama Canal zone, President Roosevelt pays a deserved tribute to a faithful public servant and a Single Taxer.