

THE BOOK AND THE AUTHOR

ABRIDGED FROM ALEXANDER HARVEY, EDITOR

PATRICK EDWARD DOVE was a Scotchman, born at Lasswade, near Edinburgh, July 31, 1815. His father was a Lieutenant Dove of the royal navy. The families of both parents had been for generations rich and prominent. The Doves had given many officers of high rank to the navy of their king, and one ancestor had been bishop of Peterborough, famous in his day. Commander Francis Dove settled the family in Devonshire in 1716.

Patrick Edward received a good education in his own country and in France. From the French Academy he was expelled in disgrace for leading his fellow-students in an open insurrection against the tutors. On leaving school he had the intention of going into the navy, but he yielded to his father's wish that he should be a gentleman farmer, and went up to Scotland to learn something of husbandry. He led practically, however, the life of a gentleman of leisure, reading and traveling, making several tours on the continent and residing for some years in France.

In 1840 he came into his property and the next year took the estate called "The Craig."

He was said to be the most popular landlord in Scotland. But this landlord did not believe in landlords. He maintained that the soil of a nation was the inheritance of all its people. He was never weary of repeating that rent should go to the State for the benefit of all.

Also, he did not believe in the game laws. He had no keeper on his great estate and no poacher was ever interfered with. Another peculiarity was his friendship for Ireland. He stood up stoutly for the Irish peasantry and denounced Britain's treatment of it.

For seven years he lived thus happily on his estate, but in 1848 an imprudent investment swept away his fortune. Soon after that he married, his bride being penniless like himself. The newly-wedded couple went to live in Darmstadt, where the husband studied and lectured and wrote. They were never unprosperous.

"The Theory of Human Progression" was the first fruit of this toil. The work appeared anonymously. A limited edition was published in 1850, both in London and Edinburgh. In brief, the book is the single-tax theory elucidated a generation in advance of Henry George. What Dove did for scholars, George achieved for the masses.

Economic works were not widely read at that time. Nevertheless Carlyle read and praised the volume. Sir William Hamilton, the great philosopher, pronounced it epoch-making, and our own Charles Sumner was so impressed by it that he circulated many copies in the United States and persuaded Dove to write in behalf of the emancipation movement. For all that the book failed to make its way and before many years was utterly forgotten.

On leaving Germany Dove settled in Edinburgh and soon acquired reputation as a teacher and writer.

The latter part of his life was characterized by an interest in military matters. He was a man of peace, a devout Christian and a scholar, yet he was deeply imbued with the idea of the ultimate necessity of social revolution. He freely expressed the opinion that the masses in their own interest should familiarize themselves with the

technicalities of warfare. He did his best to popularize this sort of knowledge. In 1848 he produced a treatise on the Revolver and the handling of firearms generally. He even went to the length of inventing a rifle cannon which was commended by competent authorities. He had command also of a rifle corps and of a regiment of volunteers which he drilled and equipped himself. He became an authority on the militia.

By this time he was residing in Glasgow, and in 1860 he was suddenly stricken with paralysis. Henceforth he lived mostly a retired life and died April 28, 1873.

NOTE.—It is pleasant to know that he lived to see the abolition of slavery in the United States, which he had foretold years before as a deduction from the general principles of his own theory of the progress of mankind.