

MANY people will read an allegory who would shrink from a treatise. If John Bunyan had neglected to clothe his ideas with the alluring garment of a story, it is doubtful whether *Pilgrim* would have made much progress in his own generation, to say nothing of his unimpeded march through the centuries. For humanity loves to see truths incarnated in individual forms. The concrete is easier to grasp than the abstract, and one who finds a sermon on courage tiresome glows with enthusiasm over the mythical hero who embodies and reveals it in brave deeds. Under the guise of dreams one can draw with a freer hand, without the prosaic limitations of wakefulness. And always a dilemma can be escaped by the dreamer opening his eyes at the right moment.

In this unpretending "Story of My Dictatorship" the author prefers to conceal his identity, and even to me who am requested to write this brief introduction, he is as completely hidden as the author of the letters of Junius. Nevertheless, despite my ignorance of his name, I have no question as to his nature, for his story reveals it. He permits his readers to know him intimately. If they are constituted like me they will be grateful for the acquaintance. He has a fundamental truth to expound, and does it withal so attractively and with so much fairness that one can easily imagine him a disputant in Plato's Republic.

Nothing has yet been discovered more helpful to the truth-seeker than the Socratic method of discussion, which is here so clearly applied. The questions of the doubters are searching and critical, and the answers match them

with fairness and sincerity. Sophistry or evasion cannot serve.

The right to the use of the earth is becoming a burning question, compelling the attention of thinkers and reformers of diverse faiths. Of the wrongfulness of the present system of land monopoly, and the necessity of equal access for all to the natural source of wealth, there is a growing consensus of opinion. The author of the present work desires to unite workers upon this primal point of agreement, and to dissuade them from emphasizing ultimate differences. Only the duty that lies nearest deserves immediate consideration. Individualists and Socialists alike discern the evil of landlordism and aim to correct it. With its abolition will doubtless come the solution of other waiting social problems having their root in this unhealthy soil. Therefore, brothers, let us close up to attack the common enemy, and postpone the warfare with each other until this victory is gained. Possibly the goals that now seem so far apart are in truth separated only by our imperfect vision.

Such is the spirit of this dream of humanity, soothing and healing in its tone, and calculated to dissipate prejudices instead of stirring antagonisms. It is seldom that such an object is attempted without weak concessions and false sentiment. Here, however, the logic and statement are uncompromising, and in no whit is the uttermost truth sacrificed.

So I bespeak for this new messenger in the field of reform the cordial welcome of all lovers of their kind. May it girdle the earth with its evangel of common sense and human justice.

WM. LLOYD GARRISON.

BOSTON, April 4, 1894.