

FROM A BROOKLYN CLERGYMAN.

I, personally, am not a Socialist. I believe in individual freedom and opportunity, first, last and always, consequently I should much prefer Henry George's plan of the Single Tax, holding the land for the benefit of all, because I believe that all the evils which Socialism seeks to destroy will thus be destroyed, and in addition the individual will still be unfettered and free to acquire and grow. Unfortunately, however, the Single Tax program seems more radical than Socialism, for socialism grows upon us insidiously through Municipal and State ownership. Probably Socialism must come first. To us it but remains to pray that out of the chaos of experiments some permanent good will come, some sure advance be made, so that justice and comfort may be more equitably distributed among men.—From Sermon on Garrison, by Rev. John M. Davidson, of the Fourth Unitarian Church, of Brooklyn.

Edward Atkinson, who died last month in Boston at the advanced age of 78, was long an opponent of the Single Tax, which he curiously misunderstood. But he made contributions of signal ability to the causes of Free Trade, the Peace Movement, and Anti Imperialism. He wrote an article expressly for the SINGLE TAX REVIEW about a year ago in answer to a contribution of Mr. Ernest Crosby. He was a man whose great abilities and signal services to many important causes were as remarkable as his limitations.

Wm. C. Miner, of New London, Conn., is one of the Croasdalers of that State. In *The Day*, a local newspaper, is an essay from Mr. Miner covering over three columns. After reviewing the effects of land tenure in Connecticut, he proceeds to a number of striking local instances, showing the impolicy of present modes of taxation. It is an effective article, couched in clear and admirable English. Our Connecticut friends could do no better service to the cause than to circulate it as a tract.

Henry Ancketill, once in the service of the British navy, and later connected with the business department of the *Standard*, has been a member of the Natal Parliament for a number of years, in which body he has been a vigorous and intelligent advocate of our principles. He has publicly announced his retirement from politics, and hints—as we gather from a friendly notice in the *Natal Advertiser*—at his probable departure from the Colony. If he should visit this country he will find many friends who have been distant but interested spectators of the brave fight he has waged in far away Natal.

WANTED.—Vols. 9 and 10 of the Memorial Edition of Henry George's Works, set No. 880.

WHY I FAVOR THE SINGLE TAX.

Taxation is a subject to which little public attention is given, yet no subject is more vital to the progress of the human race and the establishment of a true democracy.

There are only two things that can be taxed. These two things are man and the earth he lives on. Therefore labor values and land values are the only two things extant upon which taxes are or can be levied. That taxes are essential to the administration of government is undeniably true and that something must therefore be taxed is clearly apparent. The right thing to tax is monopoly, the wrong thing to tax is labor, because government sustains monopoly and labor sustains itself. Not only does it do this, but as taxes are now levied it sustains the government which in turn supports monopolies of every sort. These monopolies exercise the taxing power, sustained as they are by government, and between being robbed by the government in public taxes and by monopolies in private taxes, the workers of the world are kept forever poor. This in turn fosters land speculation, which greatly lessens opportunities for labor. This also gluts the labor market, reduces wages and is a fruitful cause of strikes, which in turn are frequently put down by the strong arm of government. The real reason we have a labor question is because the laborers have been disinherited and the earth, the gift of the common Father to His common children, is held at a prohibitive price. The small portion that is used is artificially high in price, which means high rents while the rest is kept out of the market for speculation. This is the chief cause of poverty among the workers.

Why should wealth production and poverty be always associated? Nature gives nothing to idleness. She, being both generous and just, rewards only the workers. Why should the worker be poor and the idler rich? It is because men are rewarded, not in proportion to what they do, but in proportion to what they monopolize. Divorce government from monopoly, and the latter fails. Separate labor from land, and humanity dies. This is what the land speculator tries to do and in a measure succeeds in doing, though without evil intent. The worker's real enemy is the speculator in land; his imaginary enemy is the capitalist.

No evil can be remedied by merely finding fault with it. The cure must be discovered and applied; heroic remedies alone will suffice. And since the evil has been and is now largely due to unscientific taxation, what more sensible plan could be suggested than to place the burden of government where it properly and justly belongs, leaving industry free to produce and to retain; to build and also to inhabit: to reap as well as to sow?

H. H. HARDINGE
in the *Arena* for Nov.