

after characterizing the book as an ingenious medley of history, political exposition, biography and oratorical anthology, says: "The result is a quite interesting work of what the French call *vulgarisation*, calculated to be of use in the education of the average citizen in the past politics of his nation, to which so much more deliberate attention is paid in the United States than in this country. The English student will find it not only a handy guide. . . . but also full of human and historical interest. The question arises whether a similar book might not very usefully be written for the United Kingdom."

In a similar spirit *The Glasgow Herald* commends the volumes for "permitting the study of Imperial"—a Criticism for Federal—"international, administrative, and economic matters in a foreign atmosphere, while at the same time the past and present relations of the United States and Britain give the discursions a certain intimacy and a distinct importance."

The author states in his preface that he intends at some future time to complete the work by a third volume on Finance and Taxation. We trust that he may do so, and succeed in making these formidable subjects as full of human interest as those of the present volumes, a task which needs not appall one who as a Single Taxer has a philosophy which, more intimately than any other, shows the relation of economic law to the individual life.—J. D. M.

#### ECONOMICS AND SOCIAL PHILOSOPHY IN THE VERNACULAR\*

Of the making of books by Bolton Hall there is no end. One wonders if he ever sleeps. Some he manufactures, some he writes. This one, like his "Mastery of Grief," he has written. But it is different. One will wonder where Mr. Hall has obtained his knowledge of *patois*, his almost uncanny proficiency in the language of the common folk, even to their street slang.

Much of it is such light literary banter that we do not suspect the preaching. For he carries us along easily, and he has a point

\*Thrift. By Bolton Hall, 12 mo. Clo. 247 pp. Price \$1. B. W. Huebsch, New York City.

to enforce in every chapter. And there is a vast fund of information on a variety of topics.

Mr. Hall had an object in writing it. It would have been a poor book if written without a purpose. Mr. Hall says he got more pleasure out of it than from any book he has made. We can therefore imagine his satisfaction in concluding a work well done with this striking paragraph, which is the last in the book:

"Who can longer shut his eyes to social conditions, the misery, the hate, the destitution of body and mind that have driven millions from sly commercial war into open military war! Not revolution nor Anarchy, nor red radicalism, but law, business, respectability and "patriotism" have forced our ignorant and our educated brethren alike into the shambles of battle as, if unchecked, they will force us. Instead of making sofa cushions of "Reform" against the day of Judgement let us arise and while there is yet time save, save, save the love of men for the love of God."—J. D. M.

#### A WOMAN FREE.

We acknowledge receipt of a beautifully printed paper covered volume of poems by "Ruth," of 72 pages, prefaced by the "good gray poet," Edwin Markham.

Ruth Le Prade is the young Joan of Arc of the California Great Adventure movement. She is a California girl, twenty two years of age. From birth she has been a victim of spinal trouble and has only recently recovered from an attack which brought her near to death. Her parents are old fashioned Marxian socialists and Ruth still thinks along those lines, although the spirit of the Great Adventure is rapidly modifying her point of view.

These poems are mostly of the unrhymed sort, *verse libre*. We confess to a preference for more conventional forms of verse, while not denying that the newer and more revolutionary (shall we say more prosaic forms?) may furnish the vehicle for great thought and impressive presentation.

Miss Le Prade needs experience and a wider acquaintance with what has been written by the long line of poets of all times. Her lack of