

way from that intended; that it was the excess in value of imports above the value of exports which was the true criterion of the gain. And that centuries-old belief seems still to persist to the present day.

Allen's style is in the class of clarity, simplicity and charm of a Henry David Thoreau, a Ralph Waldo Emerson, a Herbert Spencer, an Adam Smith, a Buckle and a Henry George, who each had a natural aptitude for comprehension of universal truths, and a natural genius for picturing them, irresistibly to the imaginations of others; and each in a class of realists whose passion for truth knew no delusory limitations, either in conception of truths or in clarity of expression.

Allen's book is an index to the Smith, Buckle, George line of classical thought on political economy, uninfluenced by political expediency, and his book should prove a stimulant to the revival of the reading of this class of important literature. It has inspired me to a re-reading of George's "Progress and Poverty," his "Protection or Free Trade," and his crowning achievement, the Single Tax. And since reading Allen's book I have read Buckle, and am now reading Adam Smith. Never read either before. I have always been a believer in the merits of Henry George's idea of free trade and in his Single Tax system.

And so I regard Henry Ware Allen's "Prosperity" as a timely book in these days of political atavism and reversion to the insanity of historical millstones in the orderly progress of American civilization.

DEAN GORDON.

BOLTON HALL SAYS OF THE BOOK:

Henry Ware Allen's book, "Prosperity," is interesting. He has done a service in making something that is easy reading and yet contains the corpus of the Henry George theory and especially in putting into common form the best of Ernest Crosby's "Earth for All" calendar. The make-up of the book is itself attractive.

We want to add our word of appreciation in welcoming Henry Ware Allen's book which is published by the Christopher Publishing Company of Boston. It can be had at \$1.50. Letters of commendation are pouring in, which we shall print in some future issue.

The book will be reviewed by Victor Murdock for his paper, the *Wichita Eagle*. Mr. Murdock was in Congress with Henry George, Jr. and the latter presented him with a complete set of his father's works.—J. D. M.

POEMS BY FRANK STEPHENS

A volume that Single Taxers and all idealists will cherish is "Some Songs" by Frank Stephens published by the Arden Press, at Arden, Delaware, the Single Tax colony of which Mr. Stephens was one of the founders.

It is neatly bound and in its 135 pages are tributes to the author from M. E. Crocker, Grace Isabel Colbron, Harold Sudell, Oswald Garrison Villard, Scott Nearing, Bolton Hall, Samuel Danziger, Harry Weinberger, and others whose names are not so familiar to our readers.

There are many poems gathered together here, not all equally good in execution, but strong, vibrant, and instinct with a hopeful humanity.

In "Some Lighter Songs and Jingles," he exhibits a real sense of humor, and a lightness of touch in marked contrast to the seriousness that has gone before.

One of the astonishing things about Frank Stephens was the multiplicity of his gifts. He was artist, sculptor, actor, architect, artisan, poet and orator.

He had the gift to sway an audience with the magic of his speech. His mind was saturated with the best in literature, his references were singularly apposite and his choice of words felicitous.

Of Stephens it might be said as Heine, with proud humility, said of himself, "I was a brave soldier in the war for human freedom."

We should like to cite some of these poems for special mention.

One, "Little Clothilde," deserves immortality and it is difficult to read it without tears.

The book can be had of the Arden Press for \$1.50 postpaid.

J. D. M.

A BOOK FROM THE CHAPLAIN OF THE OHIO SENATE

"American Patriotic Devotions," is the title of a book of 432 pages by Rev. E. Stacy Matheny. It is published by the Association Press of 347 Madison Avenue, New York City.

It seems rather churlish to dismiss with a few words of commendation a book so extraordinarily full of interesting historical information and so animated by the spirit of freedom and fine religious and racial toleration.

The early history of the colonies is told and the struggle for freedom of thought and worship reviewed in detail. Some interesting and little known facts are given regarding religious and racial discrimination and these reveal a wide range of reading. Scattered through the work are a number of prayers which because of the fine spirit that informs them are far from unwelcome intrusions.

Quotations in support of the fundamental laws it teaches are culled from the Bible, the Saint James and Douay version, the Talmud and even Mary Baker Eddy. All are made to contribute some vital thought to its pages. Red Jacket is given three pages for a quite startling appeal for religious unity. This great Indian tells his audience that they have been teaching religion to the white race and he promises with subtle irony to await its effects and whether it will make them less disposed to cheat the Indians!

We find many little known facts. Here is the remarkable speech of the Reverend Chas. C. Pise who was, on motion of Henry Clay, elected chaplain of the U. S. Senate in 1832. He was a Roman Catholic and the press urged in opposition to the appointment that he was a subject of the Pope. His speech is well worth reading but is too long to quote.

Tom Paine is also quoted and there are short biographical sketches of all the presidents. Rabbi Michael Aaronsohn is quoted somewhat at length and four pages are given to Henry George.

Mr. Matheny is with us, a convert of J. H. Kauffman of Columbus, O. A man with his cultural background and fine human sympathy could not remain unresponsive to the inexorable appeal which George makes to men of such character.

Writing to the editor of *LAND AND FREEDOM* in a deeply religious vein Mr. Matheny says:

"The divine purpose of Henry George, I feel, can and must be carried out if we are to survive as a nation dedicated to Liberty, Freedom and Equality of Opportunity. The basic principles of his teaching put in practice would be a mighty factor in answering the prayer, Thy Kingdom Come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."

We welcome Mr. Matheny to the fold. J. D. M.

A GREAT HENRY GEORGE PRIMER

It is a signal service that the Robert Schalkenbach Foundation has rendered in the publication from the original of the late J. W. Bengough's "Up-to-date Primer of Political Economy," in words of one syllable, with pictures. It consists of 75 pages in stiff covers and can be had for 25 cents.

How did he do it? For it is all here, the whole philosophy of Henry George in one syllable words, the answers to objections that occur, the fundamental basis of the proposal, the arguments that support it.

Who was J. W. Bengough? Miss Antoinette Kaufmann in the Introduction contributes an attractive sketch of his life and achievements.

We who knew him are glad to welcome the publication of what is as remarkable a contribution to our literature as has been made in the whole history of the movement. It is deserving of the widest circulation.—J. D. M.