

At a Fashionable Church

The structure is massive, of brick and of stone,
 With turrets and towers and bells of brass tone.
 The windows are lofty—the glass mel- low-stained
 And "broad is the way" where an en- trance is gained.
 The pews are soft-cushioned and rented for hire—
 And musical experts—in place of a choir.
 The anthems, like operas, with mar- velous trills—
 The name of each singer is down on the bills.
 The organ might vie with the one at Salt Lake,
 In beauty and tone—not a flaw, nor mistake.
 The organist, too, has a wealth of curled hair;
 An Adonis-like face, and a Byronic air.
 The preacher came out in a digni- fied robe;
 He talked some of Isaac and Jacob and Job.
 His voice, well-cultured—his gestures are fine,
 If the matter is stale—his style is sublime.
 He spoke of the prophets of scriptural days—
 Of original sin—of the lust that be- trays.
 He hinted the sins of our times are as great,
 As those of the olden—by people and state.
 Then veered off to Peter and Matthew and Paul—
 Mother Eve was dragged in as the cause of it all!
 Yet, the Sermon of Christ on the Mount he passed by,
 With an art that seemed artful—as if "fighting shy."
 He spoke of the heathen, in ripe, for- eign lands,
 But not of our butchers with guns in their hands—
 The heathen of darkness—not the heathen of light—
 The heathen of weakness—not the heathen of might!
 He preached and he prayed, with apostolic air—
 The "offering" was large, for the wealthy were there.
 While, outside, sit coachmen in liv- eried array,
 Awaiting the ladies they serve and obey.
 Ah, where in that church are the workers who sweat?
 At home, are they resting, or do they forget?
 They have lost the fair earth, while tolling for bread.
 Will heaven be lost—filled with idlers, instead?
 Alas, for the poor and their burdens of woe!
 Yet, the merciful Father He surely must know!
 We marvelled, then less, at the pag- eant we saw—
 At the follies of men and the blunders of law.
 LYDIA PLATT RICHARDS,
 Pasadena, Cal.

Passing of the Promoter

Pessimists and stock market bears have for months been warning the country that a financial panic is pending because of the enormous inflation of securities and the lack of means of meeting obligations thus made during any but the most prosperous periods. How correct this forecast is only the developments of the future will tell, but it does seem as if the appetite of the public for such methods had failed.
 An example in point is that furnished by the New York stock market during the last week. For once so-called privileges have failed to produce a rise in stock values. The announcement by one of the great trunk lines of an enormous increase in stocks and bonds with rights to holders of stocks has been followed by a continued fall in the prices of the securities of not only this system, but all the other eastern lines. Whether the public regards the latest increase in obligations as unwise, or the lambs of the stock market have been sheared to the cuticle is not in evidence, but both are probably contributing causes. The past six years has witnessed a phenomenal change in the business policies of the manufacturing, transportation and banking worlds. Gentlemen's agreements of ten years ago have given way to the community of interest idea and oftentimes to out-right consolidation. It will require time to demonstrate the wisdom of this

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MAYER BROS.

LINCOLN, NEB.

abrupt change of policy, but it is well enough now to know that the era of the promoter has about passed, and with him goes the popularity of the ideas that he overdeveloped.—Pitts- burg (Pa.) Leader (anti-Quay rep.).

A Bigelow Admirer

Editor Independent: I hasten to congratulate you on your plan of printing Mr. Bigelow's sermons. I have watched that man for several years. He is one of the soundest men on current issues I know of. He sees, what most men and what most radical papers fail to see, viz: that the evil of trusts lies not in their combin- ing several small sums of capital, or several small plants into one great sum or plant, but the evil lies in the trusts possessing a monopoly. Seeing this, Bigelow sees that the easiest, if not the only cure for trusts, is to be found in depriving them of monopoly powers through taxation. I am glad you are going to have his sermons.
 THOS. A. CROIX.
 Lisbon, N. H.

Single Tax Failings

Editor Independent: Under mod- ern industry, where great machines do most of the work, mere access to the land is not enough to insure each laborer an equivalent for the energy he expends. The single tax might help the man who works for himself, but it could do little toward helping him who has nothing to sell but his energy or labor power. He would pay no tax on the things he eats and wears—hence, could sustain life at less cost; but that would tend to lower wages eventually, for wages keep at the "starvation point" with tenac- ity. On the other hand, this would be nullified to some extent by the fact that as the owner of the machines would have heavier taxes to pay, he must have a higher price for his goods—which would tend to increase the cost of living, and, eventually wages.
 It is true, as the single taxers as- sert, that a man is entitled to what he produces by his labor—if he works

for himself. But if he sells his en- ergy to another, then what he pro- duces is the property of the one who owns the raw material, the machines and the purchased labor power.

Free access to the land is not enough today. Civilization has gone beyond individual production, and free access to machines is also nec- essary if the laborer is to receive an equivalent for what he produces.

To have any virtue, the single tax must result in an exodus from the cities and occupancy of lands of small fertility by the landless. It must mean hand production of agricultural products in competition with the present farming population armed with modern machinery—very unequal com- petition, to say the least.

The collective ownership of all the means of production—the land and machines—is now necessary. And that is socialism! A. K. ANGAROO.

A. N. Sprague, Blue Mound, Ill.: The article from Mrs. Ida M. Van Nice, Feb. 19, page 7) suits me to a "t-y-tee." What we want is for all reform parties to get together.

The Appeal to Prejudice

"The socialistic party is now quite a lusty infant. Its friends think it time to walk. Experience teaches that there may be some falls before the first step is taken. Usually there is some assistance given before that step is taken. Its skirts must be shortened or held up and this must be done by somebody besides itself. What we say of the socialists can equally be said of any reform idea of today. No reform can come until all join hands and sweep from the United States senate the stumbling blocks there.

"Let there be one strenuous effort to free our legislative halls from the driftwood now clogging the flow of the waters of reform.

"We look upon it as folly to see such socialists as Wayland of the Appeal to Reason attacking the Lincoln In- dependent. Both papers are doing good work in sowing reform seed. When the harvest comes there should

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be a unanimity of action and work. Capitalistic oppressors can laugh in their sleeve and rest contented in their blood-sucking schemes so long as re- form forces pull against each other."
 —The Toledo (O.) Independent.

The attacks are from the pen of A. W. Ricker, associate editor, a former mid-road populist who has carried with him into socialism the bitter- ness engendered because he was one of a minority in matters of party policy while a populist. He is short- sighted enough to believe he can win populists to socialism through an "appeal to prejudice."

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