

SINGLE-TAX COURIER

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MISREPRESENTATION.

The following extract from an editorial in the Daily Colonist, Victoria, B.C., of October 7, is a sample of the kind of efforts now being made by the upholders of special privileges to check the advance of the single-tax movement:

"Some time ago the single-tax men claimed that Herbert Spencer was on their side so far as the nationalization of land went. When they were told that Mr. Spencer had in later years withdrawn what he had written in favor of the nationalization of land, many of the single-tax controversialists boldly affirmed that he had done nothing of the kind. As it was not easy to find Mr. Spencer's exact words, the single-taxers gained an apparent victory. But the time came when it was impossible to cite the great English thinker as an authority in favor of Henry George's theory, and then George himself wrote a book bearing the title, "A Perplexed Philosopher," in which he admitted the change in Mr. Spencer's views on the land question, but attributed it to his desire to please the aristocracy of England. This was not either an honest or a philosophical way of accounting for Mr. Spencer's change of opinion. It was impossible for Henry George or anyone else to tell what Mr. Spencer's motive was. Nothing is more common than for men, as they grow older, to change their opinion on many subjects. It would have been, therefore, both fairer and more sensible for Mr. George to have either not attempted to find a motive for Mr. Spencer or to have given him credit for speaking according to his convictions, formed without undue or improper influence from any quarter."

As a complete answer to the above we publish the following from the Church Reformer of London, England:

"The following correspondence has not before been published:  
82 Montgomery Street, Boston, Mass.

Dec. 30, 1893. - Dear Sir: After reading twice your "A Perplexed Philosopher" I wrote a letter to Herbert Spencer asking him if he had any explanation to offer on the subject treated in the book. He has kindly favored me with a reply, a copy of which I enclose to you.

In view of Mr. Spencer's denial of your "charges" as "baseless" and your "facts" as "fiction", I would like to be kindly informed if you still maintain your attitude toward him, which I find in your book. Yours, truly,

G.H. PAPAZIAN.

Henry George, Esq.

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64 Avenue Road, Regent's Park, London, N.W., Nove. 10, 1893.

- Dear Sir: Herbert Spencer requests me to say that his friends in New York have abundant materials in their hands for proving that Mr. George's charges are baseless and that his alleged facts are fictions.

Mr. Spencer has left the matter entirely in their hands, and they, knowing Mr. George and knowing American public opinion, have decided that it is best to say nothing. I am faithfully yours,

W. TROUGHTON.

G.H. Papazian, Esq.

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327 East Nineteenth Street, New York, Jan. 17, 1894 - Dear Sir:  
Absence from the city and pressing engagements have until now prevented a reply to yours of December 30.

There is nothing in what you term "Mr. Spencer's denial" to change the opinion of him expressed in "A Perplexed Philosopher." It indeed but adds another to the example there given of his method of conveying falsehood by indirection. Since what he styles as my "alleged facts" consist entirely in chapters from his own books, printed in full from his authorized editions; in his own letters, published under his own signature in the St. James Gazette and London Times; and in announcements by his American publishers, you may judge of what materials his friends in New York (presumably D. Appleton & Co. and Dr. Youmans) have "for proving that Mr. George's charges are baseless, and his alleged facts are fictions." These gentlemen do know me and do know American opinion, and they also know that every fact cited in "A Perplexed Philosopher" may be proved from their own publications. That they "have decided that it is best to say nothing" is doubtless true. There is nothing as friends of Mr. Spencer they dare say.

If your former respect for Mr. Spencer still leads you to think that there is, write to them. They will not tell you that my character and reputation make me unworthy of notice, which is Mr. Spencer's subterfuge. Messrs. Appleton were the first publishers of "Progress and Poverty," and the Popular Science Monthly, published by them and edited by Dr. Youmans, has printed articles from my pen and commented extensively on books of mine. It is no slighting esti-

mate of me that has prevented it and other Spencerian publications from meeting the charges of "A Perplexed Philosopher." If anything could have been said in answer to them it would have been said before now. Nor would Mr. Spencer have left the saying of it to his friends.

Yours, sincerely,

HENRY GEORGE.

G.H. Papazian, Esq.