

Spokane
Summer, '18
June 2 - 45
Spokane

While reading your letter of Dec 12 my first impression was that a great difference of opinion existed between us and being exceedingly busy at the moment I put your letter over for tomorrow for more careful consideration, but "tomorrow" is sometimes a bit further off than expected. However when I reread your letter I concluded that you and Henry George were perhaps not so far apart after all.

You object to the "God Creation theory", let us for the moment disregard this supposed theory, since I doubt ~~very much~~ whether you disagree so much with what Henry George is trying to convey as you do with the concept that you have built up in your own mind regarding certain religious theories which by the way have no bearing on this matter.

Henry George is not expounding a theory that must be accepted blindly, for quite to the contrary he says: "Political economy is not a set of dogmas, it is the explanation of a certain set of facts. It is the science which in the sequence of certain phenomena, seeks to trace mutual relations and to identify cause and effect, just as the physical sciences seek to do in other sets of phenomena"

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Now then in place of using the term "God" regarding which there are probably as many different concepts as there are people in the world, let us instead use the term natural law. I think we can perhaps

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also agree that this is an orderly universe governed by law (Not made in Washington or other capitols) I refer to the laws that prevailed before we inhabited this globe and that will continue to prevail in spite of all religions and man made decrees and mandates.

Once we recognize these laws and adjust our human relations in accordance with them as we have done in the other sciences we can then hope to get order out of chaos.

You are greatly disturbed and rightfully so, over the state of affairs and the trend of events throughout the world, the outlook is indeed dark and I for one would not ask you indulgence, or would I take the time and trouble to answer your letter if I did not feel that there is an answer to every question and a solution to every problem.

Unfortunately organized religion as well as ^{the} organized state have made a virtue of humility, they are ^{both} more concerned in keeping the rank and file of humanity satisfied and contented with their state of slavery and misery than in helping them to become independent.

You complain of the two outstanding evils, the church power and the money power, the answer to both is education. There really is

no money power, money in itself is not a power, it is as you say a medium of exchange and it is also a standard of value. It is monopoly that gives money its undue advantage. If you ^{destroy} the monopoly of natural resources and all other government made monopolies, money will then enjoy no undue advantages. Henry George would destroy all monopoly.

You can not abolish war, but you can greatly reduce the probability of war by abolishing the cause of war.

Mr. Spornheim I am sure there is a great treat in store for you when you come to read Progress and Poverty as well as some of the other works of Henry George. I would suggest that ^{you} not only read Progress & Poverty but that you make a real study of it, and for your own satisfaction test every statement by every means at your command, take nothing for granted but make George prove everything. In this respect the Correspondence Course might prove to be of considerable help to you. I suggest you follow this method, I know you will ^{some day} thank me for suggesting it.

Sincerely
 F. H. Van