

A SIMPLE CURE -- A GREAT REFORM

Suggested by II Kings, Chapter 5

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The seer a wondrous vision had;
The earth is here for all!
Why should there idle acres be
And men live in a stall?

The sun, the air, the good Lord gave,
And rolling landscape fair;
These elements created He
For all mankind to share.

As towns expand and cities thrive
Land values greater grow,
How is it fair that this increase
To just a few should go?

The many who are unemployed
Could self-supporting be
If idle land they could but use
Now held for greater fee.

Like men upon a stranded ship,
They see the land nearby
With plenty just beyond their reach
That could their needs supply.

If man has ownership of self,
Unless this right is vain,
He must have access to the source
That will his life sustain.

What man produces should be his,
His labor makes it so;
But is a harvest justified
For men who do not sow?

The rising value of the land
Communities should claim
As no few men create its worth
No few should reap the same.

Remove the barriers of gain
And end monopoly
Of means unto a livelihood
For all society!

Then equal freedom each would have
To satisfy desire;
A chance, instead of charity
The poorest would inspire.
As oft the case with social ills,
Though prophets may entreat,
Men still reject the remedy
With Jordan at their feet.

The cleansing river runs for all,
Where slaves to want and wealth
May step within the healing stream
And there recover health.

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