

## THE SOCIAL REFORMER.

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# ADDRESS FROM THE SINGLE TAX ASSOCIATION

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## MINISTERS OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES.

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REVEREND SIRS,

The overwhelming importance of the problems to which we wish to call your attention is our only apology for addressing you on the present occasion.

On every hand the evidences of some great wrong in our present social arrangements, are only too apparent.

Is there a city on this continent in which we do not witness extraordinary disparities in society, poverty appalling in the midst of aggregations of wealth great beyond the dreams of avarice—hovels of wretchedness within a stones throw of palaces, gorgeous in their luxuriousness.

And as population advances, as wealth increases, is it not manifest that the two poles of society are growing further apart, that the gulf between Dives and Lazarus is ever widening? There is a growing conviction that this disparity is due not merely to individual merit or demerit, but that it is owing to some extent to a violation of the principles of justice in the regulations of society.

For the Christian church, therefore, the question that must take precedence of all other questions is, are we honestly and earnestly endeavoring to apply the principles we profess to advocate, the rule of Christian brotherhood to the treatment of our fellow men.

Are we making manifest the principles of righteousness by strictly and earnestly observing the rights of our neighbors? Are we showing our faith by the fruits of righteousness?

Permit us with all brotherly kindness to submit a few questions bearing on this subject:—

For whom did the Creator make this world? For all equally, for the poorest as well as for the richest? For every one of every generation as much as He ever made it for any one of any generation? Or did He make it for a special few? Are we all equally heirs to His gifts? Is He equally the father of us all, so that each one of us has an equal right to His heritage, or is the heritage of this earth for one portion of humanity exclusively?