

## SOME CONSIDERATIONS

What we owe fealty to is not party but principle. And for the advancement of that principle we are dependent upon no party - not even upon the party we may have organized for the advancement of that principle. What is needed for the advance of a great truth like that embodied in the platform of the united labor party is to arouse thought, to provoke discussion, to familiarize with it the minds of men. This may sometimes best be done by bringing it directly into politics, and gathering around its standards those who are willing to cast their votes for it, no matter how hopeless may be the chance of winning an election. At other times it may best be done by refraining from direct political action, and urging on one or the other of the great political parties, or leaving those who believe in it free to mingle with the adherents of those parties, and among them sow seeds of the truth. But at no time can the men who are bent on advancing a great truth fail to find opportunities to do so. Whether they be gathered into one party or scattered in several, the truth will compel those who see it to become its missionaries. To think the refusal of the united labor party to go into a presidential campaign means the abandonment of the cause of which it is an instrument, is not merely to accept the assumption that this would necessarily destroy it, but it is to assume that the organization is more than the principle, that the life of the soul depends on the life of the body. The united labor party might not merely decide not to go into the national field in this election - it might definitely and forever disband, without any one who had really felt the impulse of the cause abandoning the cause. Such men as Dr. McGlynn, Rev. Hugh

O. Pentecost, Father Huntington, Judge Maguire, and hundreds of others whose names are familiar to the readers of THE STANDARD, would continue to preach the truth and to find opportunities to preach the truth. The tens of thousands of men and women between the Atlantic and Pacific who are now thoroughly imbued with our principles, and are working day and night as quiet missionaries in our cause, would go on with their work; our tracts would still circulate; the discussion we have started would continue, and the people whom we have already set to thinking would perpetuate the impulse and pass on the torch. We should still have our anti-poverty societies and our land and labor clubs, and our friends would still continue to work in other organizations. Abandon the cause! We could not abandon the cause if we tried to. And if we could, and did, that cause would still march on and find new advocates. Every one, man, woman, or child, may do something to help forward a cause such as ours; but it has now so far advanced that we all together could not more than delay it a little. It has passed our power to stop.

Signed: Henry George.  
Jan. 7, 1888