

Transcription, January 2015:

Boston Evening Transcript 84(87) (12 April 1913): 9c (anon.).

[p. 9c]

Despite the fact that he published his first book sixty years ago and that he has entered upon his ninety-first year, Alfred Russell Wallace, the co-discoverer of evolution, is still busy with his pen. And those who remember the encyclopædic nature of his interests will hardly be surprised that his latest volume deals with “Social Environment and Moral Progress.” It is a most depressing book to come from the pen of the author of “Travels on the Amazon,” for in the opinion of Dr. Wallace, not something but everything is “rotten in the State of Denmark.” He affirms that money-making is valued above human life and well-being; that gambling in coal or corn or cotton is as immoral as swindling with loaded dice; that justice in England cannot be procured without paying heavy fines; and so on. In suggesting the remedy for all this the veteran naturalist pleads for universal coöperation, freedom of access to land and capital for all, and the universal inheritance by the State of all wealth in trust for all. A part of this solution is but a repetition of Dr. Wallace’s theory on land nationalization, which he promulgated long before the days of Henry George.¹

¹[Editor’s note: Actually, George’s first writings on land reform, including *Progress and Poverty*(1879), pre-date Wallace’s development of a land nationalization program.]

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The Alfred Russel Wallace Page, Charles H. Smith, 2015.