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76 Colby Library Quarterly


THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF HENRY C. CAREY
Founder of American Social Science
BY CURTIS HUGH MORROW

ONE hundred fifty years ago, on December 15, 1793, in the city of Philadelphia, a son was born to the Irish exile, Mathew Carey, who was destined to become the founder of the American school of social science. Apprenticed at the early age of eight years to the publishing business of his father, Henry Charles Carey acquired a liberal education as a critic of all manuscripts and books submitted for publication. In 1814 he became a partner in the business and seven years later its sole owner. As a leading publisher he established in 1824 the first auction of publication houses which soon was to play a very important part in the American book trade. At the age of forty-two he had accumulated enough wealth to retire. From this time until his death on October 13, 1879, Henry C. Carey gave his whole attention to study and to the promotion of his chief interest, social science.

Henry Carey's place as the first great social scientist produced on the North American continent is established both by the character and the volume of his writings and by the influence which they had upon his contemporaries at home and in Europe. Having been conditioned by the American milieu, he vigorously attacked the population doctrines of Thomas R. Malthus, the rent theory of David Ricardo, and the general laissez-faire teachings of the great Adam Smith. Moreover, his criticisms were so forcefully
stated that some of the earlier theories of the European economists had to be discarded or at least much more carefully re-stated. So clearly and so poignantly did Carey present his theories that some Europeans found it worth while to copy his writings without the courtesy of acknowledging the source of the quotation. The French economist Frédéric Bastiat, in his *Economic Harmonies* (1850), made such a liberal use of Carey's earlier works that he has been accused by Professor Ferrara of outright plagiarism.

The Carey Collection in the Colby Library was begun a decade or more ago when the writer was impressed by the lack of material in the literature contributed by native American thinkers to the social theory of the world. The American social scientists of the last few decades of the nineteenth century seem to have neglected the fruitful fields at home for the greener fields of the English classical political economists. Henry C. Carey wrote thirteen octavo volumes and fifty-seven pamphlets of considerable length. Of the books, the Colby Collection has all but the one title marked by an asterisk:

*Essay on the Rate of Wages* 1835
*Harmony of Nature* (printed but not published) 1836
*Principles of Political Economy*, 3 vols. 1835, 1838, 1840
*The Past, the Present, and the Future* 1848
*Harmony of Interests, Agricultural, Manufacturing, and Commercial* 1850
*Slave Trade, Domestic and Foreign* 1853
*Principles of Social Science*, 3 vols. 1858, 1859, 1860
*Manual of Social Science*, edited by Miss McKean 1864
*The Unity of Law, as exhibited in the relations of Physical, Social, Mental, and Moral Science* 1872

Among the pamphlets, the titles in the Colby Collection are the most important that Carey wrote:
*The Credit Systems in France, Great Britain, and the United States* (pp. 130), 1838.
*Answers to the Questions, "What Constitutes Currency;*
Colby Library Quarterly

what are the causes of Unsteadiness of the Currency; what is the Remedy?” (pp. 81), 1840.

Letters to the President, on the Foreign and Domestic Policy of the Union, and its Effects as Exhibited in the Condition of the People and the State (pp. 171), 1858.

Financial Crises, their Causes and Effects: Letters to William C. Bryant (pp. 58), 1860.

The Currency Question: Letters to the Hon. Schuyler Colfax (pp. 40), 1865.

Contraction or Expansion: Repudiation or Resumption (pp. 47), 1866.

Resources of the Union: A Lecture before the American Geographical and Statistical Society (pp. 26), 1866.

Reconstruction — Industrial, Financial, and Political (pp. 79), 1867.

Review of the Decade 1858-1867 (pp. 40), 1867.

The Financial Minister, the Currency, and the Public Debt (pp. 40), 1868.


Review of the Farmer’s Question (pp. 8), 1870.

Wealth — of what does it Consist? (pp. 11), 1870.

Memoir of Stephen Colwell (pp. 35), 1871.

The Rate of Interest and its Influence on the Relation of Capital and Labor: Speech in the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention (pp. 24), 1873.

Capital and Labor: Report of the Committee on Industrial Interests and Labor in the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention (pp. 31), 1873.

Currency Inflation: How it has been Produced, and how it may be Profitably Reduced: Letters to Hon. B. H. Bristow, Secretary of the Treasury (pp. 20), 1874.

The British Treaties of 1871 and 1874 (pp. 38), 1874.

Manufactures — At once an Evidence and a Measure of Civilization (pp. 7), 1875.

Appreciation of the Price of Gold: Evidence before the U. S. Monetary Commission (pp. 16), 1876.
Commerce, Christianity, and Civilization versus British Free Trade: Letters in reply to the London Times (pp. 36), 1876.
Resumption — When and How will it End? (pp. 12), 1877.

Our collection does not as yet contain any of the numerous articles contributed by Carey to newspapers and magazines from 1835 to 1879.

THE CENTENARY OF "A CHRISTMAS CAROL"

A FEW days before Christmas, 1843, the first edition of Dickens's most famous story appeared. Six thousand copies were sold the same day. The Colby library did not buy a copy, then when the price was five shillings; and now, when a copy might cost over five hundred dollars, we can not buy one. For want of "the real thing," the library observed the centenary of the famous story by exhibiting a splendid facsimile, published by the Atlantic Monthly Press in 1920. This copy reproduced the rich red cloth binding, the gilt edges, the title-page in two colors (red and blue), and the four full-page engraved illustrations by John Leech. These were, in the original, expertly colored by hand — in red, yellow, green, and blue — and in the facsimile are surprisingly well done.

For a hundred years this book has been spreading its glad influence throughout the world. Lord Jeffrey, Dickens's friend, once declared that it had done more good than all the pulpits in Christendom. Thackeray referred to it as a national benefit, and A. Edward Newton, who wrote the introduction for the facsimile edition, called it "the best book of its kind in the world." The manuscript of the Carol is now in the Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City; the librarian there is reported to have said that it is one of the items that almost all visitors to the Morgan Library wish to see.