

MISCELLANEOUS.

SPINOZA.

BY J. H. BERKOWITZ

[Written in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the excommunication of Spinoza by the Elders of Amsterdam, July 27, 1656; and inspired by E. E. Powell's *Spinoza and Religion*.]

Scorned by kin; from brother's portal
Hounded; shunning temple-side,
No curse so weighty, no plight so great
To shake his conscientious pride,
Or his lofty soul to humiliate.
"Right is might" in his life's a verity
For, despite oblivious Elders, banning him in rage,
From age to age into posterity
His self looms bigger. On History's page
Is writ of him, the excommunicated
Infidel, the "God-intoxicated"
Sage: He loved, he suffered, he's immortal.

BOOK REVIEWS AND NOTES.

THE PROGRESS OF THE GERMAN WORKING CLASSES in the Last Quarter of a Century. By *W. J. Ashley*. London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1904. Pp. xvi, 164. Price, 1s. 6d. net.

Mr. Ashley is professor of commerce in the University of Birmingham and formerly of Harvard. He has collected the evidence which is the basis of this book partly with the purpose "to clear the air in the fiscal controversy" in England. To those advocates of tariff inaction who argue that the condition of the German people is such as to deter Great Britain from the adoption of a protective tariff, he would show that Germany has actually witnessed a great advance in the well-being of the masses of her people within the last twenty-five years during which time she has also been pursuing a policy of protection. The author explains in his preface that he does not contend that this progress has been due to protection but simply that the tariff policy has not prevented the advance. He thinks too that Germany's example proves that the Social Reform which has been the active cause of much of the improved condition is not "unattainable side by side with a positive policy in the matter of tariffs." He paints the ameliorated conditions of the German working classes in such glowing colors that he thinks it possible that