

But the credit was fished by the "Mender" crowd;
 The rest were left out in the cold.
 And as time rolled along, and the years spun out,
 And Botherum grew in pride,
 Still the "Mender" combine kept the boasting up,
 Though all of the menders had died.
 Then the "Mender" combine a neat job framed up,
 To give the fine road away
 To a syndicate great of a distant town
 Which "guessed it might" make it pay.
 So the "Mender" combine turned their eyes to the sky
 And swore by the menders' God,
 That their plan was the plan the dead menders had planned
 When fighting to mend the road.
 It was that that developed the row that they had
 At Botherum-by-the-Lake,
 On the day when the hustling John Harkland fought,
 With the roadmaster's job at stake.
 For the roadmaster's job was a splendid old job,
 And Harkland did want it sore.
 He had wanted it badly for eight long years;
 His hopes had been hot for a score.
 And the time had now come when his hopes were aflame,
 His patience about to explode;
 So John Harkland went forth with a franchise grant
 To give up the mended road
 To the syndicate great of the distant town
 In trade for the job he did want;
 But his hopes they were chilled, when he met with a man
 Who told him to drop that grant.
 Said the man to John Harkland, with eye severe:
 "This road's in the people's name!
 If you don't drop the grant, I will fight you to-day,
 For the roadmaster's job you claim."
 'Twas as quick as a flash that John Harkland hid
 That grant in the tail of his coat;
 And the two fought a fight by the lake that day
 Which Botherum never forgot.
 Said John Harkland, said he: "With that grant it may be,
 I never can get my place;
 So I'll put out of sight the obnoxious grant
 Until I have spoiled your face.
 "After that has been done, I will scheme out a plan—
 Some kind of a plan or other,
 To get rid of the road, of the mended road,
 Of the lake-washed town of Bother.
 "But the question now on of the highest import,
 Is whether or not I get
 Me the roadmaster's job, which I've sought for so long.
 I'll settle this first, you bet!"
 So the two fought it out in the Botherum road—
 The road of this town by the lake—
 With the grant of the road in John Harkland's coat,
 And the roadmaster's job at stake.

And the dust it grew thick, and the fur it did fly,
 The blows they fell thick and fast;
 But John Harkland grew weak as the fight went along,
 And down he fell flat at last,
 And the grant it slipped out of his pocket and dropped
 Beneath his antagonist's heels,
 As the battered John Harkland sank into a dream
 Of roadmaster's jobs and wheels.
 By the time he awakened an inquest had sat—
 The verdict e'en yet provokes fun;
 It decided that Harkland had come to his grief
 Because he had "bene out-donne."
 There's the tale of the row that they had that day
 At Botherum-by-the-Lake,
 That day when the hustling John Harkland fought
 With the roadmaster's job at stake.
 L. F. P

At the Iroquois club after lunch Judge Dunne, Frank Wenter, E. H. Roche, Henry Hagan and a few others were discussing municipal ownership and other issues of the campaign, and the talk finally drifted to the epitaphs they would like to have engraved on their tombstones after they had accomplished all the good they could in this world. When it came to the Judge to express his wish, he thought for a moment, and said: "I would like to have placed on the stone above me: 'Here lies the body of Edward F. Dunne. He died poor. The father of municipal ownership and 13 children. May he rest in peace!'"—Chicago Chronicle, of April 5.

BOOKS

REAL THINGS IN NATURE.
 Something about astronomy, something about physics, something about meteorology, something about chemistry, about geology, about zoology, about botany, about the human body, something about the early history of man and the development of society, such is the hotchpotch of this little book of 443 pages ("Real Things in Nature," by E. S. Holden, Macmillan Co., N. Y.)
 It can be readily seen that in the compass of one book not very much can be told of any of the subjects, and yet what is told is very well told and will serve without correction as introduction to further study. The book fulfills the purpose which the author claims to have had in view, namely, "to present to young children a view of the world which shall be, in its degree, complete, useful and interesting." The author, formerly director of the Lick Observatory, now librarian at West Point, is admirably equipped as a scientist to write such a book; and the publishers, by the clear type and numerous illustrations, have done their part to make it attractive. It may be especially commended for young folks

who have not the opportunity to make fuller studies in school, and also for older readers who may wish to get a general knowledge of many interesting things in nature.

In the closing pages, where the author brings in the subject of property to show the progress of civilization, he says: "When a man once plants a field of corn or builds a house, that particular piece of ground belongs to him alone;" but under the subject of taxes on the next page he says nothing of the nice propriety of the man's paying something to the community for the use of the land which once "belonged to everybody." Considering the close connection, we may feel that the author missed a good opportunity for putting a good idea into the minds of his young readers. But this would be expecting too much at the present stage of primary education and text-book making.

J. H. DILLARD.

PERIODICALS

A writer in the Fortnightly Review for March goes very fully into statistics, proving that pauperism has increased in England during the past 20 years. His purpose apparently is to support Chamberlain's tariff reform programme; but his facts are conclusive, however false his cause. The Liberals may well take to heart his facts, and, instead of trying to show that their free trade is all-satisfying, should endeavor to bulwark free trade by freer opportunity in other ways.—J. H. D.

The Century for April gives beautiful full-page pictures of three characters of Tolstoi, namely, Katia, Mariana and Anna Karenina. Other notable features are a sketch by Richard Whiteing on the "Chateaux of the Loire," and an article by Melville Stone on the "Associated Press." President Hadley has a short article on the "Immediate Future of the American College," which is too academic to excite general interest and comes far short of exhausting the subject.—J. H. D.

The Public

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT
 James G. Parsons, Manager

OUR EIGHTH YEAR.

With this issue we begin the eighth volume of The Public. The first volume, begun in April, 1898, is out of print, and when copies can be obtained they command a considerable premium. We can still furnish the subsequent volumes at the original publication price, with one dollar added for permanent binding, when desired, and 50 cents extra for expressage to any part of the United States, Canada, Cuba or Mexico.

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