

ing Angel through pious professions. Ah! What say you to the Sisyphus boulder?

Assistant—It is already bespoken, Sire. A Mr. Morgan, from the United Trusts of America, is rolling it all over your Excellency's kingdom. He thinks it is a snowball, and that the whole world will stick to it. It's the most harmless of all his delusions, so I humor it.

Satan—Blow him about a bit with Francesca di—

Assistant—Sire! Don't say it! You forget! Most of his earthly transactions were that kind of water which on earth is called wind. He would think himself alive and in Wall Street.

Satan—Condemn him then to keep a fire with soft coal—

Assistant—Sire! Sire! Mercy! Have mercy! Remember this is only Hell!

Satan—Peace! I have spoken!

MELVIN L. SEVERY.

AN ANTIMONOPOLYMONOPOLIST.

For The Public.

Do you want to know precisely how the men of millions get

A share of almost every product of our toil and sweat?

Would you like to trace the courses and the channels all unseen

Which fill their coffers fuller while our purses grow more lean?

If you want to know Monopoly, its secrets great and small,

Inquire of Tom Johnson, for he understands them all.

He's an expert on Protection and its workings, every one;

How it coolly scoops the credit of the very rain and sun,

And shields the wholesale "robbery which takes all that is left,"

By charging up to freedom the evils due to theft.

Tom understands these juggleries of greedy power and pelf,

And what's behind the curtain, for he's been in there himself.

The ways that franchise holders have to levy monstrous toll

Wherever go their pipes and wires, wherever car-wheels roll;

How groundless their assumptions are, their boasts and threats how vain,

If the people only knew their rights and knowing dared maintain;

All this Tom Johnson understands as plain as two and two,

And how to make it clear to common men like me and you.

The "kings" and "barons" who our coal and iron claim to own,

Whom even revolution scarce can promise to dethrone,

May be shelved without disturbance, in the plainest humdrum way,

Through the simple taxing methods practiced from the earliest day.

Tom Johnson understands it, where he goes it's always heard,

"Home Rule and Just Taxation," there's the secret in a word.

The plous Mr. Baer and his designs benevolent

Have of late been made the subject of unseemly merriment;

But they're of a piece with all the talk that rich men may not use

Their riches in just such a way as they may freely choose.

The "trusteeship of wealth" to Tom is rank absurdity,

The plan of nature being: Every man his own trustee.

"Tom Johnson's way" is not like that of most good millionaires

Who feel they never rightly earned the fortunes miscalled theirs;

Carnegie gives the people books to fill their public shelves,

While Johnson shows them why those books they cannot buy themselves.

With unearned wealth which robber laws are giving him to spend

He works to bring those very laws forever to an end.

JAY HAWKINS.

Little Bob—My Aunt Debby is a mighty queer woman!

Little Willy—She looks all right.

Little Bob—She is all right; that's what makes me say she's queer. Why, if anything bad happens to you she don't hope it will be a lesson to you.—Puck.

Of Gladstone, Henry Labouchere once remarked: "I do not object to Mr. Gladstone's occasionally having an ace up his sleeve. But I do wish he would not always say that Providence put it there."—Argonaut.

BOOKS

OUR BENEVOLENT FEUDALISM.

The happy title of Mr. Ghent's book, "Our Benevolent Feudalism" (Macmillan), tells its own story, and is in itself the gist of the author's clever contribution to the social discussion. Ever since his striking article in the Independent, allusions to his phrase have been frequent, showing that it met a "long-felt want."

Readers of The Public will remember that the article was made the subject of an editorial, at the time of its appearance (p. 68), and the book, which is but a development of the former argument, does not therefore call for an extended review in these columns.

We may say, however, that in our opinion no book on social problems has appeared recently which is more worth reading. Many statistics are given which could not be included in a brief article, and there is fuller scope for clever illustration and apt quotation. The chapter on "Our Molders of Opinion," with its quotations and comments, is alone worth the price of the book.

Mr. Ghent has two very pretty instruments in his style—a fine edge of

satire and an air of convincing confidence. Speaking of single-taxers and the "Neo-Jeffersonians," he says: "Their general notions of the coming society do not differ greatly from the notions of the orthodox economists." This off-hand statement is a misleading half-truth. It does not follow because two "general notions" are alike in some particulars that they may not differ greatly. Mr. Ghent's point of similarity between the two—free competition—reminds us of the old conundrum: "Why is an elephant like a piano?" Except that the answer to the conundrum is true, whereas the orthodox economist's idea of free competition is quite different from the single taxer's idea, we might put the conundrum for him this way: Why is a single taxer like an orthodox economist? Because neither is in favor of state socialism.

We hope and believe that the book will have a wide circulation. There is nothing more important for the American people just now than an understanding of what the "benevolence" of our modern magnates really means, and this understanding no reader of the book can miss.

J. H. DILLARD.

IN THE COURT OF HISTORY.

It is indeed rare that the public is treated to such an able bit of historical writing as is to be found in this pamphlet of 70 pp. (Wm. Tyrrell & Co., Toronto), in which Mr. Goldwin Smith makes an apology for Canadians who were opposed to the South African war. Let no one think that it is "ancient history," for the issues involved in the discussion are eternal; and the argument of the story unwinds to its ruthless conclusion, that there can still be committed under the sun great deeds as vile as ever darkened the pages of history.

If any one will read the closing chapters of Mark Twain's "Following the Equator," and then read this pamphlet, he cannot avoid the conclusion that the destruction of the Boer republics was a deep-laid scheme, that all the official and colonial and war department parleyings were so many idle words, and that the question of suffrage was a hypocritical subterfuge. "Was there," says Goldwin Smith, "such a lack in the world of refined plutocracy, with its social inequalities and its liabilities to luxury and corruption, that Canada must needs lend a hand in the destruction of these two little pastoral commonwealths with their social equality, their simplicity of life, and their fair hope of development into healthy nations?"

It is hardly necessary to add that the author's well-known clearness and strength of style have not been better shown in any of his writings than in this little pamphlet, in which he is writing from the fullness of mature convictions. There are, it is true, scholars and critics who seem

to think that a historian should have no convictions, and who would deny the dignified term of "historical writing" to books that openly confess the author's sympathies. To such we would most heartily commend this little production, as a good specimen of the possibility of combining facts and feelings.

J. H. DILLARD.

AMERICAN IMPERIALISM.

When President McKinley inaugurated his Philippine policy with the epigrammatic assurance that destiny determines duty and a demand upon the Filipino republic to surrender, nothing stirred the ire of his supporters more than to call it a policy of imperialism. But as time goes by and the imperial policy becomes more familiar, that word loses its harshness to American ears. Even at this early day both the idea and the word have become so acceptable, or at least, inoffensive, that a text-book in support of American imperialism upon historical and constitutional grounds is published by a leading house, not in advocacy of the policy as a future possibility, but in elucidation of it as a present fact.

This book, "The Administration of Dependencies; a Study of the Evolution of the Federal Empire with Special Reference to American Colonial Problems," a very able book, by the way, bears the imprint of the Putnams and comes from the pen of Alpheus H. Snow. Repugnant as is the policy it supports, it is a work which constitutional lawyers will welcome and which public writers and speakers, whatever their own views on the subject, will find invaluable.

Mr. Snow's purpose is to show that the apparently minor clause in the Federal constitution which empowers Congress to "dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States," was intended to lay the foundations for an American empire, in

which the Union of the States should be the self-governing imperial power, and its territorial acquisitions mere dependencies, attached to but outside of the republic—belonging to the house but not within the household.

In pursuit of this purpose he begins the history of the clause in question with the French and English occupation of America, showing that under these regimes the difference between the government of the "realm," that is, of the French or English people at home, and the government of the outlying dependencies which went to make up the "empire," was marked and natural. However little or much the people at home might actually or nominally exercise the right of self-government, the dependencies were governed by the executive authority. The power of the British parliament, for instance,

was different when sitting as the parliament for the British "empire," including the American colonies, from its power when sitting as the parliament of the "realm." This difference came to be recognized by the law of nations, and the American colonists took refuge in it when the British parliament, by passing the stamp act, assumed that Great Britain and the colonists formed one political organism. The American colonists resented that as usurpation, the pamphleteers of the time maintaining that the British government had only a general authority of regulation over the colonies, which were dependencies and as such could not be taxed for the benefit of the home government. With this theory before them the makers of the Federal constitution adopted the clause in question, namely, "The Congress shall have power to

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