

distinguished national speakers. By a wise foresight the chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee was enabled, long before the campaign began, to hire Music hall for the evenings of November 4 and 7; but for the open dates of the ablest Democratic orators no large auditorium in the city of Providence is available.

The leaders of the Republican party, after making a solemn pledge to have no more law making after election by a defunct legislature, are now a third time since that promise was made, about to defy public sentiment by holding such a session one week after a new legislature shall have been elected.

The State Machine, after refusing to consider amendments to the constitution conferring the veto power and equal suffrage in cities, has proposed an amendment to be read at the polls on November 8, dividing the cities and large towns into voting districts for the election of members of the House. Instead of yielding to the public demand that the people of the State be protected by reforming the State Senate, the Machine insults the voters by offering an amendment which will so gerrymander the large municipalities as to put an end to an opposition party of any kind in the State.

The State Machine, not content with its assumption that the electors are such fools that they will not see through the silly tricks above enumerated, acts upon the premise that every class of citizens in the State is made up of the densely ignorant. Among other things it tries to obscure the real issues by appealing to religious prejudice of some kind. It is to be expected, therefore, that this year, as last, some attempt to delude and deceive the voters in that line will be sprung somewhere a few days before election.

Again, this year still more than last, police commissions and license commissions are to be made use of by the State Machine to intimidate liquor dealers into a combined support of Republican candidates. As a means to this end threats are made as to what will be done to them after election if the Democrats are not defeated.

And so it has been year in and year out, that the active Republican leaders have manifested their supreme contempt for those whose support and votes they seek, unaware of the ridicule and dislike they have won from the common people. No one enjoys being looked upon and treated as though he were a fool.

But it may be said the policy so long followed must have seemed to be suc-

cessful or it would not have been continued. Certainly success has followed, but for other causes. The lavish and unscrupulous expenditure of money for both legitimate and corrupt purposes; the assistance of nearly all the State and municipal office holders; the support of most of the newspapers, and finally the mere momentum of long possession of political power, these have been the efficient agencies of the Republican Machine.

Added to these has been the poverty of the Democratic party. Unable to secure funds to build up a State organization and carry on annual campaigns, its members have not succeeded in substituting individual work and enthusiasm for the ordinary pecuniary methods.

Finally, a corrupt machine has controlled the Republican party, because no considerable number of influential citizens have been sufficiently interested and independent to rebuke it in an effectual manner.

The Democratic party, with all its faults, has always shown a respect for public opinion. In all its attempts at legislation it has appealed to the intelligence of the voters of the State. It refuses to arouse prejudice; it invites discussion of its measures; it has no desire to intimidate. All that it needs, in order to effect great and lasting reforms in this State is the open and cordial support of the good citizens who are dissatisfied with boss rule and its base methods.

#### THE BARGAIN OF ESAU.

Government by the people  
—next after home and religion—  
is the most austere obligation  
now resting on you.  
First is to keep your family;  
next—after God's dues are met,  
and a part of those dues if you will—  
is to keep up the state.  
Not merely to vote,  
but to know whom you're voting for,  
and to have some reason why.

If it's worth giving one's whole life,  
It's worth giving such small fraction  
of life as this study requires.  
It interferes with your business?  
It your business—  
in its due place  
the most important you have.  
What is there more important  
than saving the country?

And saving the country consists—  
not in dressing in hardware  
and making yourself a target  
for some one to take a pot shot at—  
but in doing this simple duty  
of taking your share in the government,  
this government by the people.

Come, if they all  
paid as little attention  
as you who read these lines,  
where would self-government end?  
Brethren, the bargain of Esau  
doomed him to age-long infamy,  
selling his birthright  
for a mess of miserable pottage.

But Esau at least was hungry,  
and got his hunger appeasal.  
You let your birthright rot.  
—Goodhue Co. News, of Red Wing, Minn.

Congressman Robert Baker, the man who wouldn't take a pass from the B. & O., was on the official train [at the opening of the New York subway road]. A Republican fellow passenger regarded him for some time with a malevolent glare, and then, touching him on the shoulder, said in icy accents: "Mr. Baker, did you pay for this ride?"

Of course everybody on that train was riding free. Baker gave a melodramatic start and hissed:

"Detected!"—New York Times, of October 28.

## BOOKS

### THE BOOK OF LORDS.

Mr. Watson, in his story of France, speaking of the splendid enthusiasm with which the friends of liberty everywhere greeted the fall of the Bastille, breaks out with the exclamation: "Cold, cold are the ashes of all this noble enthusiasm now." One cannot but be reminded of this in reading Morrison Davidson's "Book of Lords," written with a noble enthusiasm some 15 years ago, at a time when there was a hopeful agitation in England against the upper chamber of parliament. A great meeting was held in St. James' hall, which unanimously adopted this resolution—that the "House of Peers in Parliament is useless and dangerous, and ought to be abolished." If Davidson were writing now of this meeting, he might exclaim: "Cold, cold are the ashes of all this noble enthusiasm now."

The fact is that reaction is on top today. Enthusiasm for the abolition of shams and the overthrow of oppression is smouldering in the background. We have criticism, and cynicism, and a half-despairing discontent—but there is nowhere a buoyant enthusiasm thrilling the hearts of all lovers of freedom with a common fire. Socialism shows more signs than anything else, but even socialism, with its rapidly-growing protest, seems to many thoughtful reformers rather a sure manifestation of the social unrest than a clear-cut ideal that needs no defense. One does not feel in the air a pervasive, buoyant, bracing atmosphere of enthusiasm for liberty, equality and fraternity. And yet there are perhaps indications that the reactionary spirit is pausing at the top, and may soon decline.

It is a good time to read again such books as this little work by Davidson, with its scathing denunciation of so manifest an absurdity as hereditary legislators. Its spirit is catching, and will help to engender gall against other manifest absurdities.

"The Book of Lords" is a sequel to the author's well-known arraignment of royalty in the "New Book of Kings."

## The Public

is a weekly review, which prints in concise and plain terms, with lucid explanations and without editorial bias, all the news of the world of historical value. It is also an editorial paper. Though it abstains from mingling editorial opinions with its news accounts, it has opinions of a pronounced character, based upon the principles of radical democracy, which, in the columns reserved for editorial comment, it expresses fully and freely, without favor or prejudice, without fear of consequences, and without hope of discreditable reward. Yet it makes no pretensions to infallibility, either in opinions or in statements of fact; it simply aspires to a deserved reputation for intelligence and honesty in both. Besides its editorial and news features, the paper contains a department of original and selected miscellany, in which appear articles and extracts upon various subjects, verse as well as prose, chosen alike for their literary merit and their wholesome human interest. Familiarity with THE PUBLIC will commend it as a paper that is not only worth reading, but also worth filing.

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**A BANQUET** will be given in honor of the Rev. H. S. Bigelow on November 21st, at Kinsley's. For further information, Miss Nellie Carlin, 1202 Ashland Block, Tel. Central 927—or Dr. Anna M. Lund, 1014 Masonic Temple, Tel. Central 3691, Automatic 7691. Speakers and programme will be announced later.

### PERIODICALS.

The Reader Magazine (The Bobbe-Merrill Co., Indianapolis) offers in the November number a story by John T. McCutcheon, the cartoonist, and a few dashes of the pen by Zangwill.

Myra Kelly's "A Passport to Paradise," in the November McClure, another of her inimitable stories of school life on the East side in New York, is as humorous as anything she has yet done, but the contrasts of pathos are stronger than heretofore and the lessons more pointed.

The question of masculine and feminine employment has never been so well considered in print, nor so wittily expressed, as by Marion Foster Washburne in the North American Review for October. Gov. Garvin, of Rhode Island, also contributes to this number, his paper being on the subject of good city government.

"What the Dog is Built to Do," is an interesting contribution by Dr. Woods Hutchinson, to the Open Court for October. "When man appears upon the threshold of history," writes Dr. Hutchinson, "the dog is at his heels." A popular paper explaining how scientists have learned that the dog, so long man's companion, was domesticated from the wild would be a welcome supplement to this valuable speculation as to the purpose for which dogs were constructed.

### Parker's Old-Man-of-the-Sea.

Those who know his style are well aware that he neither spares facts nor minces words. What he said of kings, is paralleled here by what he says of earls and dukes. "The English aristocracy," he says, "is to-day what it has ever been—a predatory band. They are not permitted to murder, burn and rob as in the good old times of Sottim the Merciless and Falco Without Bowels. But they levy tribute on the whole people of these islands with merciless rigor. What they call 'rent' is simply a private tax laid on the industry of the nation by a small gang of peers and other inheritors of the spoils of the conquest. 'Rent' is brigandage reduced to a system."

Davidson shows in this book, as in his others, a wonderful acquaintance with the shady side of English history, and no one can read him without seeing the shallowness of our ordinary histories. He divides his inquiry into four epochs: First, from William the Conqueror to the close of the War of the Roses (1066-1485); second, to William the Third and the Glorious Revolution, the hypocrisy of which he shows more clearly than any other writer (1485-1688); third, to the Reform Bill (1688-1832); fourth, to recent times (1832-1884). In each epoch he shows by concrete illustrations the selfishness and rapacity that have dominated, from precedent to precedent, the policy of England's noble peers. It is safe to say that a more unsparing and righteously indignant arraignment cannot be found in print. "In one respect," thus he takes leave of his victims, "the aristocracy paint themselves in their true colors. The coats-of-arms on which they pride

themselves are hideously symbolic of their innate character. Wolves, tigers, panthers, lions, hawks, vultures, eagles, snakes, adders, vipers; swords, spears, daggers, arrows; griffins, ghouls, demons—everything horrible in nature and in the realm of imagination—grace the escutcheons of our old nobility."

The book contains only about 100 pages. It is published by F. R. Henderson, Paternoster Square, London.

J. H. DILLARD.

### BOOKS RECEIVED.

—Mass and Class; a survey of Social Divisions. By W. J. Ghent. New York. The Macmillan Company. Price, \$1.25 net. To be reviewed.

—The History of Civilization, which includes a History of Life and also a History of Ideas. With more than 650 illustrations. By Julian Laughlin, a member of the St. Louis Bar. Published by the author, 417 Pine street, St. Louis, Mo. Price, \$5. To be reviewed.

### PAMPHLETS.

David Overmeyer's oration, now in pamphlet form, delivered at the Louisiana Purchase exposition at St. Louis on Kansas Day, September 30, is a gem of blended eloquence and sense. No better oratorical representative of Kansas for that occasion could have been found than this Topeka lawyer, who is known the State over as a radical democrat.

Clarence S. Darrow's "The Open Shop" (Chicago: The Hammersmark Publishing Company, 151 Wabash avenue. Price 10 cents), is as its title implies, a discussion of the much-mooted labor issue of "open shop" or "closed shop." Mr. Darrow makes a plea for the closed shop while the "war of classes" shall continue.