

PAUL KRUGER.

For The Public.

Like a brave oak cleft, to its ruin left  
 Waiting in grandeur the final fall,  
 In the heavy gloom of his home-land's  
 doom  
 Waiteth in exile the grand Oom Paul.  
 He had wrought his best ere a troublous  
 rest  
 Beckoned and lured from kinship afar;  
 And his heart remained where was freely  
 drained  
 Blood of his own in the stress of war.

With his weight of years came no coward  
 fears  
 For life he counted of little worth,  
 When sadly he fled the land of his dead,  
 And all his stern soul held dear on earth.  
 Though England has won—all her foul  
 work done,  
 Paid and honored in hovel and hall,  
 Not a grant to stand at her king's right  
 hand  
 Could win the homage of stanch Oom  
 Paul.

D. H. INGHAM.

Josh—Mean ter say Solon was one  
 of the wisest men in Greece? I  
 thought he was some durned fool.

Hiram—What made you think so?

Josh—Well, I've noticed that they  
 speak of the members of the legis-  
 latur' as Albany Solons.—Puck.

"Every Napoleon has had his  
 Waterloo."

"Yes. And every republic its Ma-  
 nila."—Life.

BOOK NOTICES.

HIGHER LIFE FOR WORKING PEOPLE.

Under the above title, Mr. Walker Stephens discusses in a practical and prudent fashion certain social problems, making a little book of 130 pages (Longmans), which may do good service in awakening the conservative reader who has imagined that there is no social problem in the world except that of being content "in that state of life unto which it shall please God to call me."

The keynote of the book is found in the quotation from the great Turgot, with which it closes—"Well-timed reform to avert revolution."

In the introduction Mr. Stephens says that the "greatest problem of all is work for the mass of unemployed," and asserts that "a solution of this greatest problem must be attempted sooner or later." The first chapter deals with the "Submerged Tenth," and shows by figures—for England—that it is a "submerged fifth or sixth," rather than a "submerged tenth," to which the great problem applies.

The author seems to see the necessity of getting more people back to the land, and takes pains to show that there is a abundance of land right in England. "Few people," he says, "realize to themselves the vast area of land in our own country still available for culture;" and, again, after speaking of the Scotch Deer Forest Commission, he reiterates, "that throughout England there is area ample enough to employ the labor of many hundreds of thousands of new hands for generations to come." His remedy is, in brief, the purchase of land by the state and the founding of home colonies.

It is surprising, in view of other statements of the writer in later chapters, that he has failed to see how much more effective, not to speak of the great principle of justice, would be the natural "colonizing" that would be done, if England's "available" lands were freed from uselessness by a righteous system of taxation.

Here are some quotations from his chapter on the "Distribution of Wealth." He says: "It has been a constant lament that our legislators some centuries ago lacked the wisdom and foresight to claim for the nation the property in minerals—the wealth beneath the soil. . . . During the last 35 years the landlords have drawn from this source over £220,000,000, which would otherwise have gone to increase the general wealth." And in the same chapter he lays down certain propositions in regard to the wealth not beneath the soil, which he might have seen would save, if carried out, the trouble of government purchase and all the great colonizing organization which he proposes: "Landlords should be called upon to contribute to the national revenue as far as their circumstances permit, while leaving them still an effective inducement to remain landlords." Again: "Some means must be taken to intercept, for the public good, at least a portion of the unearned increment of the value of land." Then he quotes with approval Mr. Fletcher Moulton, Q. C., as follows: "The present system of levying rates is both absurd and unjust. . . . The value of ground upon which buildings stand is wholly different in its origin. It is not due to expenditure on the part of the owner or his predecessors. . . . The whole benefit of any outlay in public improvements inevitably passes ultimately to the owners of the land." These quotations and other passages, coupled with the scheme of purchase and colonizing, show how it is possible to write around, and dally with, a great truth without accepting it, and its consequences, simply and boldly.

This failure vitiates some portions of the book; but several chapters are exceedingly interesting and suggestive, notably those on "The Eight-Hour Day," and "Self-Help." The author asserts that "the working classes are as fully alive to the importance of right living as are the middle and upper classes. . . . It may well be doubted whether, as a class, they do not exhibit a firmer moral character than belongs to their social superiors." He then proceeds to show how, under present conditions, most workmen have almost no time for any of the social amenities and rational pleasures of life. The fact is that there is every temptation, in the very nature of the human heart, to yield to a reaction of excesses in the brief moments of leisure that most workmen rarely have.

People who, so far as they think at all, have an idea that the great mass of our fellowmen are indifferent to the esthetic side of life, or would be if they had a chance, see only the surface. There is no essential difference in men by classes. The ratio of those who would appreciate the beautiful side of life—which may be called art for short—is just as great, granted a chance of development, in tenements as in mansions.

Sidney Lanier was thinking of the narrow limitations of the lives of the many—the poor—who toll, year in and year out, for bare necessities, when he sang these words in his splendid "Symphony":

"Look up the land, look down the land,  
 The poor, the poor, the poor, they stand  
 Wedged by the pressing of Trade's hand  
 Against an inward opening door  
 Which pressure tightens evermore;  
 They sigh a monstrous foul-air sigh  
 For the outside leagues of liberty,  
 Where Art, sweet lark, translates the sky  
 Into a heavenly melody."

If this little book of Mr. Stephens can arouse in its readers some sense of the in-

justice in present social conditions, which shuts out ninety-nine out of a hundred working men, as he claims, from rational participation in, or an opportunity of cultivating, the four sides of life, it has not been written in vain.

J. H. DILLARD.

Edward Osgood Brown's paper on "The Shore of Lake Michigan," read before the Law Club of the city of Chicago, on the 25th of April, 1902, has been printed by order of the club. Two interesting matters are considered, one of which is of great public importance. The latter relates to property rights in accretions along the lake shore induced by artificial means, which the courts have frowned upon; and considers the desirability of legislative action for securing to the public the benefit of the state ownership, which the courts sustain, of the submerged shallows along the lake front. The other point has to do with Capt. Streeter's and other irregular claims to natural accretions. In this connection Mr. Brown gives the legal history of the so-called "District of Lake Michigan," an extension into the lake by accretion to Chicago territory, over which Capt. Streeter asserts title and sovereignty as the original discoverer.

PERIODICALS.

—The summer number of the Single Tax Review (62 Trinity Place, New York) opens

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4. **Department Stores** (from THE PUBLIC of November 12, 1898).
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- 12.—**Brutal Degeneracy Disgracefully Defended**. By A. B. Choate. (From THE PUBLIC of July 26, 1902).