

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 work-  
ings, 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, wher-  
ever 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 prac-  
ticed 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 benevo-  
lent

Have of late been made the subject of un-  
seemly 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 Provi-  
dence put it there."—Argonaut.

### BOOKS

#### OUR BENEVOLENT FEUDALISM.

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

Readers of *The Public* will remem-  
ber that the article was made the sub-  
ject 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 Opin-  
ion," with its quotations and com-  
ments, is alone worth the price of the  
book.

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

satire and an air of convincing con-  
fidence. 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 mislead-  
ing half-truth. It does not follow be-  
cause two "general notions" are alike  
in some particulars that they may not  
differ greatly. Mr. Ghent's point of  
similarity between the two—free com-  
petition—reminds us of the old conun-  
drum: "Why is an elephant like a  
piano?" Except that the answer to  
the conundrum is true, whereas the  
orthodox economist's idea of free com-  
petition 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 ortho-  
dox 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 Amer-  
ican people just now than an under-  
standing 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 histo-  
rical 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 Canadi-  
ans 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 eter-  
nal; and the argument of the story  
unwinds to its ruthless conclusion,  
that there can still be committed un-  
der 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 conclu-  
sion 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 ques-  
tion of suffrage was a hypocritical  
subterfuge. "Was there," says Gold-  
win Smith, "such a lack in the world  
of refined plutocracy, with its social  
inequalities and its liabilities to lux-  
ury and corruption, that Canada must  
needs lend a hand in the destruction  
of these two little pastoral common-  
wealths with their social equality,  
their simplicity of life, and their fair  
hope of development into healthy na-  
tions?"

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