

truth proclaimed by one of the world's prophets has been at once accepted by another, who has come more and more to receive it as the supreme truth of the age, and to make its proclamation his own message to mankind. This truth, proclaimed indeed through the ages, but only now made imminent in the practical affairs of civilized men, is that all men have an equal right to the use of the earth. This truth, which Henry George made the burden of his message to the world, has been received by the great Russian prophet, Tolstoy, who has repeatedly, in recent years, professed his belief that its acceptance must be the next great forward step in the world's civilization. In his last published essay, he writes as follows:

"In order that this [the freedom to labor on the land] may take place it is indispensable first that the workmen understand that this change is necessary for their good, that they seek the means by which they can realize it, and that they refuse to accept their industrial slavery as their eternal and immutable state.

"The principal obstacle to this is the monopolizing of the soil by the proprietors who do not work, and it is the earth which the workmen should demand of their governments. In demanding it they do not exact some foreign thing which does not belong to them, but their most absolute and essential right, the right of living on the earth and of feeding one's self without asking the permission of other men."

These words, simple as they seem, express the truth which has now come into the world to battle for supremacy until it conquers. They are the tribute of one great prophet to another, who has not only uttered the truth but pointed the way.

J. H. DILLARD.

THE FLIGHT OF PONY BAKER.

I guess pretty nearly every grown up man can remember how as a boy he was hypnotized by a bigger fellow, and how, while the delusion lasted, he was ready to do anything at the behest of the imagined hero. There is no exaggeration in the description of the hold that Jim Leonard, miserable fellow that he was, had on Pony Baker. It was probably good for Pony after all to learn early in life the folly of leaning on a weak reed.

What a contrast between Jim Leonard and Pony's cousin, Frank Baker. The story of Frank's trusty care of the two thousand dollars shows what a fine fellow he was. Now why in the world did not Pony take to Frank as he did to the foolish Jim Leonard? That is one of the unsolved mysteries of boyhood.

Speaking of mysteries reminds us of the strange apparitions of the Fourth of July Boy at Pawpaw Bottom. Why is this episode drawn in? Did Mr. Howells have such an experience himself? It would be very interesting to know; the Society for Psychological Research ought to inquire.

Take this chapter out—not that we would like to take it out, because it is one of the most interesting chapters in the book—and we have a typical,

genuine slice of boy life in this new book by Mr. Howells. "The Flight of Pony Baker" (Harpers) is a book that parents will not regret buying for their boys. Certainly books for boys, that are true to life and free from lurid impossibilities, are so rare that they deserve attention whenever they can be found. To write such a book, unsensational and at the same time interesting, is a work for a master. Of course, if a book for boys is not interesting it is a failure; but if "The Flight of Pony Baker"—which is so happily postponed from time to time—does not interest the average boy, we should say that he is in a bad way, and needs medicine of some kind.

J. H. DILLARD.

"AMERICAN MUNICIPAL PROGRESS."

When the kind of endowment that feeds the "Coal Oil" university of Chicago is considered, there is something almost marvelous in the freedom of thought and expression which its professors exercise. Whether or not this is a reaction from the Bemis episode of a few years ago, it is certainly a fact. Not only do they appear to be exempt from official discipline for heterodox opinions, but what is of even greater importance, they are extraordinarily free from the deadening influences of the professional cult. It is doubtful if in the faculty of any other large university in the United States there can be found so much refreshing indifference to cult Grundyism as in this University of Chicago. As a result, the sociological products of its professors have as a rule neither the musty odor of one type of college work nor the plutocratic spirit of another. That rule finds no exception in the contribution which Charles Zueblin, professor of sociology in the University of Chicago, makes to the "Citizen's Library of Economics, Politics and Sociology," published by the Macmillan company, New York, and edited by Prof. Ely. Though the larger part of Prof. Zueblin's "American Municipal Progress" is devoted to subjects that involve few if any conflicting prejudices or interests—being simply descriptive of city transportation, public works, sanitation, public schools, public libraries, public buildings, parks and boulevards, and public recreation—the final chapter is devoted to the subject of "public control, ownership and operation," and here as elsewhere through the book, it is evidently Prof. Zueblin himself, and neither a professional cult nor a college "boss," that addresses the reader. In addition to its value as a contribution to the body of thought upon the subject of municipal life, this little volume is alive with illustrative facts gathered from all the progressive cities of the country.

LITERARY NOTES.

The handsome January number of the Craftsman (Syracuse, N. Y.) opens with a paper on the guilds and art of German and Netherlander, which is followed by a scheme for a school of industrial art by Prof. Triggs.

George C. Sikes is represented in the January Chautauquan with one of his interesting and instructive articles on the subject on which he is an expert—municipal affairs.

He tells here how the Chicago city council was reformed.

The World To-Day (Chicago), which is evidently trying to do the work that the American Review of Reviews is engaged in, does it much more satisfactorily, as its excellent January number amply testifies. It covers the field with better discrimination, it chooses and handles its subjects with greater courage, and it is vastly more readable.

McClure's for January comments editorially upon the coincidence of three contributions in the same issue relating each to a different kind of lawlessness—that of capitalists in the Standard Oil conspiracy, that of workmen in the anthracite region, and that of politicians in the misgovernment of Minneapolis. The first is the continuation by Miss Tarbell of her fascinating history of the Standard Oil trust. The second is a circumstantial account by Ray Stannard Baker of the

"Economic Tangles"

by Judson Grenell: deals in popular yet practical way with industrial problems. Cloth, postpaid, \$1.

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