

as to investors in land as a class. What he did assume, and he proved it, was that under the institution of land monopoly wages are diminished relatively to productive power by progress, with a tendency to absolute diminution, and that correlatively, land values are increased. But apart from the misinterpretation, isn't it a weak defense of land monopoly, that those who win in the real estate gamble come legitimately by their winnings because others lose? This is a defense that could be more logically offered for lotteries. The point is not whether there may be an equilibrium between the winnings of some land gamblers and the losses of others; it is whether or not the ultimate winnings are extorted from producers.

Another of the minor points is that the single tax would have been disappointing as a revenue measure in England during the past 20 years, because in England "agricultural lands have steadily fallen" during that time. Does Prof. Bullock understand that the single tax is an agricultural tax? If he does, he ought to honor his professorial chair by learning what it is before he discusses it. If he does not, why did he intimate that the single tax would have proved a disappointment in England because "agricultural lands" there have fallen in value? Hasn't he good reason for believing that, however it may be with agricultural land values alone, the aggregate of the values of all kinds of land in England is greater to-day than 20 years ago?

Still another point is that there are unearned increments besides those from land ownership. "When a monopoly of any sort," he says, "develops an unusually profitable field of investment, part of the monopoly profits are an unearned income." Can Prof. Bullock name any such field—patents excepted, and they are of the nature of land ownership, for a government patent to monopolize laws of nature is essentially the same as one to monopolize a place in nature—can he name any such field of any considerable magnitude and permanence which does not depend for its monopoly power upon a monopoly of some kind of land?

The final objection which Prof. Bullock makes to the single tax is in the form of an appeal to "the conscience of the average American." Prof. Bullock thinks George's single tax would amount to confiscation, and therefore wouldn't be just. Yet he says only two pages earlier, in reply to George's argument that land monopoly is contrary to natural rights, that modern writers "hold that all of a person's rights are based upon considerations of social utility, and, therefore, consider the justice of land ownership to be a question of social utility." Does Prof. Bullock accept this dictum of "modern writers?" If

not, why does he use it without criticism as an argument against George? If he does accept it, why does he appeal to justice instead of social utility in attempting to controvert George at another point.

It would be interesting to know why teachers like Prof. Bullock deny natural justice, when it is appealed to in behalf of producers against land monopolists, and themselves appeal to it in behalf of land monopolists against producers. If the rights of producers are based only on considerations of social utility, when land monopolists defend their titles, why are not the rights of land monopolists based only on considerations of social utility, when producers propose to abrogate those titles?

Can it really be because these teachers are hired to make moral and economic confusion for the benefit of land monopolists? We do not believe this of Prof. Bullock. His book as a whole shows him to be naturally a clear and honest thinker. But he is wandering in the mazes of a nebulous system of economics, so confusing that it would entangle the intellect of a Solon and invert the conscience of a saint. The thread of primary economic principle that runs through this book, though too unobtrusive, is plain enough when you pick it out of the mass of superficial, irrelevant and trivial details; and it runs straight enough, astonishingly straight when the intricacies of the maze are considered. The chief value of the book, however, is its disclosure of the utter weakness of its professorial response to Henry George.

#### THE REIGN OF GILT.

**The Reign of Gilt.** By David Graham Phillips. New York: James Pott & Co. Price \$1.00 net. Sold by the Public Publishing Co.

"The story of history, rightly written, would be the story of the march of democracy." This is the keynote of David Graham Phillips's double-barreled essay, "The Reign of Gilt,"—one barrel loaded with grape and canister for plutocracy and the other with bouquets for democracy.

The author of "The Cost" and "The Plum Tree" (p. 239) is evidently so sensitive to the democratic spirit that there is nothing surprising in the bold democracy of these essays of his. If their democratic spirit be disembodied, as it were, a purpose without a plan, the fault must be laid doubtless at the door of the literary standards of the time, which demand lightness of touch in the handling of substantial things, rather than at the door of the author's intelligence and convictions. While it is reassuring to be told that plutocracy, which includes all the perils to the Republic, may be overcome

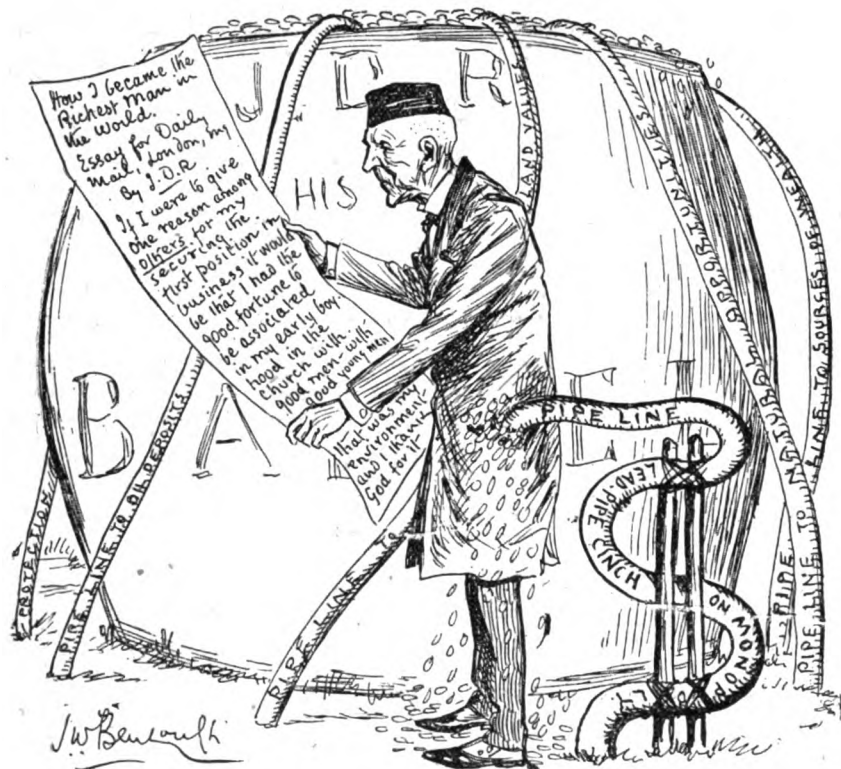
by going "boldly and democratically forth in the broad day," etc., one cannot but feel that it will be safer for democracy to carry arms and wear armor when going forth. Yet Mr. Phillips professes nothing more definite in the way of arms, armor or tactics than education.

Even though the education he has in mind is not the "educated ignorance" of the schools, but that which breeds "citizens who think for themselves," the feeling still persists that the important consideration of ways and means is overlooked. Plutocracy has its methods, and it cannot be overcome by a democracy without methods. This is the criticism which these essays especially deserve. They are optimistic in the sense of being confident that everything will come out all right in the end if we have general education.

And yet for the purpose of arousing a people paralyzed with the anesthesia of plutocracy, they may be better than if they were definite in plan as well as in purpose. Their appeal is to right emotions, and when right emotions are electrified right judgment will awaken.

The essays are well calculated to electify right motives. They are pitched in a high key in every sense. One almost longs for a break here and there into a commonplace of thought and expression. But nowhere in all the 300 pages will such a break be found. Lofty ideals, soaring enthusiasm, abounding faith, feathery optimism, and brilliant composition hold the reader's attention half-breathless to the end. Unlike most essays of this type, however, there is nothing frothy in these. Permeated with an intense reasonableness, they are sourd and wholesome.

Democracy is not regarded as "a cult to rise and rage and perish," or "a theory that may some day be discovered false;" or "a plant to be carefully watched and watered, lest peradventure it die;" but as "a condition, an environment, an atmosphere," with a force behind it "as irresistible as that which keeps the stars a-swinging." And the education demanded as the foundation of democracy is not mere literacy. Asking "What is an ignorant man?" the essayist answers: "Of course there are the illiterates and the almost illiterate. But numerous though they are, they do not count for much in the Republic. . . . The so-called ignorant vote is not a national or a local peril. . . . The ignorance that counts in a democracy is educated ignorance. . . . More often than not, the very conspicuous members of this ignorant class are full to the overflowing with knowledge, knowledge from books, knowledge from experience, knowledge from travel. . . . Is not the



“ONE REASON AMONG OTHERS”—ESPECIALLY OTHERS!  
Which are hinted at in the above little drawing of the truly good John reading the essay he has lately written.

dangerous, ignorant man of the democracy the man who cannot reason cannot think for himself?” The book is one of the soundest and most inspiring to which our era of graft and gilt has given birth.

**A NEGRO BOOK FOR NEGRO CHILDREN.**

**Floyd's Flowers of Duty and Beauty for Colored Children.** By Prof. Silas X. Floyd, A. M., D. D.; illustrated by John Henry Adams, professor of art at Morris-Brown College, Atlanta. Atlanta, Chicago and Boston. Hertel, Jenkins & Co. Price, \$1.00. We have often wondered what must be the emotions of Negro children upon playing with children's dolls or reading children's books, when all the nice doll babies are white and all the nice pictures and pretty talk about children are of white children. Can Negro children mother white dolls? Can they have a genuine human interest in the Negro picture or story, which contemptuous white folks provide? We should hardly think so. And would it be much better if sympathetic white folks made the Negro doll or the Negro child's picture book. We fear not—not for the Negro child, however it might be for the sympathetic white folks.

But such speculations are idle perhaps, and are likely soon to have no occasions to excite them. For in publishing, as well as in rendering other

services to their own race, the Negro has made a good beginning; and here we have the first essay at a book for Negro children which is written and illustrated by Negroes. There is a good deal of evidence of the effects of white man influence, as is natural enough. The stories are often only white folks's stories done over in ebony so to speak, and the pictures are here and there of white folks with heavily shaded faces and Negro features. But some of the pictures are truly characteristic of the Negro—not as white artists caricature him, but as a Negro artist sees him; and some of the stories are carved out of the social life of the Negro as only the Negro knows it. Though there is a great deal of crudity about this child's book, both in text and illustration, it is the crudity of inexperience and not of incapacity.

**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

—Egolsm: A Study in the Social Premises of Religion. By Louis Wallis. Published by the University of Chicago Press, Chicago. Price, \$1.10 net. To be reviewed.

—Bossism and Monopoly. By Thomas Carl Spelling, author of "Trusts and Monopolies," "Law of Private Corporations," etc. New York: D. Appleton & Company. To be reviewed.

**PERIODICALS**

The initial number of Moody's Magazine (New York), of which Byron W. Holt is the editor, appeared with the

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