

fold obligation to lead the fight against monopoly—that concrete defiance of Christ's command—two-fold, because it is bound to antagonize immorality as a human matter of course, and, beyond that, it is bound to denounce whatsoever is opposed to the teachings of the Master.

### O LAWD! OH—LAN'LAWD!

A "COON" DITTY.

For The Public.

The lan'lawd's settin' on top his fence—  
O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!  
He's livin' high an' at my expense—  
O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!  
He's got mo' nalls, an' he's got mo' boa'ds,  
An' he's got mo' gall 'n a hog affoa'ds;  
Gwine t' bull' mo' fence, an' collec' mo'  
rent,  
Till he gits this niggah man's las' red cent!  
O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!

The moon's tu'n red an' the sky's tu'n  
black—

O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!  
Oie Nick's gwine home an' he won't be  
back—

O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!  
His wuk's done finish' on top this earth,  
An' he laugh' t' hissef fo' all he's worth;  
An' he say t' the man on the fence up  
there:

"You mus' run things now while I go some-  
where."

O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!

The sistahs weep an' the eldahs pray—  
But Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!

The preacha's got a whole lot to say—  
O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!

But, you that's talkin', jus' tu'n me loose,  
Fo' yo' can't, fo' true, give a good excuse  
Fo' the pa'dnin' grace that the lan'lawd  
gits

When he comes to meetin' an' draps two  
bits.

O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!

The soul an' stomach—they fus' rate  
friends—

O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!  
The things life borries, why earth it len's—

O Lawd! Oh—lan'lawd!  
But this the thing that the lan'lawd say:

"It's the earth that len's, but it's me you  
pay."

An' he'll skinn yo' clothes neahly offen yo'  
backs

'Less you bus' his game with the single  
tax—

O Lawd! No—lan'lawd!

E. J. SALISBURY.

Rev. Charles Wagner, the author of a book entitled: "The Simple Life," is now visiting this country for the purpose of giving our people further light on his theories in the lectures which he proposes to deliver. The new gospel—that of the simple life—is in truth very old. The Roman satirists pleaded for the simple life and hashed the luxury of the day. As far back as we can go in history we find the same doctrine eloquently preached. And it could hardly have been otherwise. For the very moment that man became conscious that

he possessed a soul, or a spiritual nature, he realized that his true life was not dependent on the multitude of his possessions—rather that it was cramped and fettered by them.—Indianapolis News.

"Yes," said the proprietor of the "A—," as he came out from Mr. Max Hirsch's lecture, "what Mr. Hirsch says is all right, but . . . it recalls to my mind the story of little Bobbie, who told his mamma that he quite enjoyed the doctor's advice, but it was his horrid medicine he hated to take."—Progress, of Melbourne, Australia.

Race hatred never settled any problem on this earth. The way for one race to show a greater degree of superiority over any other is by a greater degree of kindness, of thoughtfulness and of brotherly love. No race is free, indeed, so long as it is ruled by passion and brute force.—Booker T. Washington, before the Peace Congress in Boston.

Uncle Hiram—They say that the sun never sets on the British empire.

Aunt Hannah—Doesn't it, now? And we have such lovely sunsets over here!

—Puck.

## BOOKS

### A PROBLEM IN DEMOCRACY.

It is always refreshing to read an author who meets the common cry that "democracy is a failure," with the response that it is not democracy, but lack of democracy, that has caused the conditions which to superficial or hostile observers look like failures of democracy. "What we need is not less democracy, but more," writes Delos F. Wilcox in *The American City, a Problem in Democracy* (New York: The Macmillan Co., price \$1.25 net); and in that friendly spirit he studies his problem.

Any discussion of the many details of city affairs would fail to escape just criticism at some points, and Dr. Wilcox's work is no exception. But on the vital points of his subject he leaves little room for controversy from the democratic point of view. His chapters on the control of public utilities, municipal home rule, municipal revenues, and municipal debt are especially valuable. On the subject of municipal debt he reaches the important conclusion that "we must call a halt in the piling up of debts for our children to pay."

The book is extremely conservative in method and tone; but advances in the direction of what has been commonly regarded as "radical" are for that reason all the more valuable. Dr. Wilcox's advances in that direction are particularly noticeable in his discussion of

the subject of municipal revenues, where the single tax on land values is considered. After an intelligent explanation of that reform, something quite unusual in books of this conservative class, the author concludes that "clearly, as regards cities at least, the single taxer is right; the only really legitimate source of municipal revenue is the tax on land value."

Dr. Wilcox includes in that category "a franchise tax and a vehicle tax." The classification is hardly correct, but the author practically minimizes the error by this qualification: "If the city desires to treat the streets like other land and make them self-supporting."

Problems of municipal government are forging so fast to the front as the favorite problems of modern democracy, that books of this character are becoming indispensable to all public-spirited men, and this one is among the best that have as yet appeared. It is published in Macmillan's Citizens' Library of Economics, Politics and Sociology, of which Prof. Richard T. Ely is the editor.

Note.—In reply to inquiries with regard to "Democracy," the early production of Richard Whiteing, author of "No. 5 John St." and "The Yellow Van," our information is that the firm (Chatto and Windus, London) which published the book is no longer in existence. We are not aware of an American edition.

## PAMPHLETS.

In Plain Facts and Figures Mr. D. M. Hall (Washington, D. C.) makes a statistical but reasonable comparison of the rate of increase in prosperity under Democratic administrations down to 1860 with that under Republican administrations subsequent to 1860.

Those ill-informed persons who suppose that anarchism and assassination are synonymous terms may improve their knowledge, whether they find edification therein or not, by reading Joseph A. Labadie's leaflet (Detroit) on Anarchism, What It Is and What It Is Not.

## PERIODICALS.

Joaquin Miller opposes the Chinese exclusion Act, in the *Arena* for October, but for reasons that appeal more strongly to the class feeling of employers than to democratic sentiment. Three articles on popular government are especially useful: Flower's account of the referendum in Brookline, Tyson's Single Vote in Plural Elections, and Doty's Chicago referendum. A symposium on the Presidential election is one of the features of this number.

R. F. Powell's Vacant Lot Gardens vs. Vagrancy, in *Charities* for October 1, is a suggestive story of one of the Pingree "potato patch" experiments,—that at Philadelphia, of which Mr. Powell is the superintendent. This is the scheme proposed by Gov. Pingree for ridding society of the tramp evil. "If," said Gov. Pingree, "we will give the members