

The Heart of the Railroad Problem. By Frank Parsons, Ph. D. Published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston. Sold by the Public Publishing Co., Chicago. Price \$1.50 net.

Gov. Larrabee's work, now in its eleventh edition, is one of the oldest systematic works on a subject that has come to engage universal attention. It is even yet a standard. Its history of transportation, of railroads, and of monopoly in transportation add as well to its readableness as to its value. The evil of railroad passes, which called for Gov. Larrabee's animadversion back in 1893 is by Mr. Berge made the subject of his entire book. Here we have the pass system exhibited as a method of bribery, whereby the railroads fortify their other abuses. By this means railroad managers bribe mayors, legislatures and judges. It may seem strange that such important functionaries should be influenced by so slight a bribe; but the facts speak for themselves. Although the title of Dr. Parsons's book is more suggestive of generalization than the others, it really gives more space to detail than either. As in all his books, Dr. Parsons's detail is interesting in itself, and by its vitality gives strength and color to such generalizations as he offers. Though not of equal value, these three books together present a comprehensive view of the railroad question, from the viewpoint of the critic of railroad abuses.

* * *

THE AMERICAN REFERENDUM.

The Referendum in America. Together with some chapters on the History of the Initiative and Other Phases of Popular Government in the United States. By Ellis Paxson Oberholtzer, Ph. D. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. Sold by The Public Publishing Co., Chicago. Price, \$2.00 net.

The Initiative and the Referendum are commonly supposed to be of Swiss origin. In their comprehensive application, this is true. But the principle of both has been in operation in the United States since the period of the Revolutionary War. In a cruder form, for the New England town meeting and the initiative and the referendum are identical in principle, they were in operation in our earliest colonial period. Their town meeting origin aside, however, both the initiative and the referendum, even in their Swiss form, though more restricted in application, are coeval in the United States with American independence. They are distinctly American institutions. To prove this is the object and effect of Dr. Oberholtzer's excellent book.

This book is not an advocate of the comprehensive initiative and referendum. On the contrary, it is written in the spirit of restriction. It leans more to the representative system of republican government, with the initiative and the referendum as incidental correctives, than to the democratic system of republican government, with representation as a convenient instrument. But the work is historical, not controversial; and as a history of the normal development of the initiative and the referendum in the United States it leaves nothing to be desired.

Now that the question of enlarging these modes of democratic republicanism is attracting general attention, Dr. Oberholtzer's book supplies a present want in connection with the study of the

Religion and Politics

By Rev. ALGERNON SIDNEY CRAPSEY

Rector of
St. Andrew's Protestant Episcopal Church
of Rochester, N. Y.

The author's thesis is as follows: "There are in Christendom two institutions, the church and the state, which, from the beginning of Christian history, have borne a varying relation to each other. It is to this constantly varying relation of the church to the state that I now invite your attention, not as a matter for mere academic discussion, but as of vital interest to our social, our political, and our religious life."

The book stands the test of the scholars. It proves the author conversant with the history of the church and intensely interested in the economic problems of the day. It is a little epitome of the Christian church from Jesus to the present time, where he finds "a commercialized church in the commercialized state."—*Unity, Chicago.*

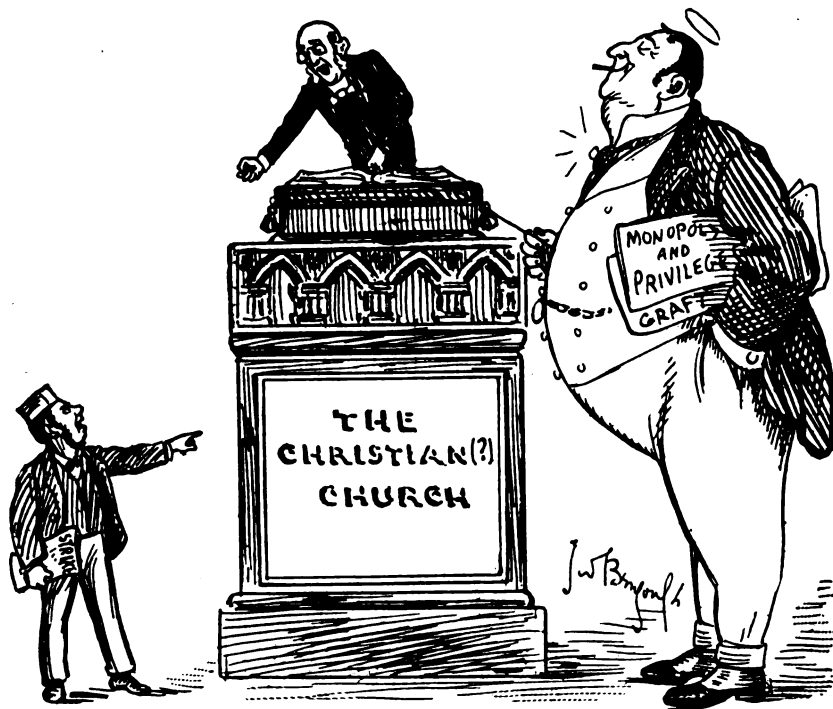
Dr. Crapsey strikes a higher note. His complaint is concerned about the alliance of Christianity with the very institutions against which its founder rebelled, and the substance of his cry is, Back to Jesus! "The Kingdom of God, which Jesus lived and died to establish, was to be all that the Roman empire was not—a kingdom of peace instead of war, a kingdom of righteousness instead of injustice, of mercy instead of cruelty." But the churches of to-day, do they stand for peace, for justice, for mercy? Do they not stand rather essentially for those conditions for which the Roman empire stood. "We are at the beginning," says Dr. Crapsey—"we are at the beginning, not at the end, of the Christian era."—*The Public.*

A discussion of society as politically and ecclesiastically organized, from the point of view of the religion of Christ as conceived by the author. * * * It is suggestive in certain places, and it bears witness to at least one minister's zeal for social righteousness.—*The Outlook.*

12mo, cloth, 326 pages, \$1.25 (postage 9 cents)

The Public Publishing Company

FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING, CHICAGO



THE GNAT AND THE CAMEL

Labor—You're quite brave and fearless about de nouncing me for striking, but why don't you pitch into HIM?

subject which American readers will appreciate. It is a demonstration from American history of the political value of both the initiative and the referendum; and while the author does not, his historical facts do, demand the removal of the existing barriers to their use, by extending it to any question petitioned for by a reasonable proportion of the voters.

BOOKS RECEIVED

—The Philippine Experiences of an American Teacher. A Narrative of Work and Travel in the Philippine Islands. By William B. Freer. Illustrated. Published by Charles Scribner's Sons. Price \$1.50 net. To be reviewed.

PAMPHLETS

In "Public Ownership of Public Utilities," ex-Senator R. A. Dague, of Alameda, Cal., advocates public ownership progressively in the socialistic direction; that is, regardless of whether or not the business in its nature necessitates a public franchise.

+

With compact but lucid argument, Orlando J. Smith, author of "Eternalism" and "Balance," undertakes to demonstrate the agreement of religion and science. The climax of the argument is this parallel: The scientific conception of physical action and the

The Public

is a weekly review which prints in concise and plain terms, with lucid explanations and without editorial bias, all the news of the world of historical value. It is also an editorial paper. Though it abstains from mingling editorial opinions with its news accounts, it has opinions of a pronounced character, based upon the principles of radical democracy, which, in the columns reserved for editorial comment, it expresses fully and freely, without favor or prejudice, without fear of consequences, and without hope of discreditable reward. Yet it makes no pretensions to infallibility, either in opinions or in statements of fact; it simply aspires to a deserved reputation for intelligence and honesty in both. Besides its editorial and news features, the paper contains a department of original and selected matter, chosen alike for its literary merit and wholesome human interest.

Familiarity with The Public will commend it as a paper that is not only worth reading, but also worth fling. Published weekly by The Public Publishing Company, First National Bank Building, Chicago, Ill.

Terms:—Annual Subscription, \$1.00; Semi-Annual Subscription, 50 cts.; Quarterly Subscription, 25 cts.; Trial Subscription (4 weeks), 10 cts.; Single Copies, 5 cts. Free of postage in United States, Canada, Cuba and Mexico. Elsewhere, postage extra, at the rate of one cent per week. All checks, drafts, postoffice money orders and express money orders should be made payable to the order of The Public Publishing Co. Money Orders or Chicago or New York Drafts are preferred, on account of exchange charges by the Chicago banks. Subscribers wishing to change address must give the old address as well as the new one. Receipt of payment is shown in about two weeks by date on wrapper.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING

Per agate line, each insertion.....	\$ 0.08
Per inch (14 lines), each insertion.....	1.30
Per column (120 lines), each insertion.....	10.00
One-quarter page (60 lines), each insertion.....	5.00
One-half page (120 lines), each insertion.....	10.00
One page (240 lines), each insertion.....	20.00
Front cover page, each insertion.....	25.00
Front cover half page, each insertion.....	15.00
Last cover page, each insertion.....	25.00
Last cover half page, each insertion.....	15.00
Last cover quarter page, each insertion.....	6.25

Advertising forms close on the Tuesday preceding the Saturday of publication.