

whenever that community will promise to be good, and give some hostage of repentance, by appointing no more non-partisan policemen, and to confine appointments to "the force" to picked men, loyal to our party, then, and not until then, will home rule be accorded. And I, for one, am convinced that when the right time comes the name of Denman will be found in the list of statesmen who will be willing to restore the liberties which he was, in the interests of posterity, instrumental in stifling. Admiringly yours,
HERMAN KUEHN.
 St. Louis, Mo., June 2, 1902.

TROUBLOUS TIMES.

We've had a social squabble down to Pohlck on the crick.
 It's goin' to smash the town, unless it's settled purty quick.
 It were an ice cream festival as started all the strife,
 'Twas Mrs. Jabez Jopples who exclaimed,
 "To save my life
 I can't see how it was that Salme Swoggins come to be
 Picked out to have the ice cream helped to her ahead o' me,
 When everybody livin' in the county shorely knows
 That we could buy and sell the Swoggins family, if we chose!"

Now, Jabez and Sam Swoggins has been friends for many a year;
 An' they're cut up 'bout this quarrel; but they're skeered to interfere.
 An' all the other women folks are started—that's the wust!
 Whenever there's a party each one wants her victuals fust.
 An' the men folks, they are gettin' so uneasy 'bout the fray
 They dasn't stop a minute, jes' to pass the time o' day.
 This "social precedence" has got us worried till we're sick,
 An' there ain't no joy in livin' up to Pohlck on the crick.

—Washington Star.

"Before I deliver sentence on you," said the judge to the culprit who had been found guilty, beyond all dispute, of breaking every commandment in the decalogue, besides committing some newly invented sins, "I should like to ask you if you have anything to say in your own behalf?"

"Only this, your honor," replied the prisoner; "I pray that the twentieth century receiver of inspiration be called to testify if the deeds I committed were not 'acts of God.'"

SOME BROWNIE TALK.

Said the Brownie above to the Brownie below: "Do not disturb our present peaceful relationships. Our interests are mutual. We cannot get along without each other. My prosperity is your prosperity. I

will be as easy on your back as I can—and ride."

Said the Brownie beneath to the Brownie above: "You come off! You make me tired! Go way back and sit down! I need no parasites on me."

Now the latter was very rude in his speech. And public sentiment turned against him. Senator Hanna and the Civic Federation came to arbitrate the difference. Since the Brownie above had spoken in such a genteel and conciliatory way, the case was decided in his favor. And he is still riding—Yellow Springs (Ohio) Social Justice.

"I understand there is a county in California that would like to be annexed to Chicago."

"But could we annex anything in California?"

"Why not? Must we expand entirely by annexing contiguous territory?"—Puck.

When it was urged that the coronation be omitted and the money it would cost used to buy rice for subjects who were starving, the Nation protested clamorously.

"What! and feed our vanity nothing?" they cried, aghast.

Man does not live by bread alone.—Life.

BOOK NOTICES.

FIRST READERS.

Could the prophetic soul of Solomon have had in mind first readers, when he wrote, "Of making many books there is no end"? There is a sharp competition among them in the matter of artistic make-up, and in this respect Funk & Wagnalls' product (Funk & Wagnalls' Standard Reader Series. First Reader. Edited by Isaac K. Funk, LL. D., editor-in-chief of the Standard Dictionary) and Montrose J. Moses, B. S. Also Teachers' Manual for First Reader. Same editors. New York: Funk & Wagnalls, publishers) can hold its own. The newest feature of the series is that it adopts for purposes of pronunciation the scientific alphabet, used in the Standard dictionary and by other recent authorities. The scientific alphabet furnishes a symbol for each separate sound in the language, introducing three new vowel symbols and two new diacritic marks, and combining letters when necessary to give sounds not otherwise adequately rendered. There is no doubt that the new alphabet is of value; the question remains, whether a school text book is the place to introduce it while it is not yet generally adopted; whether confusion to the children may not result when they enlarge their reading later among books of reference. The other feature of the book open to objection is the printing of lessons in the scientific alphabet. These lessons are on opposite pages to the regular form, and are printed in red ink. It may be anticipating trouble, and it may also be an argument for the scientific alphabet, to wonder whether the children will not remember the phonetic spelling longer than the unscientific but orthodox form. But so long as our spelling is a sensitive point with us, perhaps it would be as well to remove even the most scientific forms of temptation. For older

folk the phonetic equivalent in a dictionary is helpful and necessary; but the primary teacher will probably fight shy of it for the period of life when all symbols are new and difficult. An ingenious method of teaching sounds in connection with music will commend itself to teachers, however, and the pictures are quite beyond criticism. The reader, which is accompanied by a Teachers' Manual, is an intelligent effort along the line pointed out by modern educators, of presenting the form of words as a sequence to thought. The reading matter is well worth reading, which is the main thing after all, and here and there are bits of verse and stray lines of prose which are hints such as children take hungrily, of the larger world of literature to which their little primers are the portal. There is a commendable lack of the puerile devices supposed to appeal to children which are so different from the cheerful nonsense they invent themselves, helping to keep the world young.
 A. M. M.

In "Economic Tangles" (Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., Lansing, Mich.) Judson Grenell, the well known Detroit Journalist, has undertaken to explain industrial problems through lessons drawn from passing events, and has done it with wonderful skill and in charming style. There are 30 essays and a story, all related so intimately as to preserve the unity of the book without a break. Among the particular subjects treated are strikes, guilds, arbitration, trades unions, wages, socialism, the single tax, newspapers, industrial depression, free speech, etc. These seem like dry subjects, but here Mr. Grenell's newspaper skill serves him well. They read more like stories than essays, but without any sacrifice of good sense. Indeed, the simple common sense which pervades the essays is part of their fascination. Each is an argument; yet none of them read like arguments. They give facts, and suggest rather than assert reasons, so that the reader almost unconsciously carries the argument along himself as if it were his own. Mr. Grenell's sympathies are clearly with working men, and while he has no quarrel with socialism and leans toward individualism, he is evidently a very intelligent disciple of Henry George.

PERIODICALS.

—The Church Standard (Philadelphia) prints in its issue of May 31 a letter from a mechanic which makes a temperate and yet stanch reply, in behalf of the striking miners, to an editorial note in a previous issue of that paper. The letter, after speaking of the great need of improvement in the condition of the mines, makes a clear statement of their willingness to accept the slightest concessions rather than resort to the present strike.
 J. H. D.

—In the North American Review for June, Mr. Henry Michelsen, vice president of the

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