

uine artist. It would be necessary to go back to George Elliot to find her peer in that subtle combination of clearness and self-restraint which will be found in every work of art. It is only the true artist that can "tell it all," and yet be guiltless of what is vulgarly but very expressively known as "slopping over."

The permanent value of the book lies in its exposition of the social conditions in Italy at the time of the French Revolution, and of the influence of this revolution upon other European countries. The hero is a prince, who, before his accession to power, comes under the influence of the spirit of reform. He is led through the "Valley of Decision," along the old path between the rights of the people and the vested privileges of the upper-classes. The tragedy of the story, however, consists not so much in the record of the hero as in the record of the people. Their blindness to sound methods of reform and readiness to become the tools of reactionists make the book end in pathos and despair. But it is well worth reading.

J. H. DILLARD.

Michael Davitt's, "The Boer Fight for Freedom" (New York & London: Funk & Wagnalls Co. \$2), the first history of the war in South Africa from the Boer point of view, comes out just as the Boer cause is acknowledged to be a lost cause. But it is none the less valuable for that. The Boer war, though it has ended in subjugation, will be a landmark in history. The little South African republics have gone out. The place upon the map that knew them once, knows them no more. Two crown colonies of the British empire are there instead. Yet the story of their unequal struggle against astute diplomatic maneuvering and overwhelming military strength will always stand as an inspiration to free peoples and a warning to aggressive empires. Nor could this story have found a better contemporaneous pen to write it than that of Michael Davitt, the Irish patriot. He was upon the ground as an observer; he brought to his task the qualifications of a journalist, a publicist and a military critic, together with genuine sympathy with the Boers as a people and with their cause as one akin to that of his own subjugated country; and he has given the world the benefit of his powers at their best. As might have been expected Davitt's history is that of a partisan. But this is no criticism. It will be long before the history of that war can be written so as to be worth reading except by partisans. But partisan as it unquestionably is, there is no indication of misrepresentation. He who would understand the circumstances leading up to the war as the Boers understood them, and see the war in its progress as they saw it, must read this book.

## THE POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.

With the political campaign now opening, in which important questions of government, both political and economic, are at stake, we follow our usual custom of offering *The Public* at a reduced rate for the campaign, with the view of extending its influence and promoting its circulation. We will therefore receive

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## PERIODICALS.

—Civic Centers," by John DeWitt Warner, "Municipal Government in Australasia," by T. George Ellery, and "Street Railway Franchises in New York," are the principal articles in the spring issue of *Municipal Affairs* (New York), the feature of which is "City Monopolies."

—The American Federationist (Washington) for June devotes much of its space to the new Chinese exclusion law, including a legal opinion by Rolston & Siddons, lawyers of Washington, showing its ineffectiveness. Editorially the Federationist denounces the law as a "bunco."

—The leading article in the International Monthly for April, coming as it does from a colonel, contains two interesting points in regard to militarism which indicate a healthy development. As long as the soldier is to be with us, we ought to try to remember that he is after all a man and brother; and so we may wish him to be as little injured as possible by the exigencies of his profession. Col. Larned deals very cleverly with the subject of clothes. "War is sombre, bitter, outrageous, even when unavoidable, and surely the effort to clothe its sinister body in feathers and tinsel in rainbow hues and extravagant garments, is a grim irony." This, he continues, "has nevertheless, always been in harmony with the institutions and conceptions of absolutism." He holds that "we are beginning to appreciate the grotesqueness of war paint and spangles as its livery." Another point in which he thinks modern notions and recent wars are working a revolution in military ideas is that of the automatic soldier, the soldier made into a machine. The soldier of the future will, he thinks, have "too much spontaneity and intelligence to conform to the automatic ideal."—J. H. D.

## Home Rule and Tax Reform in Colorado.

Advocates of home rule in taxation should be interested in and lend their aid to the campaign now in progress in Colorado, for a constitutional amendment allowing counties desiring to do so to adopt land value taxation for local purposes, as is done in New Zealand and elsewhere in Australasia. The resolution submitting this amendment to popular vote passed both houses of the Colorado legislature by a two-thirds majority. An attempt subsequently made in the interest of land grant railroads and other speculative real estate interests to repeal the resolution was defeated by a close vote. The same special interests are now canvassing the state against the measure. They are spending money freely for this purpose, while the friends of the measure have but little to spend. As usual, what it is everybody's business to pay for nobody pays for. That should be remedied. It is to the interest of the whole country that this Colorado amendment be adopted, for its adoption would surely be followed by the adoption of similar measures in other states. We therefore call upon the people of Illinois to help the friends of home rule and just taxation in Colorado. Money is needed to send speakers through the state and to supply the people with explanatory literature. For the purpose of raising such a fund by national subscription a National Australasian Tax Reform association has been organized. Hon. James W. Bucklin, of Grand Junction, Col., is president. Lawson Purdy, of New York, is secretary, and August Lewis, of the same state, is treasurer. An Illinois branch of this association has been formed, which will receive contributions, either in bulk or in monthly installments, and forward them to the national treasurer. The amendment is to be voted upon at the Colorado election in November next, and funds are needed NOW. Send contributions to U. A. H. Greene, secretary, 138 Jackson boulevard, Chicago.

EDWARD OSGOOD BROWN,  
Chairman Illinois Committee for the Promotion of the Australasian Tax System.  
U. A. H. GREENE, Secretary.

## The Public

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