The whole article is crammed with information, and is by a close and well-informed observer. No better way to pursue the study of practical politics can be devised than to supplement the systematic study of general principles with the careful reading of the discussions on the burning questions of the day as they are carried on in the best periodicals. They will be sure to bring out admirable writing. The inextricable Irish question is a good example. The student need not feel bound to come to any definite conclusion; indeed, John Bull would undoubtedly give a liberal reward, and possibly bestow a peerage, on any reader of the Tech who will solve his Irish problem for him. But the study of such problems is most instructive, because the discussion is sure to be carried on by very able men. Thus there appeared, last summer, a very noteworthy book entitled "England's Case against Home Rule," by Prof. Dicey. Prof. Dicey is Vinerian Professor of English Law in the University of Oxford, and author of an admirable volume, recently published, of "Lectures Introductory to the Study of the Law of the (English) Constitution," which the present writer takes this opportunity to recommend to all students of the United States Constitution, on the principle, which he considers a sound one, that there can be no thorough understanding of the principles of our own Government without an equally thorough understanding of that of the mother country from which it is descended.*

Prof. Dicey's book is a clear and vigorous argument against Home Rule, and, of course, it could not fail to elicit replies. The ablest man who followed the fortunes of Mr. Gladstone in the recent split of the Liberal party was Mr. John Morley, and, in the Nineteenth Century for January, he gives the first part of his answer; while in the Contemporary, Canon Mac Coll, another prominent Home Ruler, gives his. There is a passage in this last paper which forcibly represents the helplessness of Parliament under the present burden of its labors: "In ordinary circumstances, Parliament sits about twenty-seven weeks out of the fifty-two. Five out of the twenty-seven may safely be subtracted for holidays, debates on the Address, and other debates, apart from ordinary business. That leaves twenty-two weeks, and out of these, two nights a week are at the disposal of the Government, and three at the disposal of private members; leaving in all forty-four days for the Government, and sixty-six for private members. Into these forty-four nights Government must compress all its yearly programme of legislation for the whole of the British Empire, from the settlement of some petty dispute about land in the Hebrides to some question of high policy in Egypt, India, or other portions of the Queen's worldwide Empire; and all this amidst endless distractions, enforced attendance through dreary debates, and rapid talk, and a running fire of cross-examination from any volunteer questioner out of the 6oo odd members who sit outside the Government circle. The consequence is, that Parliament is getting less able every year to overtake the mass of business which comes before it."

One would think so, and the truth is, that the main difficulty of the Irish question is, that it is only the burning part of two much larger questions which concern the whole Kingdom; namely, the land question and the general question of local self-government. Mr. Goschen has said, "There is no labyrinth so intricate as the chaos of our local laws." Whoever would form some idea of it, can consult the excellent little volume on the subject by Mr. Chalmers, in the "English Citizen" series.

One difficulty in the study of the Home Rule question is, to understand exactly what the phrase means. Prof. Dicey enumerates four distinct and different meanings. Mr. Matthew Arnold, in a paper in the Nineteenth Century, entitled "The Zenith of Conservatism," defines it as "A separate Parliament for Ireland, with an Irish executive responsible to that Parliament," in which shape he does not think it likely to be granted. Another difficulty is, amidst the cloud of interested and partisan misrepresentations, to ascertain what the real state of Ireland is. Sir Arthur Hayter helps us somewhat in the Fortnightly by an interesting account of a recent tour through the West of Ireland; while Mr. Healy makes a contribution from the Irish side, in the Contemporary, by a rather bitter paper entitled "Jubilee-Time in Ireland."

With the advent of the new year two new magazines have appeared,—a new Scribner's, on this side of the water, and Murray's, in London. Students of social science will be interested in our President's paper on Socialism, in the first; while the magazine of the great house that first published Byron's poems, opens appropriately with some new Byronicana.

* To this might be added the still more recently published "Law and Custom of the (English) Constitution," by Sir William Anson. The two books supplement each other.

W. P. A.