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Professor of English Literature in the University of Pennsylvania HAVE tried to read Carl Sandburg's could these keen, bitter, odd, contorted ideas be better conveyed more musi-cally, metrically or in a less bald and direct manner, the answer is "no." new book, "Smoke and Steel," withpredispositions and prejudices. I tried to forget the laws and rules of the arts. I have put aside prosody as inapplicable, rhetoric as superfluous, grammar and the deft usages of cultivated speech as importinent, and I hope that I have achieved an honest detachment. Some of us are born rebels. We are not content to walk in the steps of are not content to walk in the steps of other men; we want our own ways, and it is our right. Some of us find in accepted art, as in accepted science, chains of the past; in the accepted usages of men, chains of the present. And we throw overboard likewise the accepted explanations of much in life, for example, and in religion, lest we forge chains once more for the future. The intellectual rebel, the rebel in art, is a fascinating figure wherever we meet The intellectual rebel, the rebel in art, is a fascinating figure wherever we meet him. Marlowe biaspheming, not high heaven, as we used to be taught, but the orthodoxy of his age, which is not the orthodoxy of ours; Byron scandalously shocking Mrs. Grundy; Wait Whitman, glorious breaker of images, plaster, bisque, bronze and marble—these are some of the refreshing rebels of these are some of the refreshing rebels of

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OF ONE thing I am very certain as to Mr. Sandburg. He is very much in earnest, and I like him for that. Moreover, there is nothing weak or mawkish about him. He is also not out with a shotgun after his readers. His pieces-I am not ready to call then poems yet-have, too, much the air of being overheard rather than heard, and this is a great thing to be able to say, even of a poet. Now, when a man is without pose, in earnest and manly, you without pose, in earnest and mainly, you without pose, in earnest and mainly, you respect him, even although you may not word I am said water that I am introducing something trivial in the face of the post of t respect him, even although you may not admire his manners. And in using this word I am sad'y aware that I am in-

thought of God as a crapshooter: "God is Luck and luck is God; we are all bones the High Thrower rolled; some are two spots, some double sixes." This is as grotesque and compelling as the dance of death itself. At times the irony, if lighter, is none the less admirable, as in "The Sins of Kalamazoo," which "are neither scarlet nor crimson!" but "a convict gray, a dishcrimson," but "a convict gray, a dish-water drab"; or the manufactured wooden gods which answer prayers and make rain quite "as well as any little tin god." If we ask ourselves honestly

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