

the Seine with their bookstalls, the incomparable Comédie Française, the stately French Academy, the Luxembourg Gardens, the Panthéon (with its noble motto: 'Aux Grands Hommes, la Patrie Reconnaissante'), the Arc de Triomphe, Notre-Dame; do these (and innumerable other) illustrious institutions, so cherished by the Parisians, appear compatible with 'flippancy,' 'incoherency' and 'the danger of decadence'? And the profound, ardent patriotism of the Parisians—how else could it have manifested itself save in the noble, supreme spectacle of courage, determination and self-sacrifice which we are witnessing to-day? No; it is not a 'new' Paris, but the very Paris one expected to see; hushed but proud; stricken yet self-confident; wounded, even stabbed to the heart after eleven months of war—but heroic, indomitable"—the Amazing City—the worthy capital of, as Mr Kipling says,

"the Land beloved by every soul that loves and serves its kind."

Before closing my preface to this Selection from the sketches, essays and criticisms of Paris life, under its picturesque, popular, literary and social aspects that represents John F. Macdonald's interpretation of the spirit of the "Amazing City," between 1907 and 1914, I have to acknowledge the kindness of the several Editors, to whom these different articles were originally addressed; and who have allowed me to reprint them in the present volume. *The Roué*, *In a Cellar*, and *The Affair of the Collars*, appeared originally in *The Morning Post*. The three articles, *On Strike*, the