

groups in the course of history, this seems to be the most positive in its character.

Hardly any form of combat could be barer, freer from deviations, more unveiled than the warfare between capital and labour. It is calculated to engender stern qualities of stoicism, and powers of corporate action, and few illusions.

The spectacle of the great triumphs of applied science, which has had so strong an effect on the industrial population, has been also hostile generally to the presence of that kind of mysticism which is a favorable atmosphere for genius. Not that such an incompatibility should be more than transitory, or that the development of science in any direction is in itself antagonistic to the development of other kinds of creative power. But such a deterrent influence is perhaps connected with certain characteristics of modern scientific method, and with an overweening confidence in the possibilities of science, which does exist. With such abundance of material, so many new fields stretching before us, it is difficult always to remember that we are only picking up pebbles on the shore. And as the realm of law is always increasing, and one department after another, which had seemed outside, is brought under its sway, there is a tendency to suppose that everything in the universe must be governed by those very laws with which we are already familiar, and to forget that out of the unplumbed reality beyond some incalculable element may proceed which will make our reckonings vain. But to be ceaselessly conscious of this possibility is to be a mystic, and it is this faculty of expectation which is really fruitful in the sphere of genius, scientific or otherwise.

Mysticism thus seems to be fading in America with the progress of trade organisations, and the imposing advance of practical science. Idealistic philosophy is of less account in Germany, and great musicians there are rarer, as also great poets in France and England, and in Italy.

There are one or two agencies at work, which will perhaps do something in England at least, to counteract this tendency, and as one, which is special to the time, may be mentioned, the real influence of Indian thought, made into a factor of some weight, the last half century, by the much closer communication maintained between England and India. There is present in England, and influential in society, in politics, and literature, a number of men of the