

*Toronto Globe* correspondence, Sydney Brooks' observations in *Harper's Weekly*, and the thoughtful and painstaking article by Mr. Hamilton in the *National Review*. By the way, too, it may be considered whether there are not some lessons to be learned from him.

Probably, in order to understand him and his attitude towards the world and towards Canada, it will be well to go back some little way in history, for the Englishman of to-day is the product of forces which date back some hundreds of years, while the Canadian, in contrast, may be justly described as the child of this present age.

The rise of England from the condition of a bankrupt hanger-on of France in the period of the Restoration, at the conclusion of which the people took the government into their own hands, to its present position as a world power, seems to have proceeded with the steady inexorability of the action of some blind natural force.

I say "blind" advisedly; for no one who studies English history in any detail will accuse England, in either its government or people, of ever consciously possessing either a consistent aim or a logical policy. Time after time, blunder, accident, ignorance, or unreasoning popular emotion, which ought to have brought national humiliation in their train, have eventuated in the gain of either prestige or territorial expansion, or both.

I suppose that never in the history of the world has a nation come to honour through, or rather in spite of, the rule of such a series of amateurs and opportunists. Examine any great department of national activity, and the tale is the same.

For instance: The English are a fighting race. In their love of fighting *per se*, they are, even to-day, much more akin to the primitive Norseman than to the modern North-American Caucasian. Private T. Atkins on campaign does not dream of "la gloire," or of territorial gains as the outcome of his efforts. The mere actual brutal joy of fight is what he lusts for; and yet to call England a military nation would be to provoke a smile.