

sane and right-thinking men, without in any way denying the wider claims of humanity, acknowledge that, as Mr. Leslie Stephen told us lately, "to preach a purely cosmopolitan instead of a patriotic principle is idle; first, because nobody will listen; and, secondly, because the nation which did listen would be suppressed and would deserve suppression." They hold, in fact, that, setting aside the case of the conquered and especially of the half-conquered, those who inherit and accept the great benefits of English nationality owe not only conformity to the Government as such, but a more cordial support, a deeper interest and sympathy, to the Sovereign who is the centre and symbol of that nationality. We have long been accustomed to speak of "God save the Queen" as "the National Anthem," but the fact that in singing it we were moved by a strong feeling of personal admiration and affection has obscured our perception of a more permanently important fact. The Sovereign, whether personally acceptable to us or not, is always the representative of our national life, and the most convinced anti-monarchist in England is perfectly right in resenting any discourtesy offered to one who stands visibly for a whole people. It is equally true, but more often forgotten, that to speak openly and unrestrainedly against the Sovereign, under any temptation whatever, is dangerously near attempting an injury to the public weal. We are few of us great in any sense, but, if only because we are Englishmen, we all have by inheritance an element of greatness; we cannot, perhaps, be expected to reverence it in each other, but to slight it when we see it concentrated and embodied in the head of our Commonwealth is treason in no technical sense of the word.

It is right that we should clearly recognise at this moment of new departure the logical separation which exists between the human and the symbolical personality of the Sovereign; but we hope and believe that the day is far out of sight when we shall be forced to act upon it. Among "the many good deeds" that "the good Queen of England" has done in her time, not