

cession of God's will, and the competent solution of every difficulty in creation. An authoritative religion, Christianity has done its work, though priests may continue for a century or two yet to give it a semblance of authority. Men will long discover that they do not owe to the Christian faith such immense benefits as they imagine, and that much whose name they have hallowed as angelical is nothing but a perennial revealing of Roman force and Greek beauty.

There will be injustice, cruelty, exaggeration in this, as in all reactions; still it is only through reactions that man can reach that radiant and joyous catholicism, that identification of the divine and the natural, which is to be his final inheritance on earth. Men in a few generations will just as much overrate that they have derived from Greece and Rome, as for many ages they have been in the habit of overrating what they have derived from Christianity. But this error will be more harmless than the other, as there will be no dominant and grasping class like the priesthood interested in its dissemination. Of one thing we are persuaded, that not till Greece and Rome again enter, not as scholastic reminiscences, but as broad human facts, into the heart of the world, will a certain heroism of human virtue and a certain spontaneousness of human genius again be possible."

It appears probable that in Protestant countries this transformation will come earliest as, like Greece, they attempt to join public opinion with the love of liberty, which is the surest guarantee that liberty will prevail. "More than half the patriotism of every modern nation is a Greek tradition," says Maccaill, and, no doubt, we owe much of our intellectual progress and freethought to the same source. Greece studied nature and created philosophy. They originated stoicism on an ethical basis—unsurpassed by any modern system of philosophy. And not only so, but long before Romanism and Protestantism existed, and before that Christianity on which both claim to be founded.

It is quite time we abandoned all these Christian systems, and returned to the spirit of inquiry and boldness of research which characterized the fertile mind which taught mankind to study nature, and developed science, art and philosophy, so long obscured by Romish superstition and Protestant prejudice. The Greeks lived in the presence of the same eternal problems which only to-day are beginning to stir the multitude seeking what solution ancient and modern philosophy can afford. The two instruments of modern investigation—method and analysis—we obtained from Greece—the birthplace of physical, metaphysical, and moral philosophy. Reason instead of faith is becoming the guide of moderns, as it once was of the ancients, whose memory deserves reviving in our day.