

of any Calendar Saint or good Agnostic? But their philosophy does not prove its rank and value by that. There is, indeed, scarcely a formulated belief that does not demand and may not prompt to heroic actions; for, after all, the despised individual has an astonishing power of heroism when occasion calls; but a creed has to commend itself by something other than its attribute of straining that power to the very uttermost. Our old friend the Juggernaut can do *that* successfully enough.

It is true that there are highly intelligent and nobly-endowed men and women who would hotly deny these statements, who would insist that they found the doctrine entirely sufficient to support a reasonable optimism and a rational form of "eternal hope." But to these, almost invariably, it has come as a welcome deliverer from the old theological prison. They are among the courageous band who took part in the storming of the Bastille of the human spirit. There is an exhilaration and noble enthusiasm which still lingers round the achievements of that magnificent Revolution, and those who are its heroes have won many followers through the might of their personal influence and the instinct of hero-worship that they cannot but arouse. But the dust of battle is beginning to clear away, and the spoils now have to be looked at in the cool and calm of the day after. Not that the spoils are few and paltry. A great stronghold of intellectual tyranny has been taken by assault. It is impossible to exaggerate the importance of that victory. Without it we should still be turning, turning, like a squirrel in its cage, and not one inch of progress could we hope to make. But the real fruits of that great emancipation are not yet ours; only the seed is sown, and meanwhile the earth looks bare and wintry, and gives only a few signs here and there of coming spring.

The majority are no longer able to believe, as in the early days of the rationalistic movement, that to abolish God, and King, and Priest and faith in a life to come is to enter upon a spiritual Golden Age. The gain made is chiefly negative.