

and brotherhood. This is no new difficulty: consciously or unconsciously it has been present to our forefathers for centuries. Consciously or unconsciously they have founded and handed down to us a traditional creed and practice concerning it. They, too, thought that war was too often an un-Christian thing, but they did not think to mend it by throwing away good and bad together. The good perhaps they valued more than they feared the bad, and many of their descendants will be found to agree with them, for courage, endurance, discipline, loyalty, generosity, and fair play are virtues that the English race cannot do without at any price. Still, when dawn rose after the Dark Ages, it was seen that the evil element in war required an antidote. The Age of Faith found one, and named it Chivalry.

We can imagine the contemptuous surprise with which this word will be received by those who do not agree with our view: indeed, it is not now a fashionable word with any class among us. Chivalry?—that old, stale, obsolete, foolish thing?

Yes: it is as old as the divine spark in man, as stale as running water, as obsolete as the human pulse; as foolish as all lights that shine in darkness. What do we know of it? Ask the first man you meet and he will vaguely connect it with the respectful treatment of women: pressed further, he will in nine cases out of ten confess to ranking it with fairy tales, perhaps even as low as poetry. And yet it was in its origin and first practice above all things necessary and scientific, and apart from its name it is at this day one of the most vital forces of the world's life: as the Seigneur de Brisetout told Villon, "It is not only written in all noble histories but in every man's heart, if he will take care to read." Perhaps men would read more easily in their own hearts if they were first familiar with these "noble histories," which belong to the more valuable part of our inheritance.

The opportunity is not wanting. The first month of this century is fitly marked by the reappearance in a complete