

anarchism. The nihilist or the anarchist is not to be regarded as an ordinary assassin : he is much more dangerous, because he acts, not from passion, but from a false principle. He is a misguided fanatic, who needs instruction and enlightenment to change his ignorant and false views of society. Nihilism and anarchism is a moral pestilence, resulting upon the neglect of a portion of the community by the more enlightened and cultivated portion, thus allowing a barbarism to grow up in their very midst.

I cannot, however, worship government to the extent the socialists or collectivists do. On the other hand, pure individualism, negative individualism, is evidently the *bellum omnium contra omnes* of Hobbes. And when negative self-included individualism speaks of the rights of the individual, it is contradicting itself. Right, in its very nature, can never be something special and anti-social. It must be the same for all. Hence to speak of a right to do as I please is a contradiction in terms. A man has the right to do as he pleases only so long as he pleases to do the right which does not depend on his whim.

The value of the individualistic protest is to enforce that the individual does not exist for government, but government for the individual. But if government is for the individual, then the individual must be more than a law of repulsion. He has a *positive* meaning, and is capable of entering into positive inter-relations with his fellow-beings. Indeed, only in such positive concrete relations does his life find content and meaning. We start from the individual, if he is properly conceived, as the positive individual who finds his realization in society. Government—and by government we mean any organized social action—is for this positive, concrete individual, and it should be the faithful expression of the wishes and aspirations of the individuals governed. Such a government may properly undertake anything that is agreed upon as for the highest good of all, and the test of the propriety of the government will be, Does it establish and conserve relations that are fitted to favor and conduce to the highest development of noblest character in the governed ?

The government is the means : its end is to aid in the progress and development of the highest type of individuals. Carefully distinguish these.

- (1) What do we wish to bring about ?
- (2) What methods must be employed to bring it about ?