

steeple, how many of these ugly churches might be demolished and turned into useful building material, if people who think almost exactly the same thoughts about religion would condescend to worship God under the same roof. But there are the chalk lines. And which is to pocket pride and speak the foremost word? Ah! the chalk lines have multiplied since then, and have grown thicker and more glaring than ever! The great writer voices the feeling of the man in the street, of the great multitude who have no stock in sectarianism. Let the protagonists ponder the picture: or else it needeth no seer to tell that ecclesiasticism in this ill-fated country will have meted out to it a measure of the wine of astonishment which will make it stagger to its doom."

But when all is said as to the points that divide us, it must still be remembered that the influence of scenery, of history, of poetry, and of song have all gone to the moulding of our national character, and have produced a type which asserts itself, to a large extent, in the individuality of almost every member of the race. Shrewdness and sagacity, the faculty of acquisitiveness—with a strong under-current of generosity—tenacity of purpose, which is sometimes mistaken for aggressiveness, power of adaptation to unfamiliar circumstances, and a passionate clinging to tradition: these seem to be amongst the main characteristics of our national genius. It is to qualities such as these—along with the power of making a little oatmeal go a long way—that our countrymen owe the position they have made for themselves in this and other lands. Their patriotism is not a limited patriotism. They are loyal not only to their own country, not only to the land they left, but also to the land they love. They are all over the British Empire, and the Empire could not very well get along without them. And beyond the limits even of the Empire the Scotch are well to the front everywhere. They are citizens of the world. From the beginning of time they have been pressing onward, overstepping the narrow boundaries in which other nations are content to be confined. Long ago the conquering Romans built a wall from the Solway to the Tyne, which they hoped would keep our Caledonian