

notable acts in his great political career. In fact, the part he took in this matter, has been severely commented upon by men who had nothing but admiration for all his other great struggles. We do not mean to say that all he said and did, in those stormy days, was beyond criticism, nor do we pretend to hold with him, that the ancient political institutions of Britain were so nearly perfect as he has told us they were. No indeed, he was not infallible, for he was but a man, and as such was liable to err, and did err. On the other hand we maintain that, on the whole, his stand on the French Revolution had most beneficial results for the land he lived in. That the body politic in England, as well as in all the other great nations of Europe, at that time, was diseased, and needed the medicine of reform, no close student of history will deny; the remedy, however, proposed by the revolutionists was altogether too violent, and though it might have cured some of the existing maladies, it would certainly have left wounds many-fold more dangerous than the former diseases. A century has passed since the French Revolution and now we may view that affair with less danger of being partial in our judgment than could men at that time. And are we to justify that reign of terror, that deluge of blood, that overturning of all order? When we succeed in justifying

this revolution let us then turn to justify Herod in his slaughter of the innocents! Ah no! popular madness is no remedy for monarchical tyranny.

Burke unquestionably did much to prevent the spread of revolutionary ideas in England. And if the revolution had passed over to Britain, and had succeeded there, where would it have stopped? If such had been the misfortune of England, Europe would surely have met a more formidable enemy than was the great Napoleon in the hour of his greatest martial glory. Burke stood like a fortress against the attacks of revolutionists. His eloquence, like a mighty engine of war, was directed against these real enemies of true liberty, and, like a deadly fire from a strong battery, wrought ruin among them, broke their ranks, thinned their numbers and helped to save the nation and the throne. Well might Schegel say "He corrected his age when it was at the height of its revolutionary frenzy." Such an honorable life as that of this great man deserves to be studied by all who aspire to high and responsible positions in their native land. He was a patriot as all true men should be.

"His life was gentle and the elements
So mixed in him, that nature might stand up
And say to the world *This was a man.*"

—*Shakespeare.*

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