

THE CURE FOR WAR

rivalry between your own nation and them. Christianity does not argue about the necessary rivalry. It says—Pursue the Christian way. Seek to love rather than to hate, and you will find that the rivalry disappears. And here I would insist that Love is something quite different from admiration. Rivals may admire each other and try to imitate what they admire so that they may overcome their rivals. That has been the practice of the Germans, and by reason of it they have more and more lost their own ideas of excellence. They are eclectics and attain to a characterless and joyless efficiency which is never quite first-rate, as it is never spontaneous. But love is a sudden, undesigned delight in a character different from your own. It is something that happens to your mind, a gift from heaven; but you must keep your mind open to it. You must regard all rivalry as the obstacle to it and to the wisdom and happiness it will bring you.

If we think for a moment, we must see that all the nations have their own excellences peculiar to them, as we do see their diverse excellence in the arts. And if we could love them for these different excellences and for the manner in which they are expressed in the national life, as we love Michelangelo or Mozart or Shakespeare for what is expressed in their art, then the very thought of war with them would be abhorrent to us. We know how the world has felt about the ruin of Rheims Cathedral, as if it were a wanton cruelty done to the spirit of the past. It was the work of a great age with which none