

ings and harrowings on the other, seared itself indelibly into the very groundwork of the national character, coming to the surface every now and again in different shapes and disguises, as the worship of ideal righteousness in the Puritans, as the spiritualization of every-day life in the Wesleys, as humanitarianism in the days of Wilberforce, or as a longing for more definitely ecclesiastical order and belief in the so-called "Oxford movement" of the nineteenth century. It is still there, and, if the signs of the times may be trusted, will next reveal itself in a passionate insistence on the essential brotherhood of man, expressed in legislation of a more or less socialistic tendency.

The Baronage and the Church, who had overgrown their functions and become oppressions instead of safeguards, having been disposed of, there yet remained one other force to be met and conquered before the English people could stand on their own feet as a nation and manage their own affairs, and that was the Crown. The Crown fell; but too abruptly and with too much violence to suit the conservative sense of the nation. The result was the Restoration which, after all, shews itself only as an eddy on the course of the river, and with William the Third the people came into their own forever. Though the Crown, as a political factor, is now extinct, there still, again, remains the spirit of reverence for Royalty and position, which is shewn not only in the retention of names and symbols of facts long since dead, but in that peculiar frame of mind which permeates the fabric of English society from the bottom to the top. I mean what is generally known as "snobbery."

Snobbery—an unpleasant word—is, after all, merely the respect for the position rather than for the man who fills it. True, a lord may, as any other man, be personally an undesirable citizen, parietic, perhaps a liar or a cad, but still theoretically he is a better man than a commoner, and the old reverence for place, as distinguished from personality, holds yet; and among the majority of Englishmen he will be accorded a respect and a primacy which, untitled, he would have to shew very remarkable qualities to attain.