

But how does this intellectuality, this reasonableness, show in the greatest event of the history of France, its greatest external contribution to Europe and to America—the French Revolution ?

It shows magnificently.

Two things have obscured the real influence of the French Revolution. The guillotine and Napoleon.

But look at the results.

On October 9th, 1807, the King of Prussia decreed : “ From Martinmas, 1810, ceases all serfdom in our entire states. There shall only be free persons.”

Why ? By what influence did he so decree ? Because, happily, Prussia had just been trodden under foot by France—to her advantage. France, under Napoleon, just as under the Republic which came before him, had what the old French monarchy did not have—a free peasantry, created by the Revolution, cultivating their own lands robustly and cheerfully and prosperously. It was a lesson of the most simple and reasonable common sense, like all of the main lessons of the Revolution. Napoleon was its messenger boy. That was his mission. And, with all his faults, he carried liberty, equality and order and