

# THE COURIER

Vol. XXI.

January 6th, 1917

No. 6

## MORE OPINIONS OF OTHER PEOPLE

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN finds himself roused to a point of satirical indignation by Monocle Man's criticism of his recent article, *Declaring Our Independence*. In terse, epigrammatic humour he writes as follows to the editor concerning the hedonistic philosophy of the Monocle Man. (Hedonism means the pursuit of pleasure and is a perfectly good professional word which MacMechan does not use).

### PIG PHILOSOPHY.

IT was another "hard, high brow," one Professor Sauerteig, who put the Monocle Man's crude Epicureanism into more intelligible form. He imagined that if swine could only formulate their philosophy of life, the main propositions would be somewhat as follows:

1. The universe, so far as sane conjecture can go, is an immeasurable swine's trough, consisting of solid and liquid and of contrasts and minds; especially consisting of attainable and unattainable, the latter in immensely greater quantities.

2. Moral evil is unattainability of pig's waste; moral good attainability of ditto.

3. What is Paradise, or the State of Innocence? Paradise, called also State of Innocence, Age of Gold, and other names, was (according to pigs of weak judgment) unlimited attainability of pig's wash; perfect fulfilment of one's wishes, so that pig's imagination could not outrun reality; a fable and impossibility, as pigs of sense now see.

4. Define the whole duty of pigs. It is the mission of universal pighood to diminish the quantity of unattainable and increase that of attainable. All knowledge and desire and effort ought to be directed thither, and thither only. Pig science, pig enthusiasm and devotion have this one aim. It is the whole duty of pigs.

5. Pig poetry ought to consist of universal recognition of the excellence of pigs' wash and ground barley, and the felicity of pigs whose trough is in order, and who have had enough. Hrumph!

6. Who made the pig? Unknown. Perhaps the pork-butcher.

7. What is Justice? Your own share of the general swine's trough; not any portion of my share.

There are other propositions; but these are sufficient to put the Monocle Man's simple-hearted faith in "Goodtime" clearly before your readers. He has the courage of his convictions; and he proves unconsciously my point, that "our tacit ideal is to become a smug, greasy replica of the United States." My main contention that Canadians are generally satisfied to remain poor imitation Americans he does not attempt to argue. Apparently he cannot see the point. He should remove the piece of glass from his eye, and lose no time in consulting an oculist.

ARCHIBALD MACMECHAN.

### UNDERSTANDING THE ENGLISH.

Strathcona P.O., Alta., Dec. 18, 1916.

The Editor "Canadian Courier":

I CONGRATULATE you on your Dec. 16 issue, it is an unusual collection of gems. I do not by any means fancy the Courier always—too provincial to suit me, but that is merely my opinion. Who is "A. B.," who wrote that truly remarkable article, "Nothing, As Usual"? Precious few Canadians understand the English and the situation in England as he does. I have long been telling my English friends that their gentlemanly methods in War and Diplomacy would have to go, before we could win this struggle. In a life and death struggle with a dangerous beast or madman, you use any weapon; not because you like to, but because you have to. May I suggest that the "Monocle Man," in his clever reply, missed the point: there is nothing evil in Pleasure if it be unselfish. On the contrary, it is the Alpha and Omega of Existence. But which kind is his end? Knowing so well as we do, the kind of happiness, from which, as he truly says, Americans refuse to be frightened away, I fear he is thinking

—that the great idol "Self" may be broken.  
Yours truly,  
HENRY RICKARDS.

### WHO ARE SONS OF CANADA?

Editor, Canadian Courier:

I HAVE been reading a book which you mention in your book reviews department lately, called "Sons of Canada." You said it was a good book, and I have no objection to that statement. I have read it and find it more interesting than most of the books I have come across for some time.

At the same time, I think someone ought to raise the point whether the men who are described by Mr. Augustus Bridle in "Sons of Canada" ARE sons of Canada. Take Strathcona. He was born in Scotland. He is a son of Scotland. Take Shaughnessy and Van Horne. Both of them came from the States. Of course I can understand calling the Duke of Connaught a "Son of Canada" in a certain sense of the word. That is how we feel toward him. And to a man in his position it is quite right we should show that that was our feeling. But here are at least three other men who weren't born in Canada. How can Mr. Bridle call them "Sons of Canada" then?

I think this point should have been taken up in your book review.

Yours truly,

T. A. FORSTER.

Toronto, Dec. 12, 1916.

### SEVERAL FAILURES—ADMIT 'EM.

Editor, Canadian Courier:

GUNS, gas, gruesomeness, and all the machines of war, are the expression of timidity and fear; and built up by a mean philosophy that is scared to give, or take, a square deal. If Germany was not scared of the rest of Europe she would not have prepared for and launched the great war; if the rest of Europe was not scared of Germany and had laughed at her tommy-rot, goose-step theatricals, the common people would have relegated William Kaiser back to the farm.

It's fear, not fun, that has been preached and pounded into humanity.

"Love your neighbour as yourself" looks well in type; but it is not practised in pulpit, parish or prison.

Germany has been concentrating her preaching in the kindergarten, school, shop, church and army, on hate and egotism. A hate that is a Kultured envy. An egotism that is grounded on low-cunning.

We have been teaching, preaching, pounding into brain and blood fear. A fear of God, a fear of hell, a fear of looking foolish, a fear of doing, a fear of ourselves.

We won't have peace, decency and a laughing world until we get away from selfishness, mercenary politics and mercenary creeds; and back to the Sermon on the Mount.

Despotism has been a failure through jealousy. People ceased to admire Caesar when they became jealous of him.

Monarchy has been a failure from the fostering of favouritism—just plain jealousy.

Republican is becoming a failure because of its lack of stability in policy, its encouragement of grafting; and its tendency to breed bosses.

Socialism in Europe promised to avert the big war by a universal strike. It is great in theory, but lacks and combats the very essentials that would make it worth trying. It is against evolving improvements by bargain, and it is uncertain of itself.

Christ taught—"love your neighbour," simplicity of living, the encouragement of production, clean living and the square deal.

Cut out "interest," selfishness, lust and graft and follow the Man who was crucified for preaching the great gospel of unselfishness.

He did not get much encouragement when he was on this earth. The preachers and politicians were sniping for Him all the time. A few poor fishermen

## Popular Discussion of Topics Recently Presented in the Canadian Courier

### Pig Philosophy

By A. MacMECHAN

(Halifax)

### Understanding the English

By HENRY RICKARDS

(Strathcona)

### Who are Sons of Canada?

By T. A. FORSTER

(Toronto)

### Failures—Admit 'Em

By STUART McCRAWLEY

(Glace Bay, N.S.)

### Where Did He Get His Law?

By NOVA SCOTIA

### Our Ships Down East

By MONTREAL



of the Selfish Kind which has ruined every civilization yet. He says we are fighting to get a good time—to be free; freedom throughout Europe before the war, meant freedom to starve—freedom to exploit—freedom to enslave. Will the Monocle Man kindly tell us where liberty ends and license begins. We started fighting for the maintenance of the old order, but no Britisher is fighting for that to-day; instead, he has thrown it to the discard, and is fighting that all may be free—that all may be happy