

of Liberalism which are now believed to be the most advanced that the antipathy was strongest and most active. He will see, pressing on in the forefront of statecraft, various bands of reformers whose political and social aspirations have carried them so far that they regard property with doubt and suspect patriotism of being a vice. If the earth must still, for a while, be owned by individuals or by nations, there is for them but one way to make the system endurable. They would press to its logical conclusion the time-honoured legal maxim, "So use thine own that thou hurtest not that which is thy neighbour's." They dream of a day of universal brotherhood when no man shall care to say, "This is mine: touch it not" or "I am of this country: thou art not of my blood." The dog in the manger is the Satan of their creed. Yet it is these very men who view with the greatest apprehension the ceaseless spread of the Pax Britannica as it obliterates one by one the barriers of nations and melts into unity the peoples they once divided. It is they who, in spite of their cry for brotherhood, lament most deeply the sight of small communities being forced or persuaded to abandon their narrow aloofness and to enter one or other of the great aggregations which are steadily absorbing the world.

To a man looking back upon our period from a distant standpoint, whence he will be able to see it as a section of the long road of political development, this attitude of Liberalism must seem a puzzling paradox. His studies will show him that the progress of civilised society has always been from the smaller to the larger political unit. He will see the tendency reach a point of culmination in the heyday of the Roman Empire, and when that was shattered in its effort after a premature universality, for which the world was not yet ripe, he will find the process beginning again immediately amongst the broken fragments of the older aggregation. In the confederation of tribes, in leagues of cities, in the commendations of the feudal system, he will see the States of the Middle Ages forming the masses of pregnant material out of which he will trace the modern nations being built; and in every case he will note that the