

INTRODUCTION

Unconscious treachery seems to be due to an attitude of mind incapable of realizing human affairs in their broader relations. It works as much damage as deliberate treachery, of which it is frequently made the tool and catspaw.

There is, for instance, the type of man, fortunately rare, at least since the stone age, for whom nothing exists except himself. He is not wilfully selfish, but simply incapable of seeing anything beyond himself. That is an Egoist pure and simple. There is another man who cannot see beyond his family. To his family he is often passionately devoted. But the whole fabric of society of which he is a member might go to smash so far as he is concerned. He discharges no public duty whatsoever. A third type has his vision limited by his municipality. Considerations of provincial, national or imperial moment slide off him like water off a duck's back, but the rivalry of Snook's Corners and Oddlots will rouse him to his depths. Such men make as admirable town councillors as they make execrable representatives in any larger sphere. They are quite ready at