

upon our quick-change artist in reform: he has been accustomed to treat Science—or rather the results of Science—as something for his Muse to play with, and his success in that line has not made for seriousness. Happily, indeed, from one point of view: but if a man is to take up our time with a discourse on the abolition of the monarchy and of representative government, we prefer that he should be serious.

Is it serious to set before us as a national aim “the political re-union of the English speaking peoples,” and to use this appeal to Imperialism run mad as a lever for upsetting the Throne—the one institution which has hitherto made the Great Commonwealth possible? Is it serious to condemn the monarchical system as a “repudiation of special personal qualities,” without attempting to show that all offices are worthless which do not demand special personal qualities of every possible kind? The same argument is used in referring to all those positions which fall to men as a consequence of “the mere accident of birth,” and the absurdity is thrown into glaring relief by the counter proposal to dismast the ship and rig it with a set of jury-Earls and jury-Dukes, which would certainly at once include the whole tribe of Hooleys and Whitaker Wrights whom Mr. Wells flings in the teeth of our present aristocracy. Perhaps a suspicion of some such weakness has crossed his own mind, for he suggests that in certain cases it might be better to employ a body rather of the Grand Jury than of the Common Jury type.

No, these propositions are not serious, they are only solemn, even though the solemnity is sometimes intensified by italics. *The clearest, simplest, and sincerest expression of what we believe about life.* But how if one of the things which we believe about life has come to be this: that no clear or simple expression is possible of any of the deeper and more important things in it? The word “sincere” is used here to beg the question. We are told that we accept “a sham and a convention.” A convention is not the same thing as a sham, in scientific language. Painting is a convention; an agreed