

attempt to enforce their claims brought on the storm. Our own impression is that the catastrophe was due to a complication of causes, social and economical, among which we should certainly include the preaching of the Wycliffite Levellers and probably the improvement in the condition of the serfs which led them to aspire to a still greater change of their state, as Socialism takes hold of the highly paid mechanics of the present day. But something, we suspect, was also due to the non-residence of the lords who, like the French nobility of a later day, had exchanged the country for the Court and instead of performing their duties on their estates and keeping up their social influence had been thronging the gay Chaucerian Court of Edward III., banqueting at the Round Table in his newly built castle palace, glittering in the tilt-yards of a galvanized chivalry, and following the king and his adventurous son to glory and plunder on foreign fields. It has been noted that the districts of France to which the Revolutionary movement did not extend were those in which the landowners had continued resident.

—If the Americans believe that Abraham Lincoln was “the greatest man since Christ,” let them save his ashes from profanation. His ashes are profaned when prurient curiosity is fed, as it has been by a recent biographer, with the miserable details of his domestic unhappiness and the quarrels between him and his wife, caused by his opening the door in his shirt-sleeves or cutting the butter with his own knife. The lust of scandal is becoming a madness. Scandal about aristocracy above all is luscious. It was a sad disappointment when a jury acquitted the Earl of Galloway of a disgusting offence, though a conviction would have brought misery not only on him but on a family too high-placed to escape the pointed finger of malignity. This passion for aristocratic scandal is nothing but flunkeyism turned upside down. The same people would grovel at the feet of a lord. People of the same