

them to attend more to positive tasks in a less polemical spirit. This enlightened attitude of France will undoubtedly have a great influence in other civilized countries. It is to be hoped that through the war Canada will be more rapidly brought into contact with the more advanced stream of European thought, and so the intellectual life of the country be quickened.

Some of the formidable problems confronting mankind at the present moment are: the creation of a worthy system of education, the extinction of debasing ignorance and squalid poverty and disease which so frequently attend it, the securing of concord between the different interests and classes in the state, the proper development of the waste places of the earth, the humane solution of the problem of undeveloped nations, the substitution of arbitration for war, at which rationalists have aimed since the days of Robert Owen. Opinions will differ on points of detail. But there seems to be little room for difference on one main point. What the world needs, and especially this country, more than ever it did, is clear-headedness, in place of mysticism, knowledge in place of obscurantism, reliance on experience, in place of reliance on traditional and outworn beliefs that are not understood; the adoption of new views based on science in place of attempts to transform ancient myths and re-edit stories that once beguiled the Syrian dwellers of the desert, or the small traders of Palestine; more criticism instead of the stupefying and deadening of criticism. In the improvement of human life science and art should be co-workers, and ethics should be based, not on the unintelligibilities and shifting sands of supernaturalism, but on qualities inherent in human nature, which is capable, if only very slowly, of indefinite advancement.

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