

10 HISTORY OF NATIONAL ANTHEM

for the King in the same absolute way, but you pray that God will endow him with choice gifts in order that he may exercise his great powers aright ; and then there follows a truly constitutional sentiment :

May He defend our laws,
And ever give us cause
To sing with heart and voice,
God save the King.

Thus again you have these characteristics of the English race—caution and compromise, variety in unity, the linking together of things that, when pushed to logical conclusions, might seem mutually exclusive. Absolutism and constitutionalism are combined.

Some words and expressions in the Anthem require a slight explanation. The word "send" in "send him victorious" is a relic of the Jacobite adaptation of the original anthem. It has little significance as it stands, but it had a significance against the historic background of "the King over the water." "God Save *the* King" is often mis-sung "*our* King," but "*the* King" is the proper text.

Some have thought that the second verse is an English "Hymn of Hate" and thoroughly unchristian in its sentiment. That interpretation, I believe, is based upon a misunderstanding of the meaning of the words of the hymn.

"O Lord, our God, arise,
Scatter his enemies."

This is an adaptation, as you know, of the first verse of the 68th Psalm. It is, in essence, a prayer to the God of Battles that He will give us the victory. If our cause is right, if we believe we are seeking to establish truth and justice in the world, may we not pray to God to bless the cause by giving us the victory ? "Confound their politics"—There are some people even at this day who think that "confound" in the National Anthem is a mild and rather polite swear-word. "Confound" means to throw into con-