

ask—a recognition that one may criticise and yet appreciate, that a condemnation of one thing should not be nursed as a grievance to the forgetting of admiration bestowed upon a hundred things.

What? A "letting down," an "apology" for what is to follow! Not at all. It is just a plea to the Australians, who need to mark the point as much as any people, that they should keep the balance and think that a British writer, who has been in Australia for a short time, may know more about Australia than some Australian writers, who have never been at all to Great Britain, know about Great Britain. I did not fail to notice that the Australian, who most bitterly resented criticism of his land, was always the first in criticism of other lands.

Nothing would be easier, nay pleasanter, than to go through the piles of printed and written material with which I am surrounded, and on which might be stamped "Advertise Australia," and proceed to write glowing paraphrases of official pamphlets. I have no desire to win your adulation by turning on the hose of gush. It would be a poor compliment to the intelligent masses in your country if I did that. As for the others, I am unconcerned. Much more good will be done—at least you must allow me to hold that opinion—by regarding Australia with a loving eye, for I came to love your country, and write frankly, sincerely, and with no axe to grind, exactly what a man, who has studied men and things in many other parts of the earth, thinks about the mighty continent of the southern hemisphere. The only