

"Society."

Unmorality leads to inevitable social disaster—the history of Rome, Spain, and France shows this unmistakably.

The whole thing now rests with the younger generation. The question is: Are they going to allow "society" to be prostituted? It looks to me as if they are. For the youth of to-day seem to have no code of conduct.

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"Society" is an easy thing to sneer at, and yet "society" matters. It sets the fashion, and fashion is an important thing.

The suburbs and the provinces, despite all their protestations to the contrary, take their tone from "society."

Even that great and glorious middle class is affected.

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On the other hand, I notice a counter-attack arising which I welcome.

It is called the Oxford Group Movement. I know precious little about it.

All I know is that it seems to be alive and gets into its ranks the young people who are fervid folks.

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The old Churches go on droning basic truths, but this is a new and simple appeal to the elements of Christianity.

I will never join the movement, because, bad as I am, I am and always will be a Roman Catholic, and as such I am spiritually immobile from the point of view of doctrine.

We Papists are a spiritually superior lot—almost, if not quite, as arrogant as the Jews.

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I wonder if London is going to be fired by this new movement—personally I should not be surprised if it were.

You laugh?

Supposing fellows like you and me had been living in Rome a couple of thousand years ago. Do you think we would have taken Christianity seriously? Not on your sweet life! Why, we would have sneered at it.

Yet the Cæsars are dead and Christ lives.

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If you look back through the ages you will find that new movements start with the young, the emotional, and the unerudite, and then suddenly they collar some hard-boiled egg like St. Paul, Gregory the Great, Luther, Calvin, or Wesley, and latterly, Mrs. Eddy.

The only exception I can think of is St. Francis of Assisi, who loved with a sweetness past all understanding.

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It is an enthralling speculation to think that Mr. Montagu Norman and Mr. Otto Kahn might suddenly see salvation, sell everything they have got, give to the poor, and, once free of the chains of worldly goods, take a leading part in a spiritual revival.

The First Wave.

I do not believe that this Oxford Movement is the only manifestation of the spiritual starvation which we are suffering from. Unless my understanding is wrong, it is but the first wave in the storm, and I believe that this movement, like Christianity in the first and second centuries, will be recruited from the ranks of the aristocracy.

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You see, Mayfair is the milestone of unhappiness. There is, I believe, more unhappiness among the wealthy of the West-end than among the poor of the East-end.

That seems bunkum, but it is true.

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I see misery all around me, but not so much in Fleet-street, because there working journalists are too busy to ruminate.

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