

Glass of Fashions, The.

Some Social Reflections by A. H. Hutton with a
Dedication

By D. Putnam & Sons 1921.

Introduction.

"Folly, not vice, is the enemy. Our cure is not original
sin but original stupidity."

The object of this book is to convince people
of two truths hitherto obscured by tolerance and
careless thinking — the danger of folly: the value
to a liberal State of a solid Aristocracy."

Chap. I. Principles of the Commonwealth.

"That by the triumphs of the battlefield and the forum
since the Commonwealth seeks to be justified."

but by the character, and the influence, the noble ex-²
ample and the inspiring memory of its men and women;

"That is to say, the meaning of England is
neither imperialism nor state slavery, but wool
character. She is the very antithesis of Prussianism,
and the very antipodes of Bolshevism. Her strength,
power, and dominion lie in womanhood of state,
but in the wool character of her individual citizens."

"England, still for a short of her ideal, stands in a world
of many diverse doctrines, and a world at many
different levels of civilization, for Liberty & Character."

Page 15,

But here is forbush measuring up to the requirements of Liberty
+ Character

Chap II. ^{III} "Colonel Rofington's Diaries;" and

Chap. I & II - Mrs. Arguith's Autobiography. -

Both reveal a cynical flattery, a lack of inward
Earnestness" as compared with Mrs. Blackstone, a
Blackstone, of the Victorian period,

Effect of this Life of Forbush on the nation is
very great and very bad. The fault runs deep.

See Chapter on Manners, Chap. VIII.

"We possess in place of an aristocracy of culture
a forceful and cynical plutocracy which is or

wholly given to the worship of Mammon, or any votive of
heathen times. " P. 122.

He (the Englishman) calls it very bold manners to cheer
loudly, to talk at the top of the voice, to make a display
of jewellery, to conduct the household extremely,
to be fresh, noisy, extravagant, showy and boisterous!

It runs deep,

Chapter XI - Conclusion.

In the course of this essay I have advanced certain
propositions which may be summarized as follows:-

"Fashion, because of its conspicuous position in the State,
exercises the greatest of all influences on the nation."

"The influence of modern Fashion are injurious

to the peaceful evolution of the British Commonwealth, being the influence of ostentation, self-indulgence, lawlessness, cynicism, and frivolity."

"The influence of Iniquity is not to be so greatly feared by the nation as the influence of Folly."

"It is by the domestic door, rather than the economic, that violence enters the state."

"The social, political, and moral health of a community depends mainly upon its attitude towards life, that is to say, its theory of existence."

"In a rational theory of existence it is impossible to divorce Time from its context of eternity, place from

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its context of infinity, man from his context of evolution.

"At the head of a nation there should be an aristocracy of intelligence whose manner of life exhibits the truth of this theory."

A book with a sense of the reality of word values, but confuses word forms with the word character. (See Chp. VII.) The forms of a passing generation, the victorian age appeal to the author, quite regardless, it would seem of their real ethical content, and yet he realizes that some form every act, and every person is measured by ethical standards. -

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The Glass of Fashion

"And when I came to the last faze of this long
filgrimage through Vanity Fair, (Margot Asquith anti type)
which nevertheless leaves so much to be said, I found the
following passage:

"An unpettered childhood and triumphant youth;
a lot of love-making and a little abuse; a little fame
and more abuse; a real man and great toffiness;
the love of children and seventh heaven; an early
death and a crowded memorial service."

Mr. Arzwith drew up a summary of her history and her aspirations. The last of these aspirations was for "a crowned memorial service": Miss Lucy Frances Bailew defend the vulgarity of some which inspired that aspiration! Is there not in this passion for a last crowd, as it were a last audience, something that strikes us in the depths of our nature worse than the sin of the weak and the uneducated?

"Much is to be learned from that flattery."

Does it not witness to an immense desolation x 2
of the woman's heart? She does not dare to be
alone with herself even in the grave. She would
have the fashionable world, and the photographers of
the illustrated papers, as near her coffin as burial will
permit. As the tree falls, so would it lie. As she has
sown, so would she reap. What vulgarity.

Page 118-119

"If there is one great and controlling principle Page 124
in the behavior of the average good Englishman it is the
principle of reserve."

"This virtue is not always the highest virtue of modesty;
but it makes for that virtue. The characteristic Englishman
does not adventure either his position or his possessions.
He calls it very bad manner to speak loudly, to talk
at the top of the voice, to make a display of jewellery,
to conduct a house hold ostentatiously, to be fresh, pale,
noisy, extravagant, stormy, and brawny; these
things he regards as bad form. They are no
temptations for him. They are distasteful."

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These vulgar people have used money to advertise
their wares, and now would use the money made
by that advertisement to advertise themselves. The
stop mischievous is transferred from commercial
to social life. Reserve in business would be ruin.
Reserve in social life would be suicide. As they
attracted the public to buy their goods, so they would
attract aristocracy to a knowledge of their arrival
in Vanity Fair. They advertise their existence by
hanging their women with jewels, by building
folatrive houses, and by giving entertainments which
in every detail flash wealth in the eyes of their parasitic
guests."

manner.

"Consider these people, then, their way of life, their habits, their manner, the very tones of their voices; look at them attentively; observe the literature they read, the things which give them pleasure, the words which come forth out of their mouths, the thoughts which make the furniture of their minds; would any amount of wealth be worth having with the condition that one was to become just like these people by having it?"

Matthew Arnold.

cited in "The Mass of Fishes. Page 113

"It is the unconscious, rather than the conscious, which is the important factor in personality and intelligence. The unconscious furnishes the formative material out of which our judgments, our beliefs, our ideals, and our characters are shaped."

Morton Prince, cited
in "The Glare of Fashion". Page 137.

Gloss of Fashions, &c.

by

Notes on

The Gentleman with a Duster,

Finished packing, Sept. 14, 1922