



"King Louis Philippe once said to me that he attributed the great success of the British nation in political life to their talking politics after dinner."
Disraeli, 1873

"So he is a fool, and a d—d fool; but he can take Rangoon."

G. W. E. Russell,
"Collections and Recollections."

IF an earthquake were to engulf England tomorrow, the English would manage to meet and dine somewhere among the rubbish, just to celebrate the event.

Douglas Jerrold

I BELIEVE there is no permanent greatness to a nation except it be based on morality. I do not care for military greatness or military renown. I care for the condition of the people among whom I live. There is no man in England who is less likely to speak irreverently of the Crown and monarchy of England than I am; but crowns, coronets, mitres, military display, the pomp of war, wide colonies, and a huge empire, are, in my view, all trifles light as air, and not worth considering, unless with them you can have a fair share of comfort, contentment, and happiness among the great body of the people. Palaces, baronial castles, great halls, stately mansions, do not make a nation. The nation in every country dwells in the cottage, and unless the light of our Constitution can shine there, unless the beauty of your legislation and the excellence of your statesmanship are impressed there—on the feelings and conditions of the people, rely upon it you have yet to learn the duties of government.

John Bright

I HOLD it for indisputable, that the first duty of a State is to see that every child born therein shall be well housed, clothed, fed, and educated, till it attain years of discretion. But in order to the effecting this the Government must have an authority over the people of which we now do not so much as dream.

John Ruskin,
"Time and Tide."

THOSE were the days when an Englishman's home was still to some extent his castle, not as now when every spinster is wont to look under her bed for an Enforcement Officer.

J. K. Stanford

WHEREVER we go, all over the earth, it is the solitary Briton, the London agent, or the *Milordos*, who is walking restlessly about, abusing the natives, or raising a colossus, or setting the Thames on fire, in the East or the West. He is on top of the Andes,

or in a diving-bell in the Pacific, or taking notes at Timbuctoo, or grubbing at the Pyramids, or scouring over the Pampas, or acting as Prime Minister to the King of Dahomey, or smoking the pipe of friendship with the Red Indians, or hutting at the Pole.

John Henry Newman

IT has been said that England invented the phrase, "Her Majesty's Opposition"; that it was the first government which made a criticism of administration as much a part of the polity as administration itself.

Walter Bagehot,
"The English Constitution."

WE shall never sheathe the sword which we have not lightly drawn until Belgium receives in full measure all and more than all that she has sacrificed, until France is adequately secured against the menace of aggression, until the rights of the smaller nationalities of Europe are placed upon an unassailable foundation, and until the military domination of Prussia is wholly and finally destroyed.

Herbert Henry Asquith,
"Speech at the Guildhall,"
November 9, 1914.

EVERY position must be held to the last man: there must be no retirement. With our backs to the wall, and believing in the justice of our cause, each one of us must fight on to the end.

Earl Haig,
Order to the British troops April 12, 1918.

THE only man who seriously tried to raise politicians to a higher level was Guy Fawkes.

Anon.

WHEN, after months of travel, one returns to England, he can taste, smell, and feel the difference in the atmosphere, physical and moral—the curious, damp, blunt, good-humoured, happy-go-lucky, old-established, slow-seeming formlessness of everything.

John Galsworthy

England is the paradise of individuality, eccentricity, heresy, anomalies, hobbies and humours.

Santayana

IT would hardly be too much to say that into this one word, duty, the English have distilled the whole body of ethics . . . summed up the principles of religion and supplied the rule of conduct. To this conception belongs one undeniable merit, simplicity. . . "To do one's duty" suggests nothing exalted, magnificent, spectacular. You hear in these words no rallying cry, no prophet's voice, no sound of trumpet call or rolling drums. They adjust themselves to the simplest intelligence and to the circumstances of every hour. . . And if you look for the core of English thought and English history, its inspiration, I do not know where else you will find it. The sense of duty shines through the actions of Beowulf, the first hero of the race. It echoes through all the genera-

tions since. It thrilled the heart of England in Nelson's famous signal at Trafalgar. It summed up the philosophy of Wellington in words which might have come from the lips of Beowulf a thousand years before—"There is little or nothing in this life worth living for, but we can all of us go straight forward and do our duty." No more English a sentence was ever uttered.

W. MacNeile Dixon,
"The Englishman," 1931.

The Englishman is an acquired taste.
Price Collier

EVEN though large tracts of Europe and many old and famous States have fallen or may fall into the grip of the Gestapo and all the odious apparatus of Nazi rule, we shall not flag or fail. We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender, and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starved, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's good time, the new world, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.

Winston S. Churchill,
Speech after Dunkirk, 1940.

BUT 'tis the talent of our English nation
Still to be plotting some new reformation.

John Dryden,
"Sophonisba."

WHAT to do with the wounded? The problem we had all so long dreaded had at last arisen. There were five of them unfit to move . . . The truck had got away, and there was no knowing when the Japs would come back on us. We hoisted three of them on to mules, and bore them down to the village a hundred yards away; and there we left them with their packs, and earthen jugs of water, in the shade under one of the houses. One of them said, "Thank God, no more walking for a bit"; one, Corporal Dale, said, "See and make a good job of that bridge"; and John Kerr said, "Don't you worry about us, sir we'll be all right."

Bernard Fergusson,
"Beyond the Chindwin."

THE essential and most influential initiative of British

statesmanship has proceeded not from genius of the first order, but from the splendid second rate, which can cooperate readily with its like. We have had indeed emergent and dominant personalities—a Cromwell, a Chatham, and (posterity may yet say) a Churchill: men who have been or been felt to be like a Colossus, bestriding the narrow world with great steps. But just as the English voice is low, and the English singer has not the great volume of the Continental—just as our choirs are greater than our soloists—so it would also seem to be in politics. Perhaps a general high level is the enemy of the highest; and where so many can do so well, there is little room for a single person to do supremely well. We have many leaders; but not, as a rule, a leader. . .

WHAT is cricket? Something the English—not being a naturally religious people—have had to invent to give them some idea of the eternal.

Lord Moncroft

Individuality is not extinguished—on the contrary, it may be said to be extended—when it acts in and through a group. . . But we should be doing wrong to the national record, and committing a treason against its majesty, if we failed to appreciate the influence of the creative individual personality in the roll of British statesmen. Such figures stand by themselves, in solitude; and by virtue of their very solitude they have seldom left a line of successors. But their names are connected with great moments and great achievements; and when the great moment recurs, and the great achievement is again needed, their inspiration recurs. The war from which we have just emerged began on that day of September which was the great day of Cromwell's life—the day of the battle of Dunbar, the day of the battle of Worcester. In the course of the war Mr. Churchill became Prime Minister in the spirit, and almost in the circumstances, in which the elder Pitt became virtual Prime Minister during the Seven Years War. In time of war it is Cromwell and Chatham who wake again.

Sir Ernest Barker,
"Essays on Government," 1945.

