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Ernest Barker

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THE CAMBRIDGE MISCELLANY



XVIII

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By

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It is no hyperbole to say that the progress of the world towards self-government would have been arrested but for the strength afforded by the religious motive in the seventeenth century.

LORD ACTON, *Inaugural Lecture*

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PREFACE

The origin of this lecture was an invitation addressed to me, last summer, by Bürgermeister A.D. Dr Burchard-Motz, President of the Friedrich Sthamer-Gesellschaft in Hamburg, to deliver an address before his society, a branch of the Deutsch-Englische Gesellschaft in Berlin. I gladly accepted his invitation; and I gladly accepted the subject which he suggested to me for the address. The lecture is printed here as it was delivered, on the evening of 17 December 1936. It was a singularly happy occasion. My audience sat at tables, dotted about the room, smoking and drinking beer (it was 'a social evening'); and I lectured all the more happily because I felt that my hearers were comfortable. The lecture was delivered in two parts (the lecturer retiring for rest and refreshment to one of the tables during a brief interval); and I fear that it lasted for nearly an hour and a half. Perhaps only

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a German audience could have been so generous and so patient; and I owe a very deep debt of gratitude to all who listened to me for the honour of their attention.

The Epilogue was written after I returned, in the four days before Christmas; and the notes were added at the same time. It was natural, after visiting Germany, and talking with German friends for the greater part of three days, to enter into some comparisons which had suggested themselves or been suggested to me. I hope I have written nothing which can hurt or give offence. I had to set down what I honestly believed. A writer can do nothing else . . . if he writes at all. Perhaps there was no necessity to write. I can only plead that the comparison between the German Führer and our English Protector is one which has been pressed on my attention not only in Germany, but also in England.

I had a special reason for being glad, and indeed proud, to lecture before the Fried-

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rich Sthamer-Gesellschaft. I had known Herr Sthamer when he was German Ambassador in England, in the difficult days after the War; and I had received many kindnesses at his hands, which I shall never forget. I knew something of the work which he did in the cause of a good understanding between England and Germany. He came from 'the parts about Hamburg'. (Many of us English, as I was reminded by some of my hearers, also came from those parts, about fifteen hundred years ago.) It is easy for an Englishman to feel at home in Hamburg. It was particularly easy for me to feel at home when I was speaking in Hamburg before a society which bears the name of Herr Sthamer....His son was present at my lecture....I cannot but inscribe to his name and his memory what I have written.

ERNEST BARKER

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24 DECEMBER 1936