

neither the allurements of mind nor the fury of passion can distract, is more precious to his fellow-men than a conclave of dons and savants who drift in the mists of speculation and hypothesis.

As authors, the men of the latter school urge the world today to learn two lessons from the life of St. Francis—faith and joy. Our passive religionists, left starkly cold after long conflict, can learn from him that there is a God! They can know that Christ, the Lord and Redeemer of earth, wants Love, and that Love must be sweetened with Suffering. They can realize with St. Francis that iniquity will come but that faith cannot be quenched. Because of faith we all will understand the virtue of poverty, not temporal poverty, but the angelic poverty of spirit which should direct all economic and social movements. And that poverty is primarily a personal conversion to Christ; it is a definite condition for the realization of the soul's freedom. The Seraphic Saint can then teach a cynical and disillusioned society the magical power of joy. He can reopen the heart of man to the divine gift of laughter. The way to break the barriers of heaven and earth is by song. Francis was the Troubadour of Our Lady; his companies were penitents but wished to be known as *Joculatores Domini*, God's jongleurs; their leader was the official jester at the court of the King. In that delightful capacity, he tumbled joyously, standing on his head and kicking his feet ecstatically in the air. While in that posture he himself first learned the true relation of earth and sky; for then he saw that the world does not swing proudly in space but that the fields and trees and birds—yes, even the sun—are really suspended from the blue heavens.





