

### RULE BY HIERARCHY

"The Menace of the Herd" or "Procrustes at Large," by Francis Stuart Campbell. The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wisconsin. 1943. \$4.00.

"This book is dedicated to all those who defend our freedom in all five continents of the earth, with the sword, not the pen." So writes the author, and to those of philosophic bent this dedication suggests his approach to the subject.

The Procrustes alluded to in the subtitle, you may recall, was the legendary highwayman of Attica who tied his victims upon an iron bed and, as the case required, either stretched or cut off their legs to adapt them to its length—whence the phrase "the bed of Procrustes." Francis Stuart Campbell seeks to draw a parallel between Procrustes' inclination toward "fittingness" and the tendency of "democratic" governments and their citizens to adjust the legs of their first principles to the iron bed of expediency. This habit he calls Herdism. He attributes Herdism, in part, to the desire for security on the part of the majority who, by their circumspection, hope for a fifty-fifty chance to weather the storms over the political, economic, and psychological horizons.

As have many writers before him, author Campbell points out that these United States were united as a republic and not as a democracy. Democracy, as he defines it, is herd rule. He doesn't like it. It is the "Menace" of the herd in the title of the book. With more than a little nostalgia, and with a great deal more than dilettante

bias, Mr. Campbell presents interesting, if unconvincing, arguments for a return to power of a government of monarchial elite loyal to The Catholic Hierarchy. His reasoning runs somewhat as follows: Rule of the Herd (majority) is impractical, unjust, materialistic and morally bad; rule by a monarchial elite, that in turn is ruled benevolently by a Catholic Hierarchy, is practical, just, intellectual, spiritual, and morally good. The choice as between two such alternatives, is obvious. Were there no other choice, author Campbell would win his point hands down. Certainly the Hapsburgs of Austria and the royal house of Spain should derive satisfaction from the championship of ambitions such as theirs.

Most FREEMAN readers will share Mr. Campbell's antipathy to mass or majority rule—the theory of government which finds justice in numbers. Possibly a few will favor the single alternative presented by the author—a hierarchy. Social philosophers equal in mental stature to Mr. Campbell will be quick to recognize that, despite the plea for individualism and freedom contained in his volume, it carries the implication that where there is a controlling body (be it the herd or the spiritual elite) there must be a controlled.

Mr. Campbell's attitude toward the herd resembles somewhat that of one Osmund, a character in Hugh Walpole's novel "Above the Dark Tumult." It's been over a decade since we first met Osmund, but we remember having much in common with him despite his hopelessness and sense of futility. The reviewer's feelings toward the writer of "The Menace of The Herd" are much the same. Certainly we may challenge many of Mr. Campbell's statements and interpretations as arbitrary. Often we were irritated to the point of putting aside the volume but the challenge did not permit dismissal. The author's reading and research have been voluminous, and while this alone might not demand respect, there are not infrequent evidences of real understanding of age-old problems. A technical fault is the vocabulary of the author. The same thoughts could have been said more simply. Even owners of better than average vocabularies will be compelled time and again to resort to printed lexicons, dictionaries—as it were.

Francis Stuart Campbell's book aims to convince us of the fitness for rule of the monarchial and hierarchial elite. While that fact will condemn it for believers in the American form of government, it is none the less a thought-provoking work of more than a little interest.

—GEORGE B. BRINGMANN