

St. Agathe

April 3rd 1923.

Dear Dr. Marmichael:

I have just finished "The Road to the Open" and have enjoyed it very much & certainly have found the foreign point of view a treat. In so far as it deals with the anti-Semitic questions I think it is rather circumplex. It doesn't really present a Jewish "problem" in Austria but merely, I think, the "fact" that Jews are there, as they are everywhere. All that it leaves one with, as far as I can see, is what one had before, that is a feeling of tolerance at the average best, for Jews & it presents

27 the Jewish consciousness of that tol-
erance. I don't really believe that
Jews themselves are anti-Semitic
as the author pictures Steinrich and
Oshter to be. My experience has been
otherwise: oftentimes they pretend
not to be Jews when among others
but among themselves they are always
proud of their race & that is one
of their redeeming features. The "Lis-
trodin" of the book is a pretty
hackneyed one & rather overdone. I
submit, for all allusions to the sit-
uation accept it as so commonplace
that it scarcely seems worth while
re-reading according to the lights of
the characters in the immediate circle.
And speaking of the characters I
think the women are more vividly
portrayed than the men. I can
recognize Mrs. Anna, Thersa &
Steinrich's love, but I find it
hard to visualize George, Steinrich

as Orhas thought I get a good idea of
 Numburger. Leo and old Ehrenburg. Heinrich &
 Numburger have some "meaty" matter for
 one's digestion, for instance "Courage is
 often times but the expression of an as it
 were metaphysical conviction of one's own
 superfluity". I had to scratch my head
 over that. Some of the epigrams are
 worth while; "Sentimentalism is feeling
 which one has obtained, so to speak, below
 cost price" - "Emotional slovenliness"
 Numburger view towards life smacks of
 Elbert Hubbard's "What's the use? Yes-
 terday an egg; tomorrow a feather. Suspect."
 I most certainly enjoyed the book & I par-
 ticularly liked how the author took
 James Wyand, the young Englishman,
 for granted as a man and gentleman.
 Sort of "cela va sans dire".

I got your "window" the "Dean's window"
 in the Standard which contained a review
 of Gibbs' book. I didn't find the article
 on Sullivan's design.

I hope my views of "The Open Road"
 aren't utterly stupid. They're very badly
 & briefly expressed and I envy the author
 his control of language though I miss
 the moral of his tale for it leaves full
 love as a pretty attractive & inconsequential
 indulgence & doesn't even give punishment
 is due punishment. Isn't it really but a
 vivid picture of Central-European
 dilettantism? I'd ~~not~~ even be content
 though to qualify as a dilettante.

Strength to your examination eye!
 Owen