

What is a Jingo?

Chance has given currency to a word which possibly may one day become as widely known and as respectable as the name of Whig or Tory—the word 'Jingo.' An English traveller abroad is said to have been not long ago asked the question by a continental politician, "Mais, qu'est-ce que c'est donc, monsieur, que ce Jingo?" His own ideas on the matter not being very clearly defined, he made answer, with delusive playfulness, that it was Mr. Gladstone's familiar spirit. The epithet is now used by liberal speakers, even by the most moderate, and eminent of them, as a convenient missile to fling at their opponents, and by radicals it is applied freely, and one may say indiscriminately, to all who desire to maintain the honor and integrity of the British Empire. A word which the political excitement of the last three years has engraved so deeply in people's memories, and which the excitement of the next elections will perhaps fix there still more firmly, cannot be soon forgotten: and even if it does not attain hereafter to the classic dignity of the two names cited above, its place in history is already won.

But then what is a Jingo exactly? It is a man who believes in what Lord Derby calls "gunpowder and glory," whatever this may mean? Is it a man who wants to fight everybody all round, if such a man there be? If we turn to that celebrated refrain which has given currency to the word, and which will be remembered longer than many verses of greater lyrical value, we can find nothing more in it than the expression of a modest firmness and self reliance. It affirms that we have no desire for war, but that, should war arise, we have the means to face it. This temperate affirmation is clenched with an oath, reprehensible indeed, and by no means refined, but far less objectionable than many other such words that we unfortunately hear even from the liberal workingmen as we walk along the streets. Since there is nothing in the origin of the word, as a political term, which explains the use made of it, and since philology has no key by which to unlock its significance, where are we to turn for an explanation? We shall find a clew in the policy and temper of the men who use it as a term of reproach. Bearing this in mind, we see that Jaingoism comes to pretty much the same thing as another word also used by the same sort of people as a term of reproach—namely, "Imperialism."—*London Saturday Review.*

A preacher who had been preaching on trial in a country church in northern Pennsylvania was tacked by an older preacher and told that it would please the congregation greatly if he would vogue a little Latin, Greek and Hebrew in his sermons, as if taking for granted that his hearers understood it, when in reality none of them knew anything about these languages. The preacher was puzzled, he didn't know anything of either Hebrew, Greek or Latin himself, but was a native of Wales and thought they wouldn't know the difference if he gave them a little Welsh every time. So he made a Scripture quotation in his first sermon to them, and said: "This passage, brethren, has been slightly changed in the translation. It is only in the original Hebrew that you can grasp its full meaning. I will read it to you in Hebrew, so that you may comprehend it more exactly," and he gave them the passage in very good Welsh. They liked it first rate, and presently he gave them some Welsh as Greek, and then some as Latin. He was going to give them the Chaldaic version in Welsh, when he saw a Welshman sitting by the door, almost bursting with suppressed laughter. The preacher didn't let on, but instead of the Welsh quotation he was going to give said in Welsh; "For goodness' sake, my friend, don't say a word about this till I have a chance to talk with you." The Welshman never told, and the congregation completely deceived, called him to be their pastor.

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