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EDITORIAL

Since the appearance of our last Journal, we have seen Africa moving steadily towards a quantitative rather than a qualitative period in its politics. In such times the other world, the sphere of the intangibles which is the true country of the creative artist, is inclined to be ignored in the rush of daily events where power is the objective and the spectators pay the bill. It is the day of the extrovert which is invariably followed by the month of the introvert, the artist, if indeed he has kept his head high and his sense of values untarnished.

Ultimately, whatever group or party wins the control of government, it is to the creative artist that all politicians must look for the qualitative assessment of the success or failure of their activities. If there is no cultural advance in step with political change then that change and the price paid were not warranted and the politicians stand condemned. It is not enough to stir up patriotic fervour for snatching votes unless that same zeal blossoms into a deeper appreciation of the intrinsic qualities of the most sensitive and articulate members of any society, its writers, sculptors, scholars, contemplatives, and religious, and in Africa, above all, its poets, composers and folk musicians.

THE EDITOR.