

The committees which organized Barcelona for war had a touch of the Middle Ages in the way they worked. Jealous feudal lords would not have insisted with any greater vehemence on marching their retainers into the battle front under feudal flags than the separate organizations here insisted on carrying their distinctive flags into the fray. The strong sense of the throng alone occasionally saves causes from the littleness of leaders. Maybe, it is that the throng absorbs all the hurts which bad leadership occasions..... But committees ~~do~~ here just drove wedges into the solid streets and splintered the populace into sections. .... The broad patient back of the common people would take the cuts while history worked out its purpose, and events taught the committees what the people had already learnt

(Geadar O'Donnell. Salud! An Irishman in Spain. p. 114-115)