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INQUIRY AMONG EUROPEAN WRITERS INTO THE SPIRIT OF AMERICA

*“ Americanize yourselves ” —
Lenine on his death-bed to his friends.*

Next to Russia, the United States is today the most important problem among the nations of the world. The new conception of life and the accelerated rhythm of its pragmatic manifestations are slowly, but surely, being felt in the old world. Some European travelers to the North-American continent assert that America represents today the essence of the Occidental spirit, i. e. an impulsion towards a new culture and a new mode of living, while others denounce what they conceive to be a danger of intellectual mechanisation that results from that spirit.

In order to crystallize these ideas, I have asked a number of European writers the following questions :

- 1. How, in your opinion, are the influences of the United States manifesting themselves upon Europe and in Europe ?*
- 2. Are you for or against those influences ?*

The violence of the answers received makes any commentary on my part, for the moment, superfluous.

EUGENE JOLAS