



Creative nations are distinguished by a peculiar cultural characteristic, which it would be idle to inquire into at the present moment: they have epic poems. Thus Italy, England and Portugal. Nations merely distributive, such as Spain, France and Germany, are characterized, however rich their literature, by the equal absence of a great element of that literary species. The Nibelungen can no more be considered an epics, than the *Romances del Cid* or the *Chanson de Roland*: these are merely epic elements, such as the Homeric poems were |*lower art| of. The epics I allude to are culture-epics, not folk-epics.

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