

of the time realizes keenly the existence of the social problem. But, in the meantime, rivals to the Church have arisen. There are agencies ready with proposed solutions of the great problem. It has become a race toward a common goal: is the Church already hopelessly out-distanced?

#### RIVALS TO THE CHURCH.

In the nineteenth century there were several forces that were formative in thought and effort. Some of these were the Idealistic philosophy of Hegel, Marxian socialism, modern science and the great humanitarian movement. Of these, the worship of the idea of humanity, while influential in many lines of thought, may be said to have expressed itself on the practical side through Marx's system; and the other two forces have likewise united so as to give us modern sociology and scientific philanthropy. These two great movements, Socialism and what we may call Humanitarianism, are the rivals to Christianity, as possible solutions of the social problem. Are they adequate? or must the Church take up the burden—is she to press onward to the goal?

#### (1). SOCIALISM.

At first sight, Socialism is simply a system of economics. It is not Communism, and it is not Anarchism, despite their frequent confounding; but like them it is one proposed solution of the social question.

#### AS AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM.

Is it right? That is primarily a question of economic science. On the other hand, Prof. Rauschenbusch says of Henry George's book, "In his main contentions, he has never been answered." On the other hand, a book like "Orthodox Socialism" by J. Edward le Rossignol, which strikes one as a fair and a thorough criticism of the system, seems to prove that its main propositions are a series of fallacies.<sup>1</sup> Socialism is a faith rather than a science. Therefore it is popular, but it is not therefore true. Its devotees are enthusiastic to the point of fanaticism, but its doctrines are not correct to the point of verification. "With human nature as it exists at present, and as it bids fair to continue for an incalculable future, Socialism, if it were realized in practice would be the death-knell of economic advance and true social betterment."

#### THE NECESSARY MOTIVE POWER.

With the economic validity, however, we have little to do. As a matter of fact Socialism is really only a variety of machinery. Has it got the motive-power to make it go? Is it adequate? That is the question; and an impartial consideration seems bound to answer, No. It does not possess the impulse to self-sacrifice which

<sup>1</sup>For a criticism of the book see *Charities and the Commons*, April 6th, 1907.