

corporations are combining to control trade for their selfish advantage, and workingmen try to checkmate this by forming unions and having strikes. The cities are the places where these irritations and agitations are felt, and they form a dangerous element, a menace to the welfare of every city.

4. A constantly widening gulf between the evangelical Churches and the masses, especially of the poorer people.

Some may say this is not a peril, as it does not exist to any appreciable extent, and that the constant reiteration of it only serves to create the impression. No one acquainted with work among the poorer classes in cities will long hold that opinion. Mr. Charrington, in his great evangelistic work in the East End of London, found such an antipathy in the converts toward the Established Church, that he could not induce them to connect themselves with these churches, and had in consequence to start an independent church. What do the poorer classes see? Elaborate and expensive churches built, that contrast strangely they think, with their homely apparel. To finance these churches, the wealthier members must be specially recognized, and so in some way they must be given the chief seats in the synagogues, and many of them are selfish enough to take them on the principle on which of course they act in other things, viz: that for a dollar, they want a dollar's worth. Do they not see the churches moving out of the poorer districts in order to keep and accommodate their wealthier hearers. Thus the social distinctions instead of being battled against, are in very many cases, recognized and pandered to by the churches. The result is that the poorer people feel they are not needed, and drift away from the Church altogether. Let me give one or two statistical illustrations. In the city of New York, south of Fourteenth street, there were 141 churches, Catholic, Protestant and Jewish, in 1868. Twenty years later, there were only 127, though the population in that district had increased 200,000. The reduction was chiefly caused by the churches moving up town to the wealthier parts of the city. Though Chicago is fairly well supplied with churches, there is a district in that city containing 30,000 people, without a single church. These are samples, and they could be multiplied greatly. Then the Church that is most recognized by the poorer classes, is the Roman Catholic, though thousands of them have only a nominal connection with it. When