

attached to them, it is not, I feel certain, too much to ask the reader to bear with me while I make a few distinguishing remarks on each of the expressions.

The peculiar state of society to which we have given the high-sounding name of civilization, even the most optimistic among us can scarcely consider altogether desirable. It may be questioned if it has made any material alteration for the better in human nature. It refines and softens manners, it is true ; but it is fear of various punishments that causes restraints. But to say nothing of widespread dishonesty, and greed for lucre and blood, the Southern States have proven that men are still capable of all the blind and cruel passions that history, tradition or archæological research have disclosed. We prate about our Christian civilization, but, fronted with the almost unexceptional universality of the meanest sorts of dishonesty in the trades and the professions, by cruel murders, by brutal wars, by corruption in public life and immorality in private life, is it not a fact that the proud words Christian Civilization become barren contradictions ? We call ourselves humble followers of the Prince of Peace, but during this century the Christian nations have done most of the fighting in the world, and the worst of it has been among themselves. This proclaims that when we pray we do not mean what we say ; we are hypocrites. Does the ship of state always pursue the straight course of integrity ? Perhaps Henry George went too far when he alleged, with all the earnestness of his nature and the unsurpassed vigor of his rhetoric, that the rich are growing richer and the poor poorer ; but, nevertheless, are not the moneyed idle wallowing in luxuries, while the toiling poor go without the comforts and even the necessities of life ? Dives gets the plums in the cake ; Lazarus, the crumbs, and the kicks—lots of the latter. Could not most existing Christian religions be improved in their practice on their social sides. Christianity is not at fault, but man's disuse of Christianity. Is mankind as a class healthy, happy, and contented ? Healthy we are not, even in communities where medical doctors are few, happy we are not in a world plentifully dotted with lawyers, learned in the art of settling disputes—for a consideration — as for happiness, well, I have never yet met with even a nearly happy mortal. Has not the com-