

The book deals with the present un-Christian economic system with which the church is, as a whole, in too close sympathy and which must inevitably pass away.

The commercialization of the church by and through the man who contributes in order that he may control, is a vital problem. "The church must make herself unmistakably independent of financial control." Character, not cash; manhood not money; sincerity not silver; godliness, not gold; principles, not possessions; worth, not birth—these are the qualities that must be inwrought in the character of the man who shall be held forth to the world as the personification of Christian character and doctrinal virtues.

The question of property is considered. The author believes that before long no progressive government will allow the holding of property in such a way as to give one man the power over another man's life. Human nature is being ground to powder beneath and betwix the grinding wheels of an un-Christian and Godless commercialism. Its supply and demand and—who cares? Its profit and loss and—who cares? Its stocks and dividends and—who cares? Its the investor and the invested and—who cares? What a cold world is this for the man who has no cash, no credit and no work! And—who cares?

The odor of an unsavory social system cannot be purified by planting a social settlement centre here and there. The pauper cannot be saved by an extra dose of pauperism. Poverty cannot be remedied by the pious dope of a lentil charity religiously assorted, civilly associated, and systematically applied. Institutionalism is a remedy which works from the outside in, and not from the ground up. The perfume of Christian charity is too strong for the nostrils of those who are fighting for a breath of nature's pure hydrogen—democracy of opportunity and equality in social relationships.

The work of the church is not to organize, but to vitalize; not to institutionalize, but to inspire. The work of the church is not to manufacture crutches, but to reveal the sources of life and health. It is not the business of the church to provide stretchers and sleeping planks for those who are weak of limb, but to re-issue the Master's command: "Take up thy bed and walk." Let us have more truth and less doctrine; more genuine association and less organized sociability; more social re-adjustment and less of settlement houses and social centres. Let us learn how to live and let live. What humanity needs is air, sunshine and love. Life ever craves for life.