

The Call for an Adventurous Church

such a subject as profiteering, coupled with the persistent tendency of the pulpit to denounce social evils whose representatives or advocates are rarely found within a place of worship. The need is for preachers who will make their own people understand that social service is not primarily running clubs and institutes, sitting on municipal committees, or working in connection with social organisations ; but doing honest work—the best that training and diligence can produce, and the most useful that is within the workers' capacity. The preacher who is not afraid to tell his young people that to do no work, or to do one's work badly, perfunctorily or superficially, is to defraud the community and sin against God and man, and who will persist in preaching this bracing doctrine even though it means that the best of his young people decide to attend extra evening classes instead of church clubs and societies, is a true prophet, and does social service of the best type. The same may be said of the preacher who attacks boldly the only kind of competition that is inherently evil—competition in spending. Who does not know the good church-going father of a family who makes £800 a year more or less dishonestly, but would infinitely prefer to make £200 a year honestly, did not his womenfolk insist on " climbing " in the social scale and being at least as well dressed and as luxuriously housed as their neighbours ? The Church that sets her face like a