

back to the fields those who have foresaken them ; let the overflow of the city's population be poured out upon the country ; let the factories and workshops give back to agriculture a fair quota of the *hands* they have taken from the plough, and the social problem will be, if not satisfactorily solved, at least wonderfully simplified."

In vain, unfortunately, have those whose position gives them authority in the matter denounced, as fraught with untold evil, this forsaking of country life ; in vain do they call for a prompt reaction against this wayward migration towards the great centres of industry, for our farming lands threaten, all the same, to lie fallow, while the husbandman seeks out in preference a home in the crowded city. And how few are willing to be convinced that this infatuation for the bustle, the comforts and the pleasures of city life, peculiar to our age, is at the same time its chastisement !

Our own pastors have time and again pointed out the calamitous results which are sure to follow. In France, Cardinal Bourrat, Bishop of Rodez, in his Lenten Pastoral of 1895, has again sounded the note of warning.

The pride of families, eagerly seeking more brilliant positions for their children ; the allurements of a life of ease, counted upon as certain in new surroundings where, alas ! too often are found but pleasures within more easy reach ; the enticing dream of high wages ; the thirst for wealth, which feeds the feverish longing for fortunes easily made, but ending for the most part in disappointment if not in ruination. These are some of the causes of the evil which the Bishop of Rodez enumerates with all the feeling of the shepherd, for whom the sight of the lambs of his flock wandering away for ever is hard to bear.

There are in fact supernatural interests bound up in the agricultural problem, for this fleeing from the pur-