

THE WORLD PROBLEM

unpleasant edge, twisted to satisfy narrow vision and selfish taste, becomes a half-truth, leagued with error—"ever the blackest of lies"—the masterpiece among the weapons of hell.

The Bible, to come to its own, must be rightly understood. The churches that should understand it, should extract its real message and re-interpret it to the present age in the thought-form of to-day, so as to be applied to present-day conditions, are brain-tied, tongue-tied, by traditionalism and cowardice, the slaves of world-forces running the race to ruin. If the communities—the communicants, if you please—of all the Churches called "Christian" were followers of Jesus, they could and would say "Peace, be still," and there would be universal peace and a new earth. The universal cry of the Churches, voiced by every oecumenical gathering of every denomination, and by ten thousand half-despairing utterances in pulpit, platform and press, proclaim, "inefficient, inefficient," in the face of the victorious march of riotous forces of evil. The Churches misinterpret the truth won by the blood and suffering of ages, written in words of fire and agony and love. Just enough is given to win the adherence of multitudes and their support, to elevate many and "save" individuals, but not enough to make them creative followers of Jesus. Just enough success in expansion to please official ambition and satisfy a petty vision, but absolute weakness in face of the combined and colossal forces of materialism and militarism, of mammon and lust, of all the "spiritualities of wickedness" in the present cosmos.

The subject-matter of the Bible is spiritual. The unspiritual, the anti-spiritual, the exploiters of the