

CHRISTIANITY AND WAR

So at least it seems to one puzzled conscience ; and the way of escape is not through refusing to bear the burden which is laid upon us, but through bearing it in penitence and with prayer for deeper faith.

IV. THE NEED FOR A CATHOLIC CHURCH.

One other question, among very many, must here be raised ; for there seems to be no means of national progress except through the power of some individual citizen to rise above the average level of faith and to lift his fellows with him. To some extent we can do this at this point or that, according to the measure of the gift of Christ. But upon the whole men respond to social influences to a degree that entirely overshadows their capacity for individual achievement, and the power to take a standpoint higher than national, to live by a wider loyalty, is given to few, and to them only in small degree. There is much force in Bernhardt's plea that the national State is the highest actuality, and therefore the supreme object of loyalty ; and though it leads straight to the monstrous doctrine that the State therefore has no obligations (because *ex hypothesi* there is no society of States within which such obligation may operate), we have nothing to oppose to it but a Kingdom of Heaven which is not on earth, which is an ideal and not a fact (at least on the historical plane), and a Church which is neither One, nor Catholic, nor Holy.

What we need is an international society, actually and perceptibly one, bound together by devotion to Christ.