

THE WORLD PROBLEM

denominations, reveal the tide of new spiritual power in the onward striding of a great and growing host, onward, upward, into more light, pressing into spiritual freedom, expansion, creation, a people yielding slowly to the upward impulse of evolution towards God. The larger light first reveals defects: then the way to change into better ways; then the goal of the universal Christ becomes clearer: soon the upward pressure will be greater. There appears not only the unifying impulse of a higher patriotism of empire, but of self-examination and of wider brotherhood; the hope of removal of the war curse, and the demand for righteousness rather than for mere success.

In all Russia, with all its disadvantages of a paganized church and the obsessions born of the vast ambitions of that colossal pagan, Peter the Great, there moves to-day a sea of human faces turned towards the light, out of darkness, moving upwards, towards freedom, brotherhood.

In France, the tragedy that dethroned the Church, revoked the concordat, buried the hopes of Bourbons and Bonapartes, and gave freedom to the people, was, in guise of calamity to the Church, a boon to the religion of spirit. The Church of France had always an element of freedom; the very infidelity that rejected the falsified Christ had been inspired by a portion of His Spirit, in love for the people and freedom. The separation of Church and state, the helplessness of Pope and Church in political and material ways, has drawn the curé and the people together, in their struggle against odds, and led them nearer the original religion of Jesus. In the midst of the old symbolism a new spirituality has arisen, but little observed by the world. But in the light