

committed to her care or who are calling in their distress for help and succour.

Recurring once more to the two instances we have already considered, we find the features of life projected in the teaching of the Plymouth Brethren, revealing in a striking manner the worldliness, the lifeless ritualism of the church at the points where the new departure took place. The formal use of the Bible as a book of state ritual or military routine ; the absence of any thought of *understanding* what they read or heard ; the fluttering frivolity of fashion, the ghastly lifelessness which glittered with phosphorescent gleam upon the impure current ; what wonder that spiritual life should go apart, and laying aside the cumbrous and complex ritual, endeavour to read and understand the message of God ? What wonder that they who believed should separate themselves in christian union from the world ?

As to the Salvation Army, that unique embodiment of practical christian beneficence, the facts are even more easily discerned. Not in certain places only but *over the world* they have revealed the cause and demonstrated the need for their existence by discovering and rescuing tens of thousands of the lost and the perishing. And they have done this, they are doing this amongst our churches, within the radius of the shadows of our church spires. And what does all this mean ? Does it mean only a phantastic display of dress and a noisy parade with drums and brass bands ? It means that *the church has lost these souls* which they are seeking to rescue. It means this *first*. It means this with incontrovertable evidence with tremendous, appalling certainty ! What else does it mean ? What else can it mean ? These lost ones have been born and raised in the midst of christian communities and the christian communities have permitted them to sink into the depths of vice and despair, into a condition of impurity and wretchedness which is so repulsive, so unfathomable that men have about come to think of them as beyond all human aid, as almost beyond the reach of the Gospel of the friend of sinners. Surely it was time that Divine love, moving in the hearts of men, should break through the restraints which human selfishness and un-Christlikeness had thrown around it and go forth to the superhuman task of undoing the wrong of generations, and carrying the story of the dying love and redeeming grace of Christ to those for whom He died.