

result from simple selfishness ; the magic skin which, to the wearer, brings gratification of every wish or whim, shrinks with each indulgence, cramping and crushing the soul within it. Faith is the force, and love is the fire, of all evangelism. If our churches are to be the temples of God, we must build into them, not the wood, hay, and stubble, but a practical life consistent with the character of the Divine foundation-stone, Christ Jesus.

Co-operation will never be, without operation, more unhindered, of the Holy Spirit. The periods of church life most active, aggressive, omnipotent, have been times when the Spirit of God most mightily moved within. The great bridge that spans the Forth was ready for the last stroke, but the huge hydraulic presses could not bring the two parts of the cantilever together. During the night the temperature sensibly rose, and in the morning the opposite ends almost touched. As Dr. John Cairns said, it was a grand illustration of a great spiritual truth ; where man's mechanics fail God's dynamics prevail. Heat was the force that was needful. When the spiritual temperature rises, God's people will be brought into touch with each other, and the awful gap and gulf will be bridged.

For such sympathetic touch between disciples, triumphs over human sin and sorrow, now beyond our thought, wait. We must learn to touch our brethren with love, or how can we touch those who are afar off ? We must show men that, far mightier than bonds of race or speech, social neighborhood, or common pursuits, is the bond of a common religious faith. Let us compel even apostates, like Julian, to say, " Behold, how these Christians love one another !" and we may hope to see those who have hated and devoured one another using heaven's dialect as a new mode of communication, and learning to say, however diverse their speech, " Abba," " Jesus," " Hallelujah !"

Paul tells us that Christ came to make hitherto alienated classes one new man in Himself, and to reconcile all alike to God in one body through the cross. The Church is to follow her Master, and bring to those afar off and near the news of this double peace with God and man. And as Jesus thought not His " equality with God something to be held fast to" as His right, but surrendered it, emptying Himself that He might fill man, we are so to love man as man, that our social equality with the highest is freely surrendered, emptying ourselves for the sake of the lowest !

There is no difficulty in solving this social problem when we are willing to become, at any cost, the practical factors for its solution. We must do more than be willing to have destitution reached and degradation remedied ; we must ourselves reach and remedy it. Martyrs are still needed who, like Jerome, of Prague, offer up their souls in flame to God. Like Ignatius, are content to be ground between teeth of lions, to become bread for the perishing. All other conditions of success resolve themselves in the last analysis into this—that supreme and unalterable condition of service to God and man—that we be partakers of Christ's passion for souls. The body without the Spirit is dead. All our best outward organization