

in Asiatic and European civilization. Now we have entered upon a new era. We are passing through the difficult transition period. It is full of uncertainties. It is easy to follow a beaten path; it is not easy to blaze a trail through an untracked forrest. It is easy to reiterate old phrases. It is not easy to formulate ideas that are slowly emerging and only half understood.

Some would shrink back and cling desperately to the old. Rather let us have faith to say:

"Cut the hawsers—haul out—shake out every sail!

Steer for the deep waters only.

For we are bound where mariner has not yet dared to go

And we will risk the ship, ourselves and all,

O, daring joy, but safe! Are they not all the seas of God?

A farther, farther, farther sail!"

THE RELIGION OF THE FUTURE

The Labor Church, born of the class struggle, at present limited in its activities, "Protestant" in its attitude rather than "Catholic" in its spirit, nevertheless reaches out to the religion of the future. What that will be who can tell? But while we cannot yet see the light we can already tell in what direction the light is breaking.

The religion of the future will be (1) **PROGRESSIVE**—dynamic not static. It will lay no claim to finality but rather be "going on towards perfection." (2) It will be **SCIENTIFIC** in its spirit and methods. The universe will be perceived as one and indivisible, each part in relation to the whole. We shall not be afraid of truth, rather welcoming it remembering that the truth only can make us free. (3) It will be **PRACTICAL**. Our immediate concern is with this present world rather than with some future life. Right relationships with our fellow men are more important than speculative Orthodoxy or ceremonial conventionality. (4) It will be essentially **SOCIAL** in character. No man liveth unto himself. The highest individual development can be realized only in a social organization. The emphasis is on social salvation. This involves fraternity and democracy. (5) It will be **UNIVERSAL**. When we evolve a religion that is big enough and broad enough and loving, it will make a universal appeal.

At this time let us have faith and courage and the future is ours!