

the so-called Church of Jesus Christ has been characterized by intellectual narrowness and bigotry. Too often she has opposed science and freedom of thought. Too often she has been devoid of that charity and love that characterized her Master. Too often her history has been one of bitter opposition to His teachings. Yea, too often the garments of the historic Church have been dyed in the blood of the innocent. Therefore I would ask you to allow the lines of churchdom to drop out of sight for the moment and to consider the subject from the view point of history. Let us sweep the horizon of the last 1900 years, investigating shortly what has been done for this present life through the agency of Christian faith.

(1) IT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE RECOGNITION OF THE EQUALITY  
OF ALL, IN THE EYES OF LAW.

When Jesus Christ came proclaiming the doctrine of human equality, he found confronting Him and His teachings apparently insurmountable barriers. In the then Roman Empire, woman was treated little better than one of the lower animals. She was bought and sold as a mere piece of merchandise. As a mother she had no legal right to her children. She could not legally hold property in her own name. Her husband held for her the keys of life and death in his hand, and could enslave her or kill her as he saw fit. Polygamy was practised to such an extent that Seneca, the old Roman Consul, in his scathing indictment of the corruptions of the times, accused some of the aristocratic Romans of having 1000 wives. Concubinage was the fashion of the times, and divorces the order of the day. In short, woman was but a chattel, to be bought or sold, freed or enslaved, killed or kept alive, according to the caprice of her lord and master, man. When we compare the then social conditions with the teaching of Christ, we see at once that a collision between the old order of things and the new doctrine was inevitable. It required no seer to see that war must be waged between the old system and the new until either Christianity should be extinguished or woman should take her place on a perfect equality with man. The