

PREFACE

THE essay that in my view indicates the purpose of this volume is the one entitled, "Christianity and the Social Crisis." This, while bearing in part the air of a review, is such only in semblance. What I have really done has been to make Professor Rauschenbusch's stimulating book a point of departure for the registering of my own judgment on some of the causes that have led, I shall certainly not say to the absolute, but I will say to the relative, impotence of the Church in contemporary society. That impotence, even if only relative to the Church's superb potentiality—in other words, to the standard set up by the Church herself—is deeply to be regretted. No lover of Christianity can let it persist without protest. The sacrosanct manner in the pulpit and in the pew, coupled with the tyranny of traditional views and the staleness of conventional language, has, in no small measure, brought