

OUR NEED OF A CATHOLIC CHURCH

the general good, by spending blood and treasure in upholding the authority of the international court or council. What will secure this, except the realization of common membership in the Kingdom of God, and in the Christian Church, its herald and earnest ?

And yet the Church we know is not only divided but at war within itself. This, the Creation of God in Christ, is not more free from strife and faction than the nations which are natural growths. If grace fails, how can nature succeed ? Why should we expect the nations of the world to be at peace, when the sections of the Church are at war ?

Because the Church is so far from what we hope it may become, we can only sketch that future Church in outline. Its building will be the work of years, perhaps of centuries. And probably enough our attempt will fail as Hildebrand's failed ; probably enough there will be scores of failures ; but each time we must begin again in order that for Christ and His Spirit a Body may be prepared, through which His purpose may in the end of the ages find its accomplishment, and the nations of the earth bring their glory—each its own—into His Holy City.

THE ADVENTURE

There is the goal, dimly enough seen ; but the method is perfectly plain. ' Thomas saith unto Him, Lord, we know not whither Thou goest ; how know we the way ? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way.' And when that way led to the cross, beside the innocent Sufferer there were two others. One cried to Him, ' Save Thyself and us ; ' the other recognized His royalty in that utmost humiliation and prayed, ' Jesus, remember me when Thou comest in Thy Kingdom.' He, and he alone in the four Gospels, is recorded to have addressed the Lord by His personal name. Penitence creates intimacy, whether it be offered to God or to man.

We have been made very conscious of the burden of the world's pain and sin, though perhaps that burden, as God bears it, is no heavier now than in our selfish