

The Call for an Adventurous Church

a Church in touting for members ; in other words, in struggling to keep alive and vigorous. Such a Church deserves to die. But once we recognise that the purpose of the Church is not a continual membership campaign, but to serve the world in Christ's name, and that her best service—the service which she alone can render—is to bear living witness to man's new life in Christ Jesus and to incarnate that witness in a community which may be relatively small but must be genuinely Christian, the question of attracting the masses sinks into sheer irrelevancy. The true Church will be alert and aggressive. She will use the best insights and instincts of the age, speak to men in the language of the day, and proclaim a Gospel to which nothing human is alien. But her first concern will be, not to vindicate her life, but to live it. She is first a witness, and only second an apologist. Her ministers are not primarily organisers and masters of ceremonies, who can turn their congregations into cheerful clubs with a craze for small philanthropies ; they are not even prophets or teachers merely, but priests of a holy community. They are there to build that Jerusalem which will be the praise of the whole earth. Only let it be built truly and well with the stones of sacrifice, and every road thereto shall resound with the tramp of pilgrim feet.

It is out of the Church's deepest life that her social crusade will spring. To-day she is asked