

extent of the propaganda of Socialism, the efforts of which have taken a more practical form than at any previous time. Recent counts in Germany, France and Great Britain show that the governing classes of these countries are willingly or unwillingly subdued by its influence. Dr. Sun Yat Sen has announced that he thinks it probable that the new Republican government of China will undertake socialistic experiments on a scale never before attempted. "We are all Socialists now," said the late Sir William Vernon Harcourt, with obvious ambiguity of expression, and anyone mixing much with men will admit that the trend of opinion in a socialistic direction is even more pronounced than the election returns reveal. Yet at the same time never was the strain of competition so severe, never was competitive industrialism more dominant, never were preparations for individualistic enterprise carried out on so colossal a scale. He who fails to see this and to arm himself for the battle of life in accordance with facts is sure to be driven to the wall. The socialistic visionary and dreamer finds himself confronted with facts, "chiels that winna ding," as Robert Burns calls them, which are fierce in their impact on human life and severe and unrelenting in their exactions. In a world over which the rainbow of socialistic hope is extended the struggle of individualism knows no abatement.

Conditions in Christendom.

Within the circle of the Christian church a similar contrariness of movement present itself. A movement towards the restoration of the external unity of the church goes on simultaneously with an intensifying of denominationalism and its unhallowed competitive zeal. The Vatican watches with keen eye the trend of courts and

fosters, by the means available to it, the clamorous desire for unification in hope of what it may lead to, and in various parts of the British Empire religious denominations are indulging in more or less practical negotiations for the furtherance of incorporative union. But at the same time there is little lowering of denominational flags. An eminent leader of church life in Canada some time ago advised one of the negotiating churches to pursue her own denominational policy as if no union were in sight, and as events are shaping themselves now perhaps he may be regarded as having been right. It is however perplexing to the Christian to find great schemes of unity on foot and splendid visions of the reduction of church divisions floating before the imagination and at the same time to see religious energy so perseveringly and often so relentlessly devoted to the pursuit of narrowly and even bitterly denominational ends.

The Ideal and the Practical.

In such a time as this the visions must still be cherished. But the actual conditions of human life must be sharply recognized. If Great Britain were today to announce the cessation of her naval activity and disbandment of her modest army, her action would be accepted as a confession of weakness and her place and influence among the world-powers would at once be modified. If the heads of any of our great and powerful mercantile and industrial enterprises were to decree no further competition extension, the field would soon be occupied to their exclusion. If our church were to abandon her mission fields on any great scale because union is in the air, other churches would conceive it to be their duty to supply ordinances to the people there, yet we may be