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REVIEW SECTION.

I.—LABOR PROBLEMS FOR PULPIT DISCUSSION.

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A GREAT mediæval doctor, in an exhortation to the clergy, reminded them that their first duty was silence. The request for an article on the "Labor Problems for Pulpit Discussion" recalls to me this wise admonition, for with reference to these vexed questions silence may often be the first duty of the clergy. It is not necessarily their last duty; but many pulpit utterances would have been wiser if for a time silence had been regarded as the first duty. On matters so perplexed, which present so many and diverse sides, and which are especially tempting to adventurous folly, speech in the pulpit should only follow the silence of much observation, study, and thought.

The need for this caution is not diminished by the fact that sociology is becoming a popular subject; that many writers in papers and magazines dip into it, and lectures upon topics connected with it now form a part in many institutions for the education of the ministry. All this may be regarded as a happy sign of social concern and agitation; but it renders the obligation of sober and intelligent speech all the more imperative in the pulpit. Silence, at least until hard reading has been done and careful convictions, displacing hasty generalizations, have been formed, is a first and indispensable condition of any weighty speech on these subjects.

With this preliminary caution and admonition at first to studious silence, we may proceed to determine how labor problems may be discussed in the pulpit, by considering these problems in their relation to the position which the minister holds to all classes of men, and also in view of the supreme message which he is called to deliver.

A true Christian ministry, it should be remembered, will hold the same general ethical and spiritual relations to all classes of men. The Christian pulpit is to be the living interpreter of life; it is to interpret its best as well as its worst life to each class; and it is also to stand as the mediator among men in the interpretation of the life of each class or condition of