

of essays, recently published, *Christ and Civilization*, Christianity by necessity of its very nature has wielded a potent social influence in every age so far as the circumstances allowed, and its own spirit impelled. Probably it is the tyranny of the priest in times past, the arrogant claims of the Papacy for a temporal sovereignty, that has made so many Protestants today so anxious to keep the Church and ministry out of politics. But if it be clearly understood that the Church as a religious community claims only to bear a moral testimony and wield a moral influence in the affairs of the community, no ground for such fear or suspicion remains.

The view which an arbitrary alliance between Church and State forced upon English Nonconformists and Scotch dissenters, that State and Church so differed in their functions that they must be kept apart, must today be modified, inasmuch as the modern state has been more and more moralized—one could almost say Christianized. As long as the State was conceived merely as maintaining law and enforcing order for the protection of person and property by physical force in the last resort, it was right and fit that the Church should hold aloof from it, for in the concerns of the soul force is an invader and usurper. But the State has been assuming functions that the Church once discharged, but which it could not in the complex society of today continue adequately to discharge. Education, care of the poor, have passed from Church to State. Private philanthropy is breaking down under the load that the modern conditions and the modern conscience would impose upon it; and it is becoming more and more evident that the community as a whole must through the organs of its common life in municipal administration or parliamentary legislation take over many services to the sick, the helpless, and the needy that have hitherto been partially and imperfectly rendered by individual effort. Popular opinion needs to be educated, and public sentiment needs to be stimulated to secure that the State shall discharge the tasks inevitably imposed upon it; and the Church is not going beyond legitimate and necessary testimony and influence in securing progress in this direction.

What has been without exaggeration described as the Industrial Revolution of the last century has at last in the nations that stand in the forefront of human progress brought about economic changes, which, while on the whole contributing better conditions of life for the many, yet have introduced difficulties and perils that must