## The Lord's Return and Kingdom

tems that men have built up, the reaping of the harvest of seed sown so bountifully in open defiance of Christ's plain teaching. These troubles are the agonies of an age dving. Some tell us that Christianity is on trial. No, Christianity is not on trial, but Christendom is, and the verdict is being written in blood. Others say Christian eivilization has broken down. No, Christian civilization has not failed, but like a city set on a hill, it is the only light that shines out in the general gloom; but Christian eivilization, like the Kingdom of Heaven which created it, is merely among ns, the multitudes, and the dominating forces of our age, forming no part of it. The civilization of Christendom, as many have already deelared, is not Christian. It is Western as opposed to Eastern; it is modern as opposed to ancient; but it is not Christian. This faet is clearly comprehended by leading spirits in the Orient, as comes out in a question recently asked by a distinguished Japanese, "What is Western civilization after all?" This crucial question was followed by the mature judgment of the jurist, "It is not Christian. It is not based on the Crncified One." No. Christianity has not failed, but it has gone steadily on through the centuries giving out its light, sweetening the bitter waters, healing broken hearts, and holding up Christ as the Saviour of men and the Giver of eternal life. It is the Church organizations calling themselves after the name of Christ which have failed, miserably failed, a failure which should bring them on their knees in sackeloth and ashes. If the Christian Church had not departed from the Apostolic presentation of the Gospel of Christ; if it had added the commandments of Christ to the Decalogue: if the pulpits and the religious press had echoed with emphasis, "Thou shalt not judge," "Thou shalt not render evil for evil," "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself," war would have died out, African slavery never would have been known, and that horrid traffic in intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, which the selfish human greed for money imported from Tartarus, would never have desolated the earth as it has done to an extent that war, famine and plague combined have never equalled. From many quarters the question is

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