

## THE CHURCH AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

But where the Church has erred more than in any other sphere is in her failure to insist on the principle of mutuality in Economic relations. Christ taught "He that would be greatest among you, let him be servant of all." For His greatness consisted in the outgoing of the self in mutual brotherliness with men of every rank. Yet very early in the history of the Church, mutual helpfulness, brotherly relationships, were largely superseded by charity, the giving of doles by the rich and great to the poor and helpers. And this charity was elevated into a Christian virtue. But it was frequently a vice which degraded the giver with a sense of his own superiority and pauperized the receiver. Its worst effects were upon the givers because it enabled them to forget that the Christian principle is mutuality, not Charity, and that there can be no mutuality without Justice.

The first long step which must be taken by the Christian State is to see that Charity is abolished and Social Justice established. Every man, woman and child, born into the world is a child of God, and God has provided enough to feed and clothe and house all His children. The means of a decent livelihood is a fundamental right of every human being. Poverty is not only economically wasteful, but is cruel and unchristian. The church can no longer