

press of Methodism. There is, undoubtedly, a danger of going to one extreme as well as to another; and the very fact that so many things ought to be said against the social faults of the age renders it the more necessary that nothing irrelevant, extravagant, or unjust, should be said respecting them. But it is only fair to hear Mr. Hughes himself on this matter:

"The Sunday afternoon Conference is an attempt to give popular expression to this long neglected side of Christianity. I have held up Christ as the author of social as well as individual salvation. The addresses have advocated profound sympathy with the masses, the provision of better dwellings for the poor, as great a regard for personal rights as for the rights of property; the exclusion of immoral men from parliament and from all public offices; the prevention of pauperism as distinguished from poverty; and the discouragement by law, custom, and opinion, of drunkenness, lust, sweating,* gambling, and war. The audiences have numbered from 1,200 to 1,500, and the great majority have been men. Members of parliament, journalists, and others specially interested in public and social questions, have attended in considerable numbers."

There can be no doubt that the work so outlined is one of the highest importance. For Christianity is an eminently practical religion, and where it fails in producing truth, justice, and mercy, it fails altogether. If intemperance and impurity, if avarice and tyranny, if disorder and lawlessness, be allowed to grow up and luxuriate under the very shadow of our churches, then is there not only an impediment to the progress of the Gospel of the most alarming character, but a discredit is entailed upon its Divine claims. The faults and failures of its representatives and teachers will, in the popular mind, be transferred to the religion itself, and in proportion as this is inefficient, will it be regarded as untrue. Preaching the Gospel is not merely stating its truths, however accurately this may be done; but expounding the fulness of their meaning, and especially applying them to the varying phases of human life, and its experiences. And where this is done in prayerful dependence on the Holy Spirit, God will undoubtedly set the

*The oppressive method of exacting labor by means of middlemen.