

such wise and varied legislation for social reform; and yet acknowledging thankfully and hopefully the existence and activity of many good Christians to whom the establishment of the Kingdom of God, a righteous society on earth is the chief concern, and acknowledging that torpid consciences are being stung into action and into wakefulness by evils intolerably acute, it still remains an unpleasant fact that after twenty centuries of teaching the vast majority of modern Christians regard it as the chief business of religion to keep people out of contact with the life of this world and get them safely away from it when they die. They do not want to have the social aspect of sin or of salvation emphasized. But, however easily we may forgive mediæval Christians for neglecting their social obligations, we cannot and ought not to forgive the Christian people of to-day if they fail to leaven human society in this age of freedom and large opportunity.

What are our churches generally doing while the forces of injustice and unrighteousness are organizing, spreading their nets and gathering up their spoils? For the most part "they are standing idly by" wondering whether or not they have any right to interfere. The old time prophets in the days of Isaiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, and Amos had no such embarrassment in a critical time. But to-day, while here and there a prophetic voice is heard it is as a voice from the wilderness, for the church makes no clear and effectual protest against the injustices with which society is swiftly coming into a life and death grapple.

It is an unpleasant fact to have to acknowledge, but it is unquestionably true that the threatening social conditions that have been appearing in the last few years are due largely to the absence in our society of those elements which it is the professed business of the churches to supply. If our churches made men hate robbery as they ought to hate it there would be less plundering under the guise of special privilege. The social conditions in most communities are not a credit to the churches. If our churches enforced as they ought to enforce the social ideals of Jesus there would