

## THE WORLD PROBLEM

The little spaces of the river empires on the Nile and the Euphrates are degraded wastes in an arena of multiplied nations that now cover the planet, connected by a universal network of intercommunication. The little mouse-trap cosmogony and conceptions of science of the olden time have given place to a universe swept by telescope, penetrated by the microscope, and analyzed by scientific imagination—boundlessly richer in contributions of ever-accumulating products, of ever more rapidly increasing knowledge and growing mental capacity for practical achievement.

But dominant over all the same old "natural man" sits in the saddle, with his lust for gratification, for possession, for display, for dominance, for exploitation; and the same old result is harvested in universal degradation, disease, degeneration of the wealth-cursed, in the despoiling of the weak and the poor, the insane despotism of force—moving in colossal preparation for gigantic war, doomed to international disaster—masked in culture and sham religionism—and "Christian churches" invoke the blessing of the Christ on this business of hell. Why are we weak in the face of such a world? If the Christ gave a solution to the problem, why is it so ineffective? Have we really tried His solution?

### V.

On the other hand the democracy has been born. The people have, in some places and to a certain extent, despoiled the despot, and in so far have won a measure of freedom. The working people and their sympathizers in all civilized lands are combining under the two heads of "Trades Unionism" and "Socialism," in order to regain for the people the lost rights of man, as man, and to develop a new social order, on the ruins,