

THE WORLD PROBLEM

enmity, war, disintegration, doom to rubbish; and could make universal the advantages of peace, knowledge of every kind, co-operation in a paradise of plenty for all, with leisure to explore the worlds of mind, of the hidden forces of nature, the undiscovered treasures of matter and thought and spirit, to make men and world-conditions continually better.

The sages of all times and of all ages have tried to show men their mistake and the way to the normal life. Philosophy has tried to make men wise, then good. Success with the few has been lost in the submergence of the many, then the passing of the nation. Religions, uncounted, have tried to teach the good, and thence lead to wisdom. But the struggle for the good has been submerged in the everlasting struggle for existence—for a bare living among millions, for more and ever more to glut the greed of those who have wealth and power and opportunity for exploitation. Organized religion has sided with the latter, while ostensibly sympathizing with the former. "If thine eye be single," has been persistently forgotten.

Everyone acknowledges that conditions are abnormal excepting the man on top. Everyone declares a desire for a real salvation out of the abnormal into the normal. Then, when the salvation is offered, it is refused because it is so simple, so fundamental, so radical, so hard. But nothing less than a fundamental change can cure a disease so radical, so universal.

II.

There is one document, treasured, honored, almost worshipped as divine by some; translated, printed in all languages, circulated by millions in all lands, which,