

New Testament Christianity; but one looks in vain for any theme in it that is distinctively Christian, and there is not an important character in it that can properly be called Christian in anything more than name. A single paragraph will make the latter fact apparent.

Drake is an honorable, irreligious gentleman; Lord Storm is an unbelieving, almost anti-Christian nobleman; Father Lamplugh is a rigid but misguided ascetic; Canon Wealthy is a worldly as well as an unspiritual ecclesiastic; Reverend Golightly is a weak though not an unworthy curate; Parson Quayle is an aged and exemplary clergyman; Glory Quayle is a beautiful, brilliant actress, who writes remarkable letters (some of them much more masculine than feminine, though), and does all sorts of reckless things without losing her purity of heart and life; John Storm is a simple, sentimental enthusiast, who is "everything by starts and nothing long," becoming first an assistant pastor in a fashionable church, then a member of a monastic brotherhood, and finally the founder of a philanthropic institution for the rescue and relief of unfortunate women.

Thus, with the possible exception of Parson Quayle, a venerable and godly old man, who plays a very unimportant part in the plot, there is not a representative of pure religion, or an exponent of genuine Christianity, in the book. This is a feature of the work which makes it disappointing to the thoughtful reader who expects, and has a right to expect, something in the story which would fairly justify its name. Having chosen so significant a title, Mr. Caine should have portrayed at least one prominent character which could be accepted as purely Christian, and which all would recognize as such.

A more serious matter than the inappropriateness of his title, however, is the unspirituality of his hero. Whether the author intended him to be so taken or not, most people will take John Storm to be the character which gives the title to this novel, partly because he is the hero of the story, and partly because he is the only person of any prominence in the book that naturally suggests its name; but, as he is depicted, he knows nothing experimentally of Christianity. In scarcely a single situation does he speak and act as a true Christian would speak and act, thus showing that, if Mr. Caine regarded his hero as a representative of Christ, he has no adequate conception of what a representative of Christ is. John Storm is not a genuine Christian of the nineteenth or of any other century.

It is true that he is made to say and do a number of good things, but saying and doing good things does not make a man a Christian, unless what is said and done springs from a Christian motive. It is