

THE WORLD PROBLEM

lous priesthood, greedy, unprincipled, warrior chiefs, insatiable commercial lords, feudal tyrannies, despotic kings, ruling or being ruled by the priesthood centred in a gorgeous service; then defeat, struggle, strangle, exile. Then a recrudescence of the struggle to realize old ambitions, national and religious, with lessening spirituality in national ambitions, expressed in patriotism gone mad, and in ecclesiastical institutions. At length came final extinction under the millstone of advancing world-empire. Towards the last the spiritual ideal, developed in "the poor, the meek," the purified "remnant," and, interpreted by golden strands within a literature, was incarnated in one man who re-stated it, and clarified it, as a universal gift of God, as Father, to the human race, as sons. He lived, taught, died for the ideal. He taught that if men, as individuals, would return to God as Father they might be spiritually reborn into children of God; then, consciously developing the spiritual nature within them, become "Sons of God," adult co-workers together with the Father, intelligently co-operating in His cosmic purpose. And then, in a new social development, they were to show the world how to re-construct the conditions "on earth," so that they should be ideal "as in heaven." Wonderful things happened for a time, but—

IV.

Nearly two thousand years have passed. The Roman Empire ripened into rot and passed, followed by others, dead, dying, rising and trying to rise, claiming "a place in the sun," more immense than Rome. The little land of Palestine has become a pitiful patch in a semi-pagan, Mohammedan empire, neglected for ages.