

XXIII. Conclusion.

Christianity is not individualism. Socialists have come to admit that. But the Church may be too strongly individualistic. Nor is Christianity all that the Socialists are contending for. It coincides with neither one nor the other, but in reality covers both, and every year brings a better appreciation of these complementary truths to both Socialists and Individualists. The age of religious competition is passing away; and that of a better social activity and understanding among Christians is, let us hope, just before us. The Church has made mistakes enough; even its members are well aware of that. Its representatives have, like the people, committed disastrous sins, and there are those within the camp yet, as there have always been, dipping their hand in the dish with the Master, and, like the original traitor, ready to sell him to minister to their own personal greed. There are foes within as well as problems without. And with this admission of its own difficulties, the Church is more than ready to join forces with the new movement which has revived its old teaching. It is prepared to supplement Socialist activity by reminding the leaders of it that men cannot be converted by pointing to their own interests, strange as it may seem. The fact that Socialism has spread in the past, and is to-day advancing most rapidly in countries where people have for hundreds of years professed Christianity, shows