

gives influence a true direction and an unerring aim. We can see how it should do so; for it purifies ambitions and motives, and strips the soul of all that hinders and retards. To give self up to God, that He may take us and make us and use us, to have done with self-interest and self-seeking, creates opportunities of influence. This consecration of character is much more far-reaching than any desultory consecration of gifts, even if that were possible by itself. It induces and implies self-scrutiny, the examination of motives. It destroys pride and sloth, and moves a man to bend to his share of the burden. Think what power would be unloosed if we each submitted to this process of consecration, this daily dedication, opening up heart and life to the guidance of God. There is no problem too hard, no situation too difficult, no evil too deep-rooted for a consecrated Church to face and conquer. If in humility and sincerity we offered our service, what instruments of good would lie ready to the hand of God!

This is where we are weak. Self or pleasure or thoughtlessness has blunted the edge or mis-