

The authority of the Gospel among us "is a sentiment of personal loyalty felt in the sphere of personal religion ; but for social ethics, or the religion of humanity, it needs to be stated in another form... The last word of the scientific mind and social experiences of man must be its authentic exposition. The seat of the only authority to which an age like ours can appeal, is in the educated sense and conscience of men — generalized, indeed, in the ethical maxims of Christianity, but to be reconciled with the largest and latest experience, and freest mental tendencies, of the human race—science and faith to be perfectly blended into one."

For this we require first, "a more intellectual and scientific treatment of social wants and evils than has been prevalent hitherto. Social ethics, however earnest practically, must submit itself to the dictate of intellectual conditions as to the directions which it shall take. It is by a steady search for *truth* that we shall, by degrees, lay the foundation of that authority to which both ourselves and others must submit.

"Secondly, the Church has it in hand to organize the conscience and life, as well as utter the interpreting forms of thought. Every church within its limited sphere must realize, as it may, the full pattern of a true social life." And this, both by its general culture, and by its special agencies. "Christian charities present a field coequal, in grandeur and importance, with that of Christian culture ; a field that should be more thoroughly surveyed and occupied.

"It is not so much the change of present instruments, or the multiplication of them we need, as a clearer consciousness that, by means of them, we are working to so glorious issues, and with so goodly a fellowship ; that in proportion as a thought or a deed of ours corresponds with a real want, or is in league with an eternal truth, we are working towards the building up of the vast Christian structure of the future, which shall realize, to another age