

The towns and cities of the America and England are full to overflowing, while the rural districts are losing in population every year.

The question arises: What brings those tens of thousands of Christian men and women away from the soil and the pure air of the country where food and clothing are abundant, to the great cities where the struggle for existence is so terrible?

What is their aim in life?

Is it that they may with greater earnestness seek the Kingdom of God? or is it because they suppose the opponents of pleasure and profit "the lust of the flesh, and the lust of eye, and the pride of life" are more speedily gratified in the city with men, than in the country with God?

We believe that God calls men from the town to the country, and from the country to the town, when he has work for them to do; we do not believe that he ever called from the farms and homesteads the thousands of unemployed who in these days for want of something better to do, talk what they call Socialism, and inveigh against the Church at our very doors. All this because the Lord's command is overlooked. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God." His plain direction applies to all sorts and conditions of men, to the employer and the employee, alike to the masses and the classes, and its obligation shall never close whilst society endures.

Lastly. It must be confessed that Christians in general are a long way behind the Christian ideal.

It must also be granted that the Church has not always and everywhere faithfully reflected the mind of Her Lord,—that her aims have not always been single.

In so far as she is failing at this moment, who is to blame?

Some say that the clergy and rulers of the Church are the chief transgressors.

But the Bishops and clergy are not the whole Church.

You men and women who have received Christian baptism are as much of the Church, and the Church is as much yours as if each man of you were a priest or a bishop.

If, then, there is any failure on the part of the Church in preaching the one aim, consider how far you are personally blameworthy before you accuse the clergy.

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