

that in Germany as elsewhere most uncertainty, when tried by a former standard, still remains. Yet here a light and confident Universalism no longer reigns. Müller regards this as excluded by the doom of the sin against the Holy Ghost ; and Luthardt, in a passage of great solemnity, records his adhesion to the ancient doctrine which, however slowly, is yet returning.

In no department perhaps more than in *Christian ethics* have the life and earnestness of a revived and truly progressive Christianity been conspicuous. Here the word "Christian ethics" must be taken in its widest sense. The mission of Christianity to reach, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, a higher type of sanctification for the individual than mere morality has been asserted, and in many quarters a higher Christian life has been urged. The adaptation of Christianity to the family, and the religious education of the young in the home and in the Sabbath-school, has been exhibited as never before in Christian history. While Socialism on its theoretic side has found no entrance, the obligation of the Christian Church to grapple with its problems—economic, moral and spiritual—has been acknowledged and dealt with, and the great work of building up a Christian civilisation, untainted by selfishness, jealousy, waste, and luxury, however imperfectly, has been amidst difficulty, reproach, and defeat, really carried forward. Temperance has been organised, legalised vice has been assailed and put to shame ; and, in the commonwealth of nations, slavery has been more and more excommunicated ; and war, though still spreading its terrible menace and burden, has been shorn of its glory and limited in its danger. Amidst such remedial agencies, stretching beyond the widest meaning of the word "home missions," these also in the narrower sense have been taken up, and prosecuted with an energy, a perseverance, and a success beyond all former precedent, and while they have not been sustained by those who have loved them most, for temporal ends, but for the salvation of souls, it has turned out that in their healing influence they have done for fallen masses unspeakably more than all the resources of law or of earth-born philanthropy. Equally beneficent,