

*SOCIALISM.*

"It is not good for man to be alone." This is the declaration of our Creator, Who knows what is in man.

Man is a gregarious animal, fond of society, and—as a rule—seeking company and combination. Union is strength, and God appeals to this principle in forming and sustaining His Church or Society. It is the Body of which Christ is the Head. We are admitted into this Church, or Body of Christ, by Holy Baptism, "for as many as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." All members of this Body differ in natural disposition, but Christ, the Head gives to each member his own work, for "all members have not the same office." Yet, though there are many members, there is but one Body. Each member is to love God above all things, and his neighbor as himself. The perfect fulfilment of this rule will be found in heaven. Striving to fulfill it as far as possible is our daily training for heaven. Charity, or perfect love to God and man, is the greatest of all virtues, and will endure for ever,—and charity is perfect unselfishness.

True Charity is the root of Christian Socialism.

There is another kind of Socialism,—let us examine it by the rule of Charity.

Satan has been aptly named the

ape or imitator of God. Every good precept and work of God is by him distorted and turned into evil. Every sin is but the perversion of some good thing. The good thing is necessary and useful to man, and cannot be prohibited. The perversion of good cannot be prohibited or put down by force so long as Satan, the imitator and pervertor of God's good gifts, can find men with a free will, and capable of choosing the evil. In this world evil exists all around us, and therefore our Lord prayed "not that His members should be taken of the world," or that the world should be without evil,—but that "they might resist the evil."

There is a test which will enable us at once to distinguish any truth of God from its imitation by Satan. If a matter is unselfish, it is from God; but if it be selfish in its nature, it is from the devil. For example, Satan taking advantage of man's natural desire for unity and combination, tempted mankind to build the tower of Babel, foreseeing that it would lead them to combine for evil. God, to save them from combining to destroy their own souls, broke up this selfish socialism by confusing their language, and thus separating them.

So now, again, in our day Satan takes advantage of men's desire for unity by proposing for their acceptance a system called Socialism, by which man's selfishness may be gratified. Under this scheme men pro-