

THE WORLD PROBLEM

The result was the death of the spiritual and the historical evolution of ages on ages of physical and psychical, but unspiritual, man. Marvellous results appeared in splendid and wonderful civilizations, built on the struggle for enjoyment, knowledge, possession, power, dominion, as the means to procure gratification for "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye, the pride of life." Side by side with the material evolution grew multitudinous variations of unspiritual religions to appease the everlasting appeal of the instinct for God—for union with the power behind all things—but completely misguided. The two wrought in the same arena of the people; sometimes rivals, at times one or the other dominating. Usually the priesthood ruled the politics for ages, grew unendurable, then politics again became the upper despot; though sometimes the priesthood rode the nation to death in a final innings.

Amid all this development of thousands of years, the spiritual spark remained; flamed into life in an occasional man, latent in honest common people, ready to be re-born. One family, becoming a tribe, a nation, grew around the idea of restoring the faith of man in the Creator, by means of a people that should be loyal to Him in a spiritual and ethical service; which should be the means of bringing all nations to a loyal service of God, and into right relations with each other in a world of peace.

Looked at from the standpoint of ordinary history, that nation with the special calling—the Hebrews—followed the same course as other nations, one amongst many of the countless children born of the prolific Semitic mother of nations. Struggle, conquest, wealth, unspiritual religious institutions, grasping, unscrupu-