

LITERARY DEPARTMENT

It is impossible to live in these days without facing some of the great problems of citizenship. There is so much discussion, there are so many ardent advocates of so many different theories, that one cannot be ignorant of some of the questions, though he may be very uncertain of the answers. Surrounded by innumerable controversies, in which the last word will not be said for some time, it is steady to our thought as Christians to remember that "Christ was the greatest of Social Reformers," and "he that followeth Him shall not walk in darkness." While theorists are disputing, there are plain duties resting upon every Christian citizen, and what some of them are Mr. Price Hughes states very clearly and forcibly in the following letter that was written specially for the Methodist young people of Manitoba:—

REV. HUGH PRICE HUGHES' LETTER.

8 Taviton Street, Gordon Square, W. C., June 17, 1899.

My Dear Sir,—I am much interested in what you say of the tide of immigration which is setting strongly towards Manitoba. Those who have the opportunity of peopling a new country like yours, with no entail of misery, and with no tradition of strife, but all the blessings of the most advanced Christian civilization and a fair field and no favor—are privileged beyond the power of imagination, but there is one very great peril, illustrated on a gigantic scale in the history of the United States. Pioneers, settlers and colonists may be so absorbed in their own prosperous business life, and in looking after their private religion, that they may grossly neglect their public duties. In England the very necessity of fighting against tyrannous kings and insolent priests has created in us, as in our fathers, the deep consciousness that "the price of freedom is eternal vigilance;" that those who would obtain and retain the priceless blessings of civil and religious freedom must spare no effort and no sacrifice, and that no greater calamity can befall any State than the neglect on the part of Christian citizens of their municipal and imperial duties. If we leave the making of laws and the administration of laws to the world, the flesh and the devil, that trinity of evil will cheerfully undertake the job. Look at the United States. The good citizens of that great commonwealth have neglected their political duties on a gigantic scale. They have allowed Mammonism and all the vices to capture the political machine, and to demoralize local government. There was a time, even in my life, when English Wesleyan Methodists were so completely blinded by the god of this world that many of them gloried in the neglect of their public duties. Now we realize that we must fight the devil in town councils and parliament, as much as in prayer-meetings and sacramental services, and that it is really an irrelevant farce for us to utter the Lord's Prayer unless we are prepared to co-operate with the Lord in every sphere and relation of human life, in hastening the establishment and the universal supremacy of the kingdom of righteousness. I do, therefore, most earnestly beg the young men and the young women of our communion in Manitoba to remember that Christ came into this world not to save individual souls, but to organize a Christian church, and that the