

Picture a situation in which the laws of a nation favour in their administration one body of men rather than another, or if that appear too extreme, a situation in which one body, through greater wealth and ability, is able to profit more by existing laws; picture also a condition in which immortality is discussed on one day of the week only, and then by a group professionally removed from the material and commercial life of the people, as well as from most of their pleasures and diversions; in which the privilege of charity is exercised by the few and not by the many; in which prostitution is countenanced on the demand of the lowest type of citizen; whose vote is annually exacted therefor, and the illegitimate child is branded with an unearned stigma, in which the killing race for wealth is for so many the focus of existence, in which the ineffable days of youth are hurried by for an early plunge into the effort of life, and poise, rest, and peace are forgotten in the struggle.

Does not such a condition weaken a nation and strike at every sturdy root? It exists, and here is the opportunity of the church. Were the church to set aside the clash of dogma and the rivalry of creed and, coming forth from the cloister and sanctuary say to the world, which is the modernist—These things exist and it is monstrous that they should exist, and the voice of the priest and even his example cannot banish them; but with you all things are possible; and since you are strong and wise and know the path that leads to your brother's door, will you not help us shoulder part of a burden that is too heavy for us alone, because it is time the world were sweet and clean again? If the church were to say this, there would be such a response as would amaze even the church itself. Social service halts not at the threshold of the poor. It affects the whole method and colour of life, and is as many sided as humanity itself. And because to be human is to carry within us some rare and mysterious spark of divinity, it is toward this broad and magnificent field of service that the modernist awaits the call of the church.

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