

sincere sense of obligation, but I do assure you in a humble spirit, to give expression to some thoughts on this subject, and it is because of my deep regard for you that I venture to adopt for my purpose the form of the open letter. May I add that since what I have to say concerns a wider community than that of the Anglican Church, it seemed to me appropriate to address myself to one who serves another Church which has an splendid and honourable record for solid achievements in Christian scholarship, Christian practice, and Missionary enterprise.

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Although I am deeply impressed with the seriousness of our situation in this hour of new births, and haunted with the forebodings of possible failure on the part of the Church to mother them, yet I would not be thought a pessimist. The horizon is by no means all dark. The dominant note of the age is less materialistic than when either you or I were students at College. Our age has seen and laid not a few of those "spectres of the mind" of which Tennyson wrote before we were born. The doctrine of evolution no longer strikes terror to our souls, nor does the higher criticism now seem to shatter the foundations of our faith. The age is not hostile to religion, however cold it may feel towards the Church when men think of it, not as the Beloved Community, or the Universal Society, but as a collection of Denominations. My concern is less for religion than the Church. We cannot fail to observe that much of the spiritual impulse and effort of our times is either outside of the Churches altogether, or partly in and partly outside the Churches, as in the case of the Y. M. C. A. the Student Volunteer Movement, the Brotherhood, the Workers' Educational Association, and not a few other bodies, such as the Rotary and similar clubs. All of these societies feel and feel strongly that in some respects the borders of the Denominations are too narrow to supply their needs. They demand a freer and a fuller fel-