

others, was of this nature, and a move in the right direction. It was the initiation of a practical line of action now being pursued in many countries, and especially in the great cities of the United States. It is humane in its spirit and efforts, and simply calls Christians of all classes to act on the golden rule. Witness the "Settlement" movement in Chicago and elsewhere, in which benevolent and heroic men and women of culture plant themselves among lapsed and vicious masses, to bring them light and purity and teach them what applied Christianity means.

This is infinitely better than the dismal dreaming of Herbert Spencer and his disciples about social forces and insuperable difficulties. His theory necessarily entangles him in an inextricable maze.

How so? Because he persistently treats all things from the one standpoint of evolution. Thus, man is the spontaneous self-evolved outcome of the earliest and lowest form of life upon our planet. His origin is sought away back countless millions of years in the past eternity. And human society is the product not merely of the conduct and habits of men, but also of the innumerable races of lower creatures which constitute their ancestors. Here are Spencer's words in "The Data of Ethics," pp. 6, 7: "Complete comprehension of conduct is not to be obtained by contemplating the conduct of human beings only; we have to regard this as part of universal conduct—conduct as exhibited by all living creatures. Nor is even this whole conceived with the needful fulness, so long as we think only of the conduct at present displayed around us. We have to include in our conception the less-developed conduct out of which this has arisen in course of time. We have to regard conduct now shown us by creatures of all orders, as an outcome of the conduct which has brought life of every kind to its present height."

To trace conduct in this manner from the fathomless abyss of the past is obviously a hopeless task, and yet precisely the one set us in Spencer's 400-page volume on Sociology, and in "The Data of Ethics."