

## The Call for an Adventurous Church

would probably be written down as a narrow fanatic. And the first lesson our young leaders and prophets have to learn is to be content to be accounted mediæval and fanatical by men of really fine and lovable spirit, in sympathy with much that Christ lived and died for. This is harder by far than to endure the contempt and hostility of men of coarse fibre and evil mind, who lack all instinct for the things that are lovely and of good report ; but it is the only way for a Church that has taken up the Cross. This is a sacrifice that makes no dramatic appeal, excites no sympathy ; evokes only impatience, antagonism and contempt. It is so hard, indeed, that it can only be made in union with Him who plumbed its bitterest deeps. To combat the good which is the foe of the best takes courage of the noblest type, the courage of true love.

To-day the Church's path is hid in mist. Only one thing is sure : the Cross waits behind the dim shadows. She will not go very far before she will be called to sacrifice. During a certain public discussion on the proposed Free Church Federation, a leading representative of one of the Churches concerned tried to reassure those who were shivering on the brink that entrance into the Federation involved " no sacrifice whatever " of denominational characteristics ; it was nothing more alarming than a scheme for mutual reinforcement and collective effectiveness. Unwittingly the speaker laid his finger upon the