

CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIALISM 23

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LEADERS WHO ARE
SENT BY PROVIDENCE TO REPRESENT
CHRISTIANITY TO THEIR OWN TIMES.

Now when such men appear upon the scene as representatives of the Christianity of Christ to the people of their own age, they are distinguished by at least three characteristics or signs; first, they always stand for the weak or unprivileged or defenceless classes of the people. Bernard of Clairvaux championed the cause of the oppressed poor against the robber barons. John Bunyan and John Wesley went with the gospel of spiritual regeneration to the neglected and degraded classes of England; and Henry Ward Beecher, in his early days, gave up his reputation and every earthly interest in advocating the cause of the negro slave. Secondly, such men rediscover, and are the means of resurrecting, and of bringing clearly and prominently before people in general, some great truth of divine revelation that had hitherto been latent in Christianity, but had been practically buried out of the common people's view, by the ceremonialism and the traditions or the secular spirit of a lapsed and unspiritual Church; as