

THE WORLD PROBLEM

God and man, to raise the state to be a normal community of equals, and to unite all states and empires in one kingdom of God, "on earth as in heaven."

God the Creator, man the created in the image of God, were to be united in one common life. The normal man of the beginning was pictured as in conscious intercourse with God; in surroundings which easily supplied his wants. The one law imposed upon him was that man should co-operate with God in his ultimate purpose by doing what God wanted him to do. That means that he should subordinate all demands for gratification of body or mind to his higher, i.e., spiritual, intuitions; the right use of all the world-gifts in the midst of which he found himself. Out of a superabundance of opportunity—physical, as an animal; psychical, as a social-intellectual being; spiritual, as the child of the infinite—he had an exceedingly wide range of possibilities, of choice. The Divine will was that the spiritual intuitions should control mind and body in order to reach a further development of man into mankind—a world-race—a universal community—in the image of God. On that line was life—more life and fuller. But a choice of gratification of body, without mind as controlling force, would mean death of the soul, animalism, idiocy; so the choice of the soul, with the spiritual ignored, would mean an atrophy or a misdevelopment of the spiritual structure—the death of the highest life in man, the development of the "natural man," minus the image of God.

The choice was made for immediate pleasure of body and a short-cut to knowledge for the mind, in disregard of the spiritual loss; in ignorance of the universal consequences of that loss.