

The Church and Modern Socialism.

I. Definitions.

IN order to appreciate the relations which exist between these two forces, one must begin with definitions, lest the one be accepted in the narrow sense as a body of Christians, and the other be misjudged and misunderstood. By the Church is meant the whole number of the baptized, lacking at the present time the power which comes from unity in method as well as in aim, an organization existing in and adapted to the purpose of transforming society, of whatever kind, wherever found, claiming to possess means of interpreting, uplifting and advancing life, individual and social.

On the other hand Modern Socialism has been variously defined, and according to its best exponents, at times inaccurately and unfairly. It would seem that one might arrive at a working definition by distinguishing it from Sociology. Both are comparatively recent terms to describe departments of investigation into the relations which obtain, or should obtain, among people