

THE PARTING OF THE WAYS 285

her proper place beneath the State. Wholesale banishment of monks is not the only way. The Church must submit to secular rule, and the national conscience must be allowed the scope and sway which belong to it by inalienable right.

Education is imperative. It is the source of light, the impulse to hope, and a signpost on the path to happiness. At present passion often rules, and judgment has too little influence. Spain is the Garden of the West, but by neglect it has become to a great extent a desert. The land must be made free to the cultivator. Loans must be plentifully provided for irrigation, roads and railways. Then Spain will supply her own needs, and prosperity will abound. To-day she is poor, and everyone complains. The wealthy will not work, the middle classes seek useless occupations, the labourers sail to foreign lands. Regeneration is not the work of one year, nor of five, nor is it necessary that sunny Spain shall be infected with the "nerve disease" of Northern Britain. But if the shackles are removed from industry, if the rich out of their plenitude bear their proper share of national taxation so that the poor may not be crushed beneath the burden, if the servants of the State receive a living wage, if politics cease to be a mere question between the "ins" and "outs," and liberty becomes a reality, Spain may yet be a land of happy men and women.