

## CHAPTER XXI

ARTICLE XX.—*Of Christian Service and the Final Triumph.*—We believe that it is our duty as disciples and servants of Christ, to further the extension of His kingdom, to do good unto all men, to maintain the public and private worship of God, to hallow the Lord's Day, to preserve the inviolability of marriage and the sanctity of the family, to uphold the just authority of the State, and so to live in all honesty, purity and charity that our lives shall testify of Christ. We joyfully receive the word of Christ, bidding His people go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, declaring unto them that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, and that He will have all men to be saved, and come to the knowledge of the truth. We confidently believe that by His power and grace all His enemies shall finally be overcome, and the kingdoms of this world be made the kingdom of our God and of His Christ.

This article, which is at once conclusion and climax, deals with Christian Service and the Christian Hope, respectively. Its exposition will be a fitting close to a series of sermons on the teaching of The United Church on the Christian verities. The preacher needs no help in matters so plain, for the explication of which his own reading and thought will be amply sufficient. The points he has to bring before his people are as follows: (1) Christian Service. Faith and Service go together. Faith without works is dead, and works are the fruit and evidence of faith. The article views the Christian, *first of all* in the community, to which he belongs, and the State of which he is a citizen. It names the outstanding duties, which,

in these capacities, devolve upon him and the institutions, whose ethical value makes them of paramount importance and permanent obligation. It *further* repeats what is stated in previous articles that the Christian church has a universal commission, to extend to all peoples the knowledge of God's redeeming love in Christ. By such service at home and abroad, the kingdom of God is advanced, and His sovereignty established over the nations. (2) The Christian Hope. Such service, however, while indispensable and instrumental and our bounden duty, is not, of itself, the energy by which the Kingdom comes. The Kingdom of God cannot be contrived by organization or engineering. The Prayer, the Lord himself puts on our lips is: "Thy Kingdom come:" and the power, by which it comes, is that of the transcendent and immanent God. Thus, while we serve, we wait upon God for His grace, and we wait for God, that, in the fulness of time, He may vindicate His name, and accomplish the purpose of His love, and bring the whole world beneath the Sovereignty, once for all made victorious in Christ, crucified and risen.