

A MORE CHRISTIAN INDUSTRIAL ORDER

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A More Christian Industrial Order by Henry Sloane Coffin

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HENRY SLOANE COFFIN

**A MORE CHRISTIAN
INDUSTRIAL ORDER**

**A MORE CHRISTIAN
INDUSTRIAL ORDER**

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THE CREED OF JESUS AND OTHER SERMONS

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF THE CROSS

UNIVERSITY SERMONS

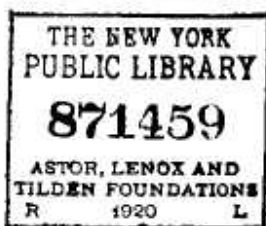
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

With a Christian Application to Present Conditions

SOME CHRISTIAN CONVICTIONS

IN A DAY OF SOCIAL RE-BUILDING —

Lyman Beecher Lectures on the Ministry of the Church.



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CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER	
I THE CHRISTIAN AS PRODUCER	5
II THE CHRISTIAN AS CONSUMER	17
III THE CHRISTIAN AS OWNER	31
IV THE CHRISTIAN AS INVESTOR	45
V THE CHRISTIAN AS EMPLOYER AND EM- PLOYEE	59
CONCLUSION. DEMOCRACY AND FAITH	75



INTRODUCTION

A distinguished ethical teacher of New York City recently remarked in conversation: "The Christian Church believes that Jesus is the disclosure of the purpose of God for all time. Why, then, does not the Church find in Jesus a solution for the industrial question of our day and offer the guidance which it claims to possess?" It is a challenge which Christians dare not refuse. It puts to the practical test our assertion that Jesus is the wisdom of God.

There are some who postpone all Christian readjustments of society until the present evil age shall have been ended by the visible advent of Christ in judgment. Until that occurs they see no prospect of abolishing war or terminating industrial strife. But to most Christians of our generation the judgment is no future event merely, but an experience through which we have lived in the awful years of war with its exposure of greed and pride and trust in force. Others are content to sketch the vision of the Christian society as it exists in their ideal; they have no interest in its very partial attainment in the immediate future. But valuable as are such visions to shame the sordid actual and to kindle hope, we who must live in the next five or forty years

want guidance for to-day and to-morrow and the day after. If by a solution of the industrial question is meant a detailed plan for the organization of the world's work, we know from experience that we cannot expect such explicit guidance from Christ. Our Father shows His confidence in His sons and daughters, and educates us by making us in every century work out the Christian solution for our time. We cannot call our conceptions of what should be, "The Christian Industrial Order." We live in a growing world, and society is a living organism. Nothing final and fixed can be reached in the statement of religious belief or in the formulation of the principles that should govern industry. But we believe that in the Spirit of Jesus we have a Guide enabling us to think out what is our Father's mind for any situation, and we come with that Spirit's leading to the circumstances of our day, and ask what is our Christian duty as producers and consumers, as owners and investors, as employers and employees.

We say that the Spirit of Jesus is our Guide. We are not piecing together Jesus' fragmentary and occasional sayings which have a bearing on industrial matters, and making out of them a law. He and His first followers anticipated in their time a speedy ending of the world. Their relative carelessness of political and economic affairs, and their disparagement of material possessions, are partly accounted for by this expectation. To Paul it did not make much difference whether one were married or un-