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THE SOCIAL TEACHING OF ST PAUL

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TO MY WIFE

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Wellhausen schreibt: "Durch Paulus besonders hat sich das Evangelium vom Reich in das Evangelium von Jesu Christo verwandelt, so dass es nicht mehr die Weissagung des Reichs, sondern die durch Jesus Christus geschehene Erfüllung dieser Weissagung ist."

HARNACK, *Das Wesen*, p. 111.

"We cannot doubt that God is calling us in this age, through the characteristic teachings of science and of history, to seek a new social application of the Gospel."

BISHOP WESTCOTT.

"Zeal, enthusiasm, devotion are not enough to guide us in the perplexity of Conduct; we need above all things knowledge as the basis of action."

BISHOP WESTCOTT.

"Das Evangelium ist eine soziale Botschaft von heiligem Ernst und erschütternder Kraft; es ist die Verkündigung der Solidarität und Brüderlichkeit....Aber diese Botschaft ist verbunden mit der Anerkennung des unendlichen Wertes der Menschenseele."

HARNACK, *Das Wesen*, p. 65.

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PREFATORY NOTE.

IN the following pages I have not attempted to give either a complete account of St Paul's Social Teaching, or a final estimate of its contents. The task I have set before me is a much humbler one. All I have tried to do is, 1st, to point out certain factors in that teaching which must be carefully considered before either such an account can be given, or such an estimate can be formed; and 2nd, to show how very close is the agreement between St Paul's social principles and those principles of social welfare which modern students of Sociology, working by the inductive method, have, as they believe, discovered.

I have not considered it necessary to enter into the question of the authenticity of the letters which bear St Paul's name. To have discussed this subject at length, to have stated the arguments for and against each separate epistle, and to have quoted the various authorities for each view in each particular case, would have unduly lengthened my essay. Upon

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x

PREFATORY NOTE

such a subject any treatment less than the fullest possible can hardly be satisfactory. For two other reasons I have decided to omit it, (1) such a discussion can be readily found elsewhere¹, (2) the absolute authenticity of each letter is not essential for my argument. Even if some of the letters be not St Paul's they all represent his *teaching*, and this may be said to be sufficient for my present purpose.

¹ A very recent and luminous statement of the present position of the question may be found in Dr Knowling's *The Testimony of St Paul to Christ*, pp. 3-16.

W. E. C.

May 1906.