

THE CONSCIENCE OF ROGER TREHERN. By Evelyn Everett Green, Author of "Alwyn Ravendale" etc. 12mo., pp. 420. New York: American Tract Society. \$1.25.

Roger Trehern, of Transome Peveril, the younger of two sons, was, according to English custom, designed for the Church. He grew up with no other thought than that he must enter the priesthood. But Roger was a man of conscience, and just before his ordination he became convinced that he was not "called" to the sacred office. To announce this, meant the anger of his father, a stern old soldier, his banishment from home, and the loss, perhaps, of Elinor Trehern, his sweetheart from childhood, a girl of fanatical and unyielding devotion to her religious ideals. All of this comes to Roger, and he goes back to London, his mind a chaos of perplexity and doubt, but with the one determination, that his conscience must be his guide.

The story now turns on the spiritual warfare of a soul that doubts not God, but is not satisfied with what the Church teaches and practices. Roger goes into the slums; his whole heart is in the work of relieving want and suffering. This brings him in contact with Socialism, and for a time he is blinded by its theories. But in time he discovers that "short hours and high wages," the creed of the Socialist, will not raise a man out of the slough, and that the theory of Socialism leaves entirely out of its calculations human nature—human passions—original sin. The story is very strong and convincing in its development of the hollowness of philanthropy without Christ. And it also shows clearly and beautifully that one's conscience without the divine guidance, is but a poor guide.

There are some splendid characters introduced,

notably Phillipa, Roger's sister, and Helen Rivers, both of them strong, beautiful Christians. This is not an ordinary Sunday school book. It is intensely interesting, and has a romance, or rather several of them, which are most absorbing, though we quarrel with the author for her disposition of one of them; but the book is more than a mere religious novel, and it will do good.

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