

undue advantage of another : For while it may seem to increase an inequality of condition, it sufficiently prevents or removes the evils of it, by making the common good the measure of justice and by placing all men on even ground under the authority and protection of law.

For this end the christian religion was published, that all men might have an equal chance of securing their share of happiness. For were the commands of our divine Master observed, none would be exorbitantly rich, none wretchedly poor; the abundance of the one would flow to the necessity of the other, as the rivers descending from the hills flow to the sea, where they mingle amicably together and settle at last into an even surface.

For this end this antient Fraternity was formed, that happiness might be diffused equally among all its members. For though it deprives no man of the honour due to his rank and character; yet it reduces all men to a pleasing and rational equality. Beyond any institution of human original, it inculcates