

a warmth of welcome in the hospitality of many homes. Were the truth known, it would be found that some of the rarest possibilities of friendships have been sacrificed on the altar of social demands in terms of dollars and cents, simply because men and women cannot hope to share in enjoyments simple and natural enough in themselves, surrounded as they are becoming with expectations of one kind or another, most of them of an unnecessary and highly artificial nature. This extravagance of the rich, considered in all its bearings, and in particular in what it has demanded of its hosts of imitators, has done much to enhance the cost of living. It has been well and truly said that the "high cost of living" is the "cost of living high" or "cost of high living." But it is also true that in so far as this is true, the many have had to pay for the sins of the few. Wealth concentrated in the hands of the few has helped to determine the price at which the many are obliged to buy; it has done this in two ways. (1) by the demand it has created for goods of certain classes. (2) by diverting production into channels which has taken the labour and capital of the country into employment that ministers to the needs and fancies of the rich and away from the production of articles of general need; and seeking to fortify itself in its strongholds, great wealth in the hands of the few has sometimes sought to restrict the avenues of commerce, and control even the supply of food itself.

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