

CHAPTER I.

CAPITAL AND LAEOR.

Self-Preservation—Its Limits.

Self-preservation is said to be the first law of Nature. Selfishness is the destroyer of all good. Where each individual makes such arrangements that all foes and evil influences may be fairly met and repulsed he has acted in harmony with the justifiable law of self-preservation; but when the whole aim and effect of life is mere selfishness, to profit even through the loss and misery of other people equally as good and worthy, then a halt must be called, or the whole Ship of State will founder and go down.

The Inhumanity of Man

which is exhibited in every department of so-called social and political life and activity at once calls forth amazement and disgust, that conditions could possibly exist so unfair and oppressive to those who are unable to help themselves. The organization, or rather disorganization of the plan to manufacture and supply demand, simply develops selfishness in the individual, and thus fosters and cultivates that depraved side of the animal nature in man which, under fair conditions of society and life, would find nothing upon which to feed, justice would be done to all, and "humanity" come to mean what the term naturally implies.

The Golden Rule.

"Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets,"* has been changed by the customs of trade and commerce to read, *Do the other person up before he does you.* While in England recently the writer asked the manager of a large manufacturing establishment how trade and matters generally were going. "Oh," he replied, "we are cutting the other people's throats, and they are cutting ours"—meaning those in his line of trade. This is the rule in every department of production; in other words, *selfishness* (to make personal gains, whoever loses,) is the motive actuating every manufacturer anywhere to be found in the so-called civilized world.

The Lack of Organization in Trade

on a fair and equitable basis in the manufacture of all articles required by a well-regulated community, has given rise to exhibitions of selfishness of the very worst kind possible to be imagined—a display of selfishness that heathens and barbarians would blush to imitate, for they are generous in supplying the wants of the needy if they have anything to spare;

* Matthew vii. 12.¹