

world have afforded to do without them and the work they accomplished? Nay; verily.

There are many things which are supposed to involve disparaging eccentricity which kindness and good sense and the spirit of Christianity command. It is thought, for instance, disparaging to minister, professional man, or any one claiming refinement, to help himself in any matter which comprises any degree of manual labour, or servile work, although there may be no ready facilities for having it done for himself, or another; such as carrying a parcel, if needful, along the street, fetching an article from the market, grooming his own horse, sawing a stick of wood upon occasion, digging a garden, putting his hand to help a fellow-creature in an emergency, which involves labour. Now, I need not say that all the laws of industry, economy, manly independence, and brotherly kindness enjoin a course like this; and to say or think the contrary, in my humble opinion, smacks more of vulgar snobbery than of true refinement. John Wesley instructed his early preachers "not to be ashamed," when occasion required it, "to black their own shoes, or those of their neighbours;" in fact, to be "ashamed of nothing but sin."

Akin to the opinions we are now challenging is that one which amounts to saying, that an operative of any kind is not fit company for one who is not; and that those of the non-labouring classes who hold companionship with him must be eccentric. But those who are the most necessary and useful to the community should be regarded as at least among the most useful; such are the men who till the ground and raise your bread and vegetables, who breed the cattle and butcher your meat, who build your house, make your clothes and shoes, and the like. Now, is he who only deals in these articles any more respectable than he who produces them? A common labourer is essentially a more respectable man than an idle schemer. And if men in these manual callings are as well-informed and as well-behaved as any one else, (and why should they not be?) they are as fit for your companionship as a doctor, lawyer, or shop-keeper, or one of any profession whatever. And why must I be considered eccentric, if I treat them exactly as I treat others?

It is the exaggeration of the mistaken idea we try to explode that renders it so hard to obtain domestic help, and inflicts so