

service to the children of our common "Father in heaven." "Ye have the poor *always* with you." It is not an *occasional* chance call that we are to consider, but the *normal permanent* condition of a large part of mankind not so fortunate or favored as we are. Christ himself sprang from this same class, and belonged to it during His entire stay upon the earth. There was a high purpose in this. And He set an example to us in His manner of dealing with the poor and humble class. He invariably mingled with them, conversed with them, ministered to them, and bestowed favors upon them—not in the spirit of condescension or patronage; not on the principle of charity, or from the dictation of a humane, philanthropic feeling; but in love and sympathy as a brother, out of the depths of His moral nature seeking their highest permanent good—the salvation of their immortal souls. In this, as in all other things, He acted in obedience to His Father's will: "Lo, I come. . . I delight to do thy will, O my God."

2. The poor may be considered in the light of Christ's legacy to His Church in all ages. What if there were no poor claiming our sympathy and kindly ministry: what a lack there had been in the training of the Christian graces! Had there been no poor, no sick, no friendless, no suffering and dependent ones in Christ's kingdom on earth, the crowns of heaven had been less glorious. No one who will study the Bible can mistake God's feelings and purposes respecting the children of earthly poverty and suffering. And Jesus himself illustrated the spirit of the great Father in heaven at every step of His earthly career, and in all His teachings and doings. One of the very last acts of His life—even while dying on the cross—was to provide a Christian home for His poor mother, who stood before Him, weeping.

3. We are to perform this high and sacred duty in testimony of our love to Christ, and in gratitude for His love and services in our behalf. He loved us, and gave Himself for us. Utterly unworthy

and infinitely beneath Him, He yet stooped from heaven to embrace us; entered the ranks of the poor that He might minister to us; laid aside the glory He had with the Father that He might enrich us; and tasted the bitterness of the cross that He might put to our lips the cup of salvation. Hence, no return of service that we can possibly make for Him is unreasonable. We cannot minister directly to Him, as He is no longer on earth and needs no such service; but we can, and are required, alike by the obligations of gratitude and obedience, to minister to His needy disciples in every walk and condition in life; and inasmuch as we do it unto one of the least of His disciples, He accepts it as done unto Himself.

If all who love our Lord Jesus Christ will observe and put in practice these three simple, yet radical and all-embracing principles, it will go far to solve the other part of the problem—*How to deal with Poverty*, which we must reserve to some future time.

Well-paid Labor an Element in Civilization.

The laborer is worthy of his hire.—Luke x: 7.

What mean ye that ye . . . grind the faces of the poor? saith the Lord God of hosts.—Isa. iii: 15.

There is no country in the world where labor is so liberally paid as in the United States; none in which the wage-earning class has so favorable an opportunity for social and moral elevation. The following tables of statistics in relation to wages in England and the United States are highly interesting and instructive. The first table is given in the Report of the Tariff Commission in 1882.

IN IRON MILLS.

England.		Pittsburg, Pa.	
Pu idlers, per ton	\$1.94	Puddlers, per ton	\$5.50
Shinglers, "	.29	Shinglers, "	.77
Rollers in puddle mill, per ton,	.29	Rollers in puddle mill, per ton,	.68½
Rollers and heaters	1.80	Rollers and heaters	4.80
Laborers, pr. day	56 to 72	Laborers,	1.30 to 1.50

IN THREAD FACTORIES.

The following table was compiled in 1883 by the Clarke Thread Co., from the