

nation to the poor. Probably they will hear with surprise that such offerings and donations are essential parts of *Christian*—I might enlarge the epithet indeed, and say of *human* duty.

Neither, as far as I can learn, is it different with them when they attend other places of worship. When the farmer appears before God, he seldom comes with the beautiful humility and grateful devotion of a pious and heart-felt offering. The Methodists we know are very far from being a taciturn people, and yet I have never heard a Methodist make acknowledgments to a single farmer in this District for pious offerings, or contributions from the abundant stock of the harvest to the poor. And it seems to be similar with every other denomination of religious worship. The earth is generous and brings forth fruit of herself; the blessing of the Lord watches over it, and gives it increase; the farmer puts his sickle in because the harvest is come. But after that the merchant must tell the rest of the tale, for God seems to receive nothing thereof; the sanctuary receives nothing thereof; the poor come in for no share; the altar receives none, nor even waits from the Agriculturists lips a single thankful prayer to heaven. On the table of the Eucharist—on the Sacramental table—if we were to judge by the pious offerings, the harvest is always scanty, there has never been a blessing from the Lord.

And yet this ought not to be—it never has been so elsewhere—it has never been the case in prior generations—among a people at least that acknowledge the Lord for their God. Take even a Jebusite for instance—one of those devoted nations that were adjudged so wicked that God cast them out before the people of Israel. How did even a Jebusite act in this case, if Araunah looked and saw the King and his servants coming on toward him, and Araunah went out and bowed himself before the King on his face upon the ground; and Araunah said—Wherefore is my Lord the King come to his servant. And David said—To buy the threshing floor of thee, to build an altar unto the Lord, that the plague may be stayed from the people. And Araunah said unto David—Let my Lord the King take and offer up what seemeth good unto him; behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments, and other instruments of oxen for wood—all these things did Araunah as a King give unto the King. And Araunah said unto the King—The Lord thy God accept thee. In that case my text had a true exemplification, "The blessing of the Lord it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it." The pious and loyal liberality of Araunah was altogether blessed.