

self, wealth, articles of use to him. The chattel slave was owned by a master who compelled him to apply his labor-power to the natural resources and took the wealth he produced. The worker of today sells his labor-power to an employer to whom belongs the wealth produced by the application of that labor-power.

The Slave Empires.

It is noticeable that those people among whom slavery of one sort or another does not exist are not very far advanced in the arts and sciences. This would point to the fact that slavery is essential to human progress, and such is actually the case.

While the savage is living by fishing and hunting he has little leisure for the pursuit of knowledge. All his time is taken up with the economic problem, how to provide for his wants.

When, however, the agricultural stage is reached and it becomes possible for an individual to live upon the fruits of another's labor, society becomes divided into two classes, the slaves and their masters, the working class and the leisured class.

This master class then has leisure to turn its attention to other things besides its immediate necessities.

Upon this basis the civilizations of the ancient world were built. Upon the labor of slaves Babylon upraised her temples and gardens, Egypt her pyramids and tombs, Greece her colonades and statuary. The armies of Xerxes and Hannibal, the mighty empire of Rome, were all maintained out of the surplus produce of vast armies of chattel slaves.

Built thus upon the backs of toiling millions, empire after empire arose, attained its zenith and crumbled to decay, some of them leaving scarce a trace to mark their place in history. The course of each one was in many respects similar, and for the reason that they were slave civilizations.

Commencing as an aggregation of rude husbandmen conquering their neighbors until, becoming great and having overcome all dangerous rivals the masters degenerate into a mere horde of parasites living upon the ever increasing product of their slaves. Wealth tends ever to accumulate into the hands of the most wealthy and as the wealthy become fewer, the slaves become more numerous until the disproportion becomes so great that the wealthy few with all their luxurious extravagance and wastefulness are no longer able to consume the volume of wealth and there are more slaves than employment can be found for. As the slave thus becomes of little value his condition becomes more and more precarious and miserable. Society is no longer able to provide for the wants of the useful portion of it, and, there being no possibility, at the time, of any new form of society to take its place, the slave civilization perishes, its extinction as a general rule being hastened by the inroads of some younger and more virile race.