

as it were, off the earth: "In like manner the other pains and hardships of life will have no end or cessation on this earth; for the consequences of sin are bitter and hard to bear, and they must be with men as long as life lasts. To suffer and to endure, therefore, is the lot of humanity; let men try as they may, no strength and no artifice will ever succeed in banishing from human life the ills and troubles which beset it. If any there are who pretend differently—who hold out to a hard-pressed people freedom from pain and trouble, undisturbed repose, and constant enjoyment—they cheat the people and impose upon them, and their lying promises will only make the evil worse than before. There is nothing more useful than to look at the world as it really is—and at the same time to look elsewhere for a remedy for its troubles."

It would be out of place here to enter upon a disquisition on the existing inequality in the condition of men. It will be sufficient to recall the truth that before God all men are equal, and that the disproportion in wealth possessed, or in the distribution of the goods of this world, results from very natural causes. We see innumerable differences of the most important kind; people differ in capability, in diligence, in health and in strength; and unequal fortune is a necessary outcome of inequality of condition. But as the Sovereign Pontiff reminds us, "such inequality is far from being disadvantageous either to individuals or to the community; social and public life can only go on by this help of the various kinds of capacity and the playing of many parts, and each man, as a rule, chooses the part which peculiarly suits his case."

It follows, then, that owing to the industry of some and the improvidence or want of energy and industry of others, or to the accumulation of riches in one generation to which another falls heir, and so to divers other causes, the world will ever be found divided into classes differentiated by the possession or lack of wealth, or by social influence. It is to