

in the great rite of family worship to which the slave was expressly, and *by reason of his slavehood*, admitted,* the "hireling" occupies in the New Testament a position of equally little honour. If a faithful and good servant† is to be depicted, he is selected, as a matter of course, from among his master's slaves. If we are to have placed before us, for contrast's sake, the lowest class of all in morals and in social position, this helot's place is filled by the "hireling," not the slave. "How many *hired servants* of my father have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger."‡ "The hireling fleeth *because he is an hireling* and careth not for the sheep."§

One other Scripture test there is, to which you have not appealed, but by which this question, in common with all other questions, may be judged. "By their fruits ye shall know them. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

By their fruits then let us examine for a moment the advocates of slavery and of abolition in the country where alone these questions enter sufficiently into men's daily lives to affect their character and conduct.

And first, what is the religious aspect of the case? On which side are ranged the banners of the Church and of her foes? With scarcely an exception, the whole body of the Church in America upholds and

* Exod. xii. 44, 45.

† S. Matt xxv. 21; S. Luke xiii. 37-42.

‡ S. Luke xv. 17.

§ S. John x. 13.