

an assertion does not assist us in arriving at the causes which determine either the one or the other, nor does it say which of the two, — the general, or the individual rate, is the determining, or, ^{which} the determined. Our examination must show that as a matter of fact the individual rate is to a degree determined by the general rate and the causes affecting it; that the causa causans of the individual rate is to be found in the causes determining the general rate. There are not wanting writers of importance who have denied entirely the existence of any such thing as a general rate of wages and, ^{therefore} of necessity, the existence of causes determining such a rate. Our appeal to evident facts is, however, a conclusive answer to their mistaken assertions. So long as we can properly assert that wages are higher in America than in England, and in England than on the Continent we have thereby to admit a general rate, and are forced to seek the causes, of any which determine it.

An examination of this general rate brings us at once into contact with two conflicting theories. The one, which has also the right to priority in age, claiming