

This is no fancy sketch,—scores of examples might be given by way of illustration. However, we are proud to say that there is a growing desire for improvement in almost every community in the country; there are thousands who devote a portion of their time to reading, study, reflection, observation, and application, the best means of cultivating the mind, consequently are fit to act well their part in the great drama of human existence, for there, says the poet, all honor lies.

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### Selling the Poor

is a common practice throughout the Lower Provinces. When any of our fellow-beings, through sickness, bodily infirmities, or by any of the many accidents and misfortunes of life, are brought to want, and not able to support themselves, application is made to the overseers of the poor, of whom there are three in each parish, for support, when these poor unfortunate creatures are advertised to be sold, and auctioned off like goods and chattels, to the lowest bidder. The purchasers not unfrequently are nearly as poor as those whom they have purchased, and often are devoid of feelings of humanity; so that the poor are in many cases but half starved and half clothed, and treated rather like brute beasts than human beings.

With the Bible in hand directing us to take care of the poor,—and all the horrors of southern slavery ringing in our ears, we still go on year after year, selling the poor as so many brute beasts.

Is it not a disgrace to civilization and the spirit of the age to continue auctioning off every year a portion of the human family?

Who is there among us, however wealthy, that may not be imposed upon in old age, and persuaded to sign away all right and title to property, and ultimately be driven to beggary; or who may not be forced to defend vexatious lawsuits, or by other accidents and misfortunes lose the very means intended to support old age.

There are numerous ways by which property takes unto itself wings and flies away. The possessors of large estates have often been reduced to extreme want. Such persons, while in prosperity, would be horror-struck if the thought would once enter the mind that they would in old age be sold at the auctioneer's hammer.

We think that every parish in the province has got scores of persons, who are fully competent to take charge of its poor, and see that they are supplied with the actual wants of life, without descending to the degrading practice, so prevalent in our country, of selling the poor.

This practice has been abandoned long ago in a large portion of Europe, and we do not remember of reading of but one tribe of heathens who sell those who may have been unfortunate in not obtaining sufficient means to support them in old age, and that tribe sells their poor to be slaves for life.