

of which we speak, be brick and stone—demand higher wages, and shorter time. The master builders say we cannot afford this, we only get so much per piece, and by acceding to the demands made, our profits would be entirely done away. But, let us suppose that they accede to the demand—they then say, we must protect ourselves—we cannot take contracts at former rates. They consequently demand much higher rates for the same work. The proprietors of houses say, this we cannot give, or we will only give it in cases of absolute necessity. The consequence is, they cease to build and improve. The masters get fewer contracts, and many of the workmen are thrown out of employment. This is quite a common occurrence. The machine works no better for your having enlarged the diameter of wages, and curtailed the hours of labour. Rather, it is in danger of coming to a dead lock; and there may be a necessity for reverting to the previous order of things, or one even more stringent, in order to work as well as previous to the making of the extravagant demand.

But, this is only one side of the question. It may be, that employers in some trade or business, are making enormous profits, while they are over working and under paying their servants. They have got the advantage, and they are determined to keep it, unless compelled to relinquish their hold, by some combined power. In cases of this kind, it is perfectly justifiable, and will be successful, for the employed to take measures for their protection. But, I am in danger probably of leaving my office as a preacher, and becoming a political economist. Political economy is good; and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

The way which we indicate, is that embodied in the words of our text.—“Servants, obey in all things your masters, according to the flesh; not with eye service, as men pleasers, but in singleness of heart, fearing God. Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.”

1st.—We here remark, in the first place, that the Apostle seems to have thought that the relations of master and ser-