

almost negligible. Individual skill, however great and admirable, no more increases the productivity of labour generally, than the rise of one great wave raises the general level of the sea.

The human faculties involved, then, in modern wealth-production are these: The average or exceptional mind of the individual, directing his own labour; and the exceptional mind of the individual, directing the average and the skilled labour of others.

For the faculties involved in this last exercise of the mind it is difficult to find an entirely satisfactory name. On former occasions I have applied to it the name "ability"; and, in default of a better, this will serve our purposes. We must remember, however, when thus using it, that we are using it in a technical sense, which on the one hand will be narrower than the ordinary, and on the other hand more inclusive. It excludes all kinds of "cleverness" unapplied to economic production; and it includes many powers, in so far as production is their object, to the expression of whose scope and dignity it may often be thought inadequate.

What it includes may be seen in an interesting way, by considering first a list given by Ruskin (in "Unto This Last") of the qualities which, in his estimation, enable men to become rich. They are as follows: industry, resolution, pride, covetousness, promptitude, method, sense, want of imagination, want of sensitiveness, ignorance. Now if by pride and covetousness, coupled with industry and resolution, Ruskin means to indicate a desire for wealth which, instead of ending (as it often does) in an empty craving, liberates and is allied with an unusual practical energy, a pushing and driving power, resulting in the operations to which wealth is actually due, his meaning is correct, though his language is not flattering. Such energy does constitute an important element of ability. Promptitude, method, sense, are amongst its elements also; and we may allow Ruskin to be right in associating with these a certain deficiency of what is commonly called sensitiveness. But the list of qualities is very incomplete still. Ruskin