

prices, then was the time that the cruel, heartless selfishness of employers manifested itself in grinding the face of the poor—then was double the amount of work exacted; and, on the other hand, where labour is at a premium, the mechanic and labourer seek their revenge in shamming their work, and in doing as little as possible. This is ever the operation of the selfish principle; and what have been the results? Starvation, misery, death to the poor—markets glutted with over production, great crises, and colossal fortunes ruined. If material progress has, on the whole, been attained, it has been through the squalor, misery, and ruin of large classes of mankind. I hate slavery—it hath a primal curse upon it, but it must be admitted that it conserves the material interest of the servant better than this commercial theory of hired servitude, according to the principle of demand and supply. The reason is simply this: the slave owner has an eye to the comfort of his slave, he has an interest in him, he knows that if he works out or starves out his slave, it is so many hundred dollars out of his pocket; but the employer of free men, where there is an abundant production of human beings, knows that if he work out or starve to death those who labour for him, he can get others to treat in a similar manner. What is the remedy? Is it slavery? No. The remedy is in acting on the principle of the text, to render to the labourer that which is *just and equal*. And never till the requirements of this principle are felt and acted on, will things be tolerable to the eye and heart of the philanthropist. I cannot conceive of God looking down on the system and state of slavery with approbation. And almost as little can I conceive of him smiling with approbation on Christian England, where, with all its institutions and material wealth, the labourer and his family, with all their work, often pine in misery and want, while abundance is in all the borders of the land.

4th. In the fourth place, I observe that the giving of due service on the one hand, and of that which is just and equal on the other, imply a knowledge of the principles of equity