

tems is not so much what is their material prosperity as what kind of *men* do they develop.

Political Economy will teach us to look after the wealth first, and when we have the money we can build schools and churches, print newspapers and books that will look after the spiritual and intellectual development of our people.

The lowly Nazarene long ago gave us a safer basis which, if followed, would have led to an age different from the present. His injunction was, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you." He held character as the first thing and when he had developed men of strong true noble character, then all material prosperity would follow naturally.

Then it would seem, if we are to follow this teaching, that our interrogation of a political or economic system should be, not how much wealth will it bring the country, but, is it the best adapted to develop our citizens? An industrial or social system should not then be judged alone by the wealth it produces but also by its ethical value in the development of character. What was the crowning evil of slavery? Was it that sometimes men were beaten and ill-treated? No! It was that manhood was suppressed that there was no opportunity for education, or the building up of the norm, no hope of development and no stimulus to a better life. These were the evils of slavery.

Compared thus with slavery the modern industrial system is vastly superior. No one can compare the average working man of to-day with the negro slave without seeing which system has produced the better men. The present system is better too than Feudalism. Compare the independent working men of England to-day and the villains or serfs of feudal times, and, man to man, the working man of to-day is better than the working man of serfdom and Feudalism.

We cannot doubt that the introduction of machinery has improved the condition of the laborers. But, we are told that it has thrown men out of employment, and that its monotonous routine of labor prevents the development of true manhood. A careful inspection of past and present conditions of countries that have used machinery and those that have not will, I think, clearly show the falsity of this. In vain will Carlyle and Ruskin call upon us to advance with our faces to the past and our backs to the future. For surely the present industrial system, with its applied arts and sciences is able, by the concentration of labor into the short-