

is vague, crude and unwise, but at the heart of it all lies this doctrine of man's inherent sacredness and worth in the sight of God. Men believe that there is a higher good possible for them. Their dissatisfaction with present conditions has in it possibilities and prophecies of a golden age of social reform. I do not look with fear or dread on this social unrest. I believe that back of it and in it is God himself. I believe that this hope of a better day, "which rises and grows broad in the world's heart, by ordered impulse, streams from the great heart of God."

God taught the world the doctrine of man's sacredness. No philosophy ever taught it. Individual men here and there saw the truth and held it, but it received no indorsement from any system of government, philosophy or religion. The Greeks treated the outside world as barbarians. The Romans thought it strange that Seneca should insinuate that slaves were men like themselves. The old dynasties and governments were built on the worthlessness of man. The individual was of worth only as he contributed to the strength and stability of the state. Systems of political economy were built on the depreciation of man. They put property above persons. They went so far as to call persons property. They bought and sold men and women like cattle. There was a time when Christ's question "How much then is a man better than a sheep?" would have received the answer not much better. There was a time when slaves were so cheap that you could buy a slave for a sheep, provided the sheep was fat and well pedigreed!

There is a political economy to-day which says man's labor is a marketable commodity, subject to the law of supply and demand. They claim the right to buy labor in the cheapest market and sell the product of that labor in the dearest market. Thus commerce goes into the marketplace and buys up men and women as they buy sheep. The only basis of value, of a man or woman, is their power to produce wealth. This