

platform. It would make the brotherhood of man over-ride individual interests: it would enter upon a general levelling process: it would prevent a man by law from exercising his own personal rights, and compel him by law to surrender them for the weal of the community. In other words, all competition must cease, and all industries and trades shall be carried on by the central government. But such a proposal is both unreasonable and unscriptural. What right has any community to prescribe what a man shall have, or not have? how many hours he shall work, or not work? what trade he shall follow, or shall not follow? in what part of the country he shall live, or not live? what he shall eat, or not eat? wear, or not wear? or how much he shall pay for a patch upon his boot? We are certainly ruled by majorities: but majorities have often inflicted the most cruel wrongs upon minorities. I would not give up my individuality to any community, unless I had the most indubitable evidence that it, and all its successors, had large intelligence, experience, and, above all things, the Christly spirit. But, with this evidence, the supposed need for me to sacrifice my individual rights would cease, as then all men would love

their neighbours as themselves. In turning to Scripture it is only necessary to say that individualism is the law of the Book "Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God" God "will render to every man according to his deeds." "For every man shall bear his own burden." That men have abused their individualism, goes without saying: but individualism must not be blamed for this. The abuse springs out of the depraved selfishness of our nature, and we must not expect to cure it by the sacrifice of personal rights. An Act of Parliament, framed and administered by this same selfish human nature, would quickly result in more fraud, tyranny, and corruption than can at present be charged upon individualism. Besides, to take away one of the highest and noblest rights of their nature, from the thrifty, honest, earnest, sober and hard-working members of a community, in order to support the lazy, drunken and improvident rascals who form the other part of it, would be an outrage which could never be tolerated. We may be on the eve of great changes, but this will not be one of them. The Church may fairly be asked to lend her aid in an attempt to make the honest poor, less poor: and the wickedly rich, less