

The Slave Empires.

It is noticeable that those people among whom slavery of one sort or another does not exist are not very far advanced in the arts and sciences. This would point to the fact that slavery is essential to human progress, and such is actually the case.

While man lived by fishing and hunting he had little leisure for the pursuit of knowledge. All his time was taken up with the economic **problem**—how to provide for his wants.

When, however, the agricultural stage was reached, and it became possible for an individual to live upon the fruits of another's labor, society became divided into two classes, the slaves and their masters, the **working class** and the leisured class. This master class then had leisure to turn its attention to other things besides its immediate necessities.

Upon this basis the civilizations of the ancient world were built. Upon the labor of slaves Babylon upraised her temples and gardens, Egypt her pyramids and tombs, Greece her colonnades and statuary; the armies of Xerxes and Hannibal, the mighty empire of Rome, were all maintained out of the surplus product of vast armies of chattel slaves.

Built thus upon the backs of toiling millions, empire after empire arose, attained its zenith and crumbled to decay, some of them leaving scarce a trace to mark their place in history. The course of each one was in many respects