

injustice, and which in the interests of all parties ought to be frankly recognised. We shall also find much in them which is illusory and incomplete, and dangerous in proportion as it is acted on to the interests of all equally. I shall try to discriminate fairly between these two elements, extending a sympathetic consideration even to those errors which I am most anxious to identify, to expose, and to correct. If we can but eliminate the exaggerations, and supply the main omissions by which the reasonings and claims, not of the Labour party only, but those of their opponents also, are perhaps equally vitiated, we shall have taken one step at all events—and it has not been taken already—towards converting a disorderly wrangle into a reasonable and fruitful negotiation.

In dealing, however, with the ideas of a body of men so large and miscellaneous as that which we associate with the cause of Labour, there is often a difficulty in determining what these ideas are with sufficient clearness to provide criticism with a starting-point. But in the present case it happens that a starting-point of the kind required has been recently provided for us in a very interesting way. During the course of the past summer there was published in a popular periodical an account of the books which had appealed most to the sympathies, and most deeply influenced the opinions, of the Labour members in the present Parliament, the account having been compiled from memoranda contributed by these members themselves; and amongst the many books mentioned there is one so notably more popular than the rest, that it may reasonably be taken as affording a general clue, if not to any precise opinions which the Labour members entertain unanimously, yet at all events to the general spirit and the general type of reasoning which prevails amongst them with reference to Labour, its claims and prospects. The book in question is "Unto This Last," by Ruskin—a very short, but highly characteristic work, in which the science of Political Economy, as expounded in the orthodox text-books, is attacked with