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CHAPTER II.

WEALTH AND WAGES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

"The Poor House," said old Betty Higden, "Kill me sooner than take me there, Throw the pretty child under cart horses' feet and a loaded wagon, sooner than take him there. Come to us and find us all a-dying, and set a light to us all where we lie, sooner than move a corpse of us there!"

—CHARLES DICKENS.

In the consideration of the social forces, which contribute to make the State grow and expand, we would not in speaking of Canada or the United States, think of the three divisions, the nobles, the clergy, and the people for that would savour of Eighteenth Century feudalism and not of Nineteenth Century democracy.

In order that our Country shall grow to its highest development, the social forces should have that poise and finely settled adjustment, which would bear fairly in due proportion on each force, so that the whole in harmony would make the well balanced State.

What are the social forces in Canada and the United States?

First.—Pre-eminently, the Laborer, who gives us the products of the farm, the forest, the sea, the mines and the factory, all the results of toil. From these and these alone has sprung all the vast wealth now concentrated in millions in the great cities of this continent.

Second.—The Trader. The merchant who thinks out the processes of barter and exchange, and makes it easy for people in Dublin, Liverpool and Glasgow to eat the bread made from wheat grown on the prairies of the West.

Third.—The Capitalists, who are the bankers for the nation, who have saved their profits on labor's production, and now stand ready to invest their millions wherever it is most sure, in railway, telegraph, steamship or other stocks.

Fourth.—The professions,—lawyers, clergymen, doctors, soldiers, etc., who are the outcome of the first and second classes, namely Labor and Trade, which two classes combined, make the state and the city, and from the wealth made by them we are able to pay for the skilled labor of the physician and other professions.

These are the four classes that go to make our democratic State. Are they in Canada so neatly poised and adjusted as to make a harmonious whole, or does capital press too heavily on labor? In this last we are