

A Comparison.

The slave of old toiled in his master's fields and the fruits of his toil belonged to his master; the worker of today toils in his master's factory or farm, and the fruits of his toil belong to the master. The former received for his toil enough for his own subsistence, just what the latter today receives at the best. The slave was bought and sold bodily and, being so much invested wealth, was more or less well cared for whether he worked or not. The worker of today sells himself from day to day, and, being a "freeman" and nobody's property, nobody is under any obligation to care for him or to feed him when there is no work for him to do. The slave was generally an unwilling slave, but the worker votes for a continuance of his servitude. His freedom lies in his own hands, but he refuses to be free. Which is the baser slave?

To sum up: the savage came upon the scene endowed with power to labor, which he applied to the natural resources, and produced for himself wealth—articles of use to him. The chattel slave was owned by a master, who compelled him to apply his labor-power to the natural resources, and took the wealth he produced. The worker of today sells his labor-power to an employer, to whom belongs the wealth produced by the application of that labor-power.