

So; and many of you have confessed to me that you were groaning under it, as the cursed of our land, and in vain longing for deliverance. Till it is abolished, I do not see how we can look for permanent prosperity, or expect God's blessing on our business. For what is the effect of the system to which I refer?—First of all, it establishes a false, vicious relation between capital and labour—between the employer and the employed; it makes the one to a certain extent the slave of the other. And just as slavery is ruinous to the master as well as to the slave, so the man who has acquired undue power over another, by making advances to him on his future labours, is injured thereby himself. If there be abjectness and servility, on the one side, there is as likely to be tyranny and hardness on the other. But there are far more serious evils than this. When the general business of a country, as here, is conducted on the principle that the labourer mortgages his future industry to the capitalist, who makes advances to him in the necessities of life, the borrower in such a case has, as a matter of course, to pay a heavy interest on his loan, so as to cover the risks which the lender has to run. Payment turns on the uncertain returns of the season's labours. High charges must protect the supplier. The system is such that the poor man pays an exorbitant price for his goods, and the capitalist is compelled to make such charges as his conscience must secretly disapprove of; otherwise he would speedily be a ruined man. The system which drives men to such practices—violating conscience on the one side, and grinding and oppressing the poor on the other, must be thoroughly wrong. But the evil does not end here; weak, ignorant and thoughtless men are thus strongly tempted to extravagance, indolence and dishonesty; and the result is to undermine the moral character of the labouring population—to destroy forethought, manly independence, industrious habits, and too often common honesty. The honest, industrious man is fearfully taxed to make up for the defalcations of the indolent and dishonest. A premium is held out to roguery; activity and thrift are punished. How could a community thrive where a system like this prevails? It is quite sufficient to demoralize and destroy any people, and to counteract all the efforts of educationists and religious teachers to elevate them. The weeds growing up in such soil would naturally choke the growth of religion. And then, mark how the Divine law is self-avenging—no one, in the long run, profits by such a system. The capitalist finds himself, at length,

without return expected to make even the poor laws are never

These returns are many nobles right and just. But the natives as I have described startling disclosure in this system's existence. Its handed down effects have present suffering long since. from it at once not be abolished retribution, something is imposed conducted with ought to do work it is "the best themselves to aside selfishness wrong, a different men, by no means but they are their successors the poor and those who would steal honest, truth-telling system has so consciences are evils. Here is eating practice hardened men of action? More no good cause brethren, will