

"The best form of government is that which doth actuate and inspire every part and member of a state to the common good." With Louis Blanc, when he was in exile, I cultivated friendship and listened with sympathy, though I could not listen with agreement, to his advocacy of National Workshops. Were my old friend, Jacob Holyoke, whom I lost the other day, still alive, to his testimony also I might appeal.

I address you as my "Labour" Friend, but with a caution that the title, now happily honoured, almost privileged, belongs as much to those who labour with the brain as to those who labour with the hand. Labourers with the brain, as well as labourers with the hand, have their sufferings and their grievances, feel weariness, would like shorter hours, and are liable to being underpaid. Of the foremost among the intellectual benefactors of mankind not a few, in fact, have been greatly underpaid.

There is no denying that the wage-earning system applied to large works and great bodies of workmen has brought its evils and its perils. So has almost every great economical change;