

C 6042

"Humanitarian opposed slavery, but Humanitarian contained a large amount of consciousness & more unconscious Christianity"

Regarding Teachings concerning Property.

There are frequent utterances in apostolic writers as to the moral dangers of wealth. Mark Matthew "Sell all that thou hast and give to the poor" Luke VI. 24 "Woe unto you that are rich" etc. These words usually explained away, also frequent statements as to the blessings of poverty.

Acts IV. - Results of this in practice -

"They had all things common". Probably means Aristotle's ideal of private property, but common use. This a small community drawn close together

Many at least sold property & gave to apostles. But the story of Ananias shows that there was no obligation on the part of the individual to give up wealth. Ananias was punished not for the refusal to give up but for lying.

Early Christian writers boast & do so with justice of the community of property. "All things are common with us except money."

This together with the doctrine of equality led to strong statements.

St. Ambrose says. Nature has put all things in common - has provided common right. Usurpation has created private right.