

When wages in a fruitful land bear so small a proportion to the necessaries of life, that poor honest people who have families cannot by a moderate industry attain to a comfortable living, and give their children sufficient learning, but must either labour to a degree of oppression, or else omit that which appears to be a duty.

While this is the case with the poor, there is an inclination in the minds of most people, to prepare at least so much treasure for their children, that they with care and moderate industry may live free from these hardships which the poor pass through.

Now this subject requireth our serious consideration: to labour that our children may be put in a way to live comfortably, appears in itself to be a duty, so long as these our labours are consistent with universal righteousness; but if in striving to shun poverty, we do not walk in that state where "Christ is our life," then we wander; "He that hath the Son, hath life," 1 John v. 12. "This life is the light of men," John i. 4. If we walk not in this light, we walk in darkness, and "he that walketh in darkness, knoweth not whither he goeth," John xii. 35.

To keep to right means in labouring to attain a right end is necessary: if in striving to shun poverty, we strive only in that state, where Christ is the light of our life, our labours will stand in the true harmony of society; but if people are confident that the
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