

Of this the prophet appears to have had a feeling, when he said, "Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us? Why then do we deal treacherously every man with his brother, in prophaning the covenant of our fathers?" Mal. ii. 10.

He who of old heard the groans of the children of Israel under the hard task-masters in Egypt, I trust hath looked down from his holy habitation on the miseries of these deeply oppressed people. Many lives have been shortned through extreme oppression, while they laboured to support luxury and worldly greatness; and tho' many people in outward prosperity may think little of those things, yet the gracious Creator hath regard to the cries of the innocent, however unnoticed by men.

The Lord in the riches of his goodness is leading some into the feeling of the condition of this people, who cannot rest without labouring as their advocates; of which in some measure I have had experience, for, in the movings of his love in my heart, these poor sufferers have been brought near to me.

The unoffending aged and infirm made to labour too hard, kept on a diet less comfortable than their weak state required, and exposed to great difficulties under hard-hearted men, to whose sufferings I have often been a witness, and under the heart-melting power of divine love, their misery hath felt to me like the misery of my parents.

Innocent