

**WORKING PEOPLE
AND THEIR
EMPLOYERS**

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Working People and Their Employers by Washington Gladden

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BY

WASHINGTON GLADDEN.



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PREFACE.

THE reader of these chapters will soon discover that they were written with an audience in view, and will infer that they were spoken from the pulpit.

It is not unlikely that some readers may pronounce discussions such as these quite too secular for Sunday and the Church; but the lawfulness of doing good on the Lord's day is not an open question; and the Christian who does not feel the need of trying to do good in this way, who does not see the importance of bringing the truth of the New Testament to bear directly upon the matters now in dispute between labor and capital, is one with whom I do not care to argue. Now that slavery is out of the way, the questions that concern the welfare of our free laborers are coming forward; and no intelligent man needs to be admonished of their urgency. They are not only questions of economy, they are in a large sense moral questions; nay, they touch the very marrow of that religion of good-will of which Christ was the founder. It is plain that the pulpit must have something to say about them.

If these lectures had been intended for students of political economy, some of the things here said might have been taken

for granted ; but many of those to whom they were spoken were mechanics and operatives, who could not be familiar with all the current treatises on social science, and who therefore were not offended by instruction of a somewhat elementary character. I think I know my audience pretty well. The greater part of my life has been spent among working people, in working with them, or in working for them. I count among them some of my most valued friends ; I know their ways of living and of thinking ; and I have tried to make these discussions intelligible and helpful to them.

That any of the questions raised get their final answer in this book, I am not vain enough to imagine ; but I hope that it may help a little towards the understanding of some of them.

NORTH CHURCH STUDY,
Springfield, Mass.

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