

Beloved Elder Daniel

Perhaps you may remember that sometime ago I had some conversation with you on the subject of Believers hiring the world to manufacture for them, such articles as we sell in Market for Shakers use: My time and opportunity was there, too limited to give much of an exposition of my views of the matter. And hence therefore took this method to express them more fully - And hope it may do no harm if it produces no good.

From my reflections on the subject, ~~and the~~ ~~any~~ ~~effect~~ it must necessarily produce on the minds and conduct of many among us. I am led to believe that such a course of proceedings if pursued among us, cannot from the principles enavated, and the nature of things, be attended with a blessing, but must ultimately result in demoralizing the sense of many individuals, if not in producing serious loss sooner or later.

In the first place, it must necessarily <sup>quietly</sup> extend the travel of our Agents abroad in procuring stock, selling wares &c. considerably. Which already is more than has proved beneficial for the spiritual protection of many - Any extension of trade and traffic therefore beyond the disposal of our own productions appears to me, uncalled for by the gospel, and must produce a sacrifice of the Separator for the increase or in other words, the Spiritual for the Temporal.

~~Further more~~  
Again, we all must acknowledge that a high and important duty rests upon Believers of maintaining always in their commerce and transaction with mankind, a character unsullied for Honesty & strict Integrity.

Now is it reasonable to suppose that we can find many men to manufacture wares or other articles for us by the job, who will in all cases make them upon honor, Or others again, in whom we can confide to sell us Goods in such <sup>which are</sup> equally good, as to quality age &c. as with those personally sold by us, and raise under the care and supervision of those in the Society to whom was committed the trust

I know no reason to think that such is the case, ~~and~~  
 as far as it ~~respects~~ <sup>respects</sup> ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Business~~ <sup>Business</sup>, Garden Seeds, and so on, and by  
 all I can learn those families ~~do not~~ <sup>do not</sup> have resorted  
 to hiring their Brooms made by one of the world, and who  
 purchase Seeds from those not of our faith, fall very  
 short of producing for market such things, to be relied  
 on by customers as they did formerly. Consequently  
 our credit among mankind is upon the retrograde  
 Scale, once riding in <sup>the</sup> Cars between N.Y. & Pitts- and  
 in a seat a little behind me sat two men who I over  
 heard talking about the Shakers. One (who appeared to  
 be an entire stranger to them), questioned the other about  
 their character - <sup>the other</sup> that at the west where he lived, their  
 credit for honesty and uprightness stood formerly  
 very high. He said he had got an article from the Shakers  
 we could depend upon it as being first rate; But  
 latterly we find it is not so. Their garden seeds which  
 formerly we found the best in the market, now often  
 prove much inferior to many others.

But admitting Brooms and other articles  
 can be obtained through hiring, and seed check  
 or them we can <sup>or make</sup> ~~make~~ them, and ~~that~~ such also, as do  
 no discredit to the Society to sell for Shaker goods. I think  
 there are other weighty considerations to be taken into the  
 account worthy of our serious reflection. The question  
 arises, What is the object in view when hiring such  
 things made? ~~By such~~ <sup>Is it not</sup> for the profit or  
 revenue we derive from the labor of the employed?  
 If such be the fact, are we not meddling on the same plan  
 of Speculation (according to its measure) which so ex-  
 tensively prevails in the world at this time; and which  
 by its operation upon <sup>the</sup> poor and laboring class in Society,  
 is producing so much misery, injustice, or oppression among  
 great numbers of our fellow men & women? The principle  
 is the same in me, and I am actuated by the same motives

If I hire five <sup>men</sup> for the profits I obtain from their labor, as it is in the Speculating Monopolist who employs them by hundreds, and is making a <sup>large</sup> ~~great~~ fortune by their <sup>labor</sup> ~~work~~

The fact is, the whole system of speculation on the labor of others is wrong, Money in such cases becomes power, and when it is used for speculating purposes, and monopolizing labor for selfish ends, It is power exercised to do evil instead of doing good. Manufacturing Capitalist in hiring help to carry on their Establishments, aim to procure it at the lowest possible rate - And tho' they often make dividends of twenty, thirty, and forty, per cent on their money invested, It is seldom considered that their poor employees are intitled to any share in their enormous profits, or that they receive any advance in wages - If the laws of the land have fixed the rate of interest on money, at what is deemed a just equivalent for it, as all income produced from such moneyed Establishments, ought in reason to be justly divided between the employers and the employees, as it is from the toil and labor of the latter that the profits are obtained.

All labor ought to share a just equivalent with capital. But instead of this we find Speculating Monopolist in most branches of business where labor is concerned, are living in extravagant & ambitiousness at the expense of the laboring poor. What is this but servile <sup>labor</sup> in another form ~~as they~~ from that practiced at the South, Steam says Disguise thyself as thou wilt, still slavery still thou art a billion draught. It is this species of slavery which <sup>obtains</sup> ~~is practiced~~ among ~~the~~ moneyed Capitalist that the eyes of many in this day view with jealousy & disgust, and the laboring class <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ so hardy complaining off. And that to me must all admit <sup>not</sup> with reason. For it is from <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ scheme of capitalists in buying large tracts of land, provisions &c. to sell again at a great advance - that the

rich are grow<sup>ing</sup> more and more wealthy & aristocratic and the poor more & more oppressed miserable and dependent - Hence unlike all this, is the design of the Gospel of Jesus Christ which was predicted should be a leveling work, bringing down the hills and exalting the valleys, and destroying all those distinctions of high and low, rich and poor, bond & free - and breathing Peace on Earth and good will to men

For the honor of humanity I can thankbill to state that <sup>there</sup> is occasionally a man among the aforesaid class of Capitalist who sees the error of his way and is willing to turn about and do right towards his fellow men - A case of this kind I will here relate

A man in New York with whom I was partially acquainted was a few years since engaged in Manufacturing, and employed numerous hands, both men, women & children to all of whom he was paying what was called liberal wages, but admitting this, he was deriving from <sup>profit from</sup> their labor ~~and profit~~ as ~~and~~ rapidly increasing his wealth. At last he seriously reflected upon the matter and was convinced, that the system generally pursued among manufacturers was wrong, and by no means, ~~was~~ calculated to produce justice & right, between the employers and the employees - He accordingly resolved in future to pursue towards his workmen a different course of conduct. In pursuance of this resolution he called them together, and made them the following proposition First that he should no longer hire them as formerly on stipulated wages; but as many as assent to his proposals should become joint partners with himself and one another - He was to receive from the income of the factory such a percentage, as would pay interest on the capital he had invested in the stock fittings machinery &c. and would employ his time & services as formerly in superintending the concerns - All profit his income should be divided according to their several





# I know of stagnation

I think it will be found upon reflection, that among no class can be found, that so great a number have made shipwreck of faith, brought trouble upon the Society, cast reproach upon the cause, as among those who have occupied their time in traded traffic.





exposed to the clattering influences of the world  
 will <sup>eventually</sup> end in a blessing, ~~eventually~~, to the success-  
 hold of faith; Either in things Spiritual or tem-  
 -poral. But as long as the people of God are  
 obedient to the principles of the Gospel - are indus-  
 trious with their hands in usefull employments  
 Prudent and Economical in all things com-  
 -mitted to their trust - seeing the things of this  
 world as not abusing them - rigidly abstaining  
 from all unnecessary and superfluous articles of food,  
 clothing, Buildings, furniture, &c. &c. I say while  
 such are the governing principles by which they  
 are led I do not believe they will ever be under  
 the necessity of resorting to such means for a living  
 as shall be <sup>expensive</sup> ~~expensive~~ to their spiritual protection -  
 the simplicity of their faith or doing to others of  
 their fellow men, as they would not be done by

There is nothing that begets <sup>more</sup> confidence in  
 Believers among the better class of mankind;  
 then finding them strictly honest <sup>in their dealing</sup>  
 and nothing <sup>to give them confidence</sup> ~~leads~~ leads more to disgust in their mind  
 towards our <sup>religions</sup> ~~religions~~ profession, than to see us artful and  
<sup>crafty</sup> ~~crafty~~ to obtain money ~~and~~ and get the best of a bargain

In respect to maintaining the honor and integ-  
 -rity of Believers; there are some among us, who,  
 I think have to little regard - Such often boast  
 of the good bargain they have made in trading  
 for such and such an article and how <sup>more</sup> more it  
 could be sold for, <sup>than they should</sup> ~~not~~ not appearing to reflect that  
<sup>no</sup> ~~no~~ good bargain <sup>was</sup> ~~was~~ ever made which violated  
 the sacred injunction of doing to others as you would  
 be done by - "It is naught is naught" says the buyer  
 [on speculation] but afterwards boasteth <sup>we</sup> ~~say~~ say Solomon  
 "As a mail <sup>day's</sup> ~~between~~ <sup>between</sup> two stones, so doth  
<sup>side</sup> ~~side~~

here

I should have been pleased to have, closed my remarks  
But there is another matter so closely allied with  
the foregoing; that a few brief and general remarks  
on the subject, may not be considered out of place

This concerns the increase among us, of manufac-  
turing articles for sale at home and to send  
abroad, which partake so much more of the fan-  
ciful character than that of the real virtuous &  
useful. To make plain neat and useful arti-  
cles for market, and charge for them a reasonable  
remunerating price I think cannot be objectionable

But when our attention is turned from these, <sup>such</sup> to  
the manufacturing of fancy articles, on which  
we bestow so much time and labor, and so many  
superfluities and costly trimmings, that their price  
must be enhanced above those of a plain neat article  
of a like description 150 or 200 per cent. in order to  
please the vain fancy and extravagant taste of  
worldly & proud spendthrifts. What by so doing are  
we ministering to, but the lust of the eye & the pride of life

For instance, ~~I have prepared~~ ~~where~~ blanket  
with all the appliances necessary for keeping the  
knee comfortable from the cold &c. for \$6.00 and at  
the same time take another of the same materials  
and bestow upon it, so many costly and superfluous  
trimmings or ornaments; that I must charge 12 or  
14 dollars for it. With what reason or propriety  
can I justify the act on Christian grounds? Or how  
much of a blessing could I suppose would follow  
such a course of labor? The same remarks may  
apply to fancy work baskets - ornamented <sup>down</sup> ~~down~~  
& Peacock tined Fans &c, and a long list of  
other articles too numerous to mention, but which

are so profusely exhibited in our Stores, that it may be a question, whether in the City of N. B. there are many Fancy Stores which contain a greater proportion of the real fanciful compared with the useful, and the amount <sup>of property</sup> the Store contains, than does some of ours. These things have often caused serious doubts among young Believers: who were not expecting to find such things tolerated among us, and appear incompatible with our profession. It was remarked by a respectable man of the world not long since, after visiting one of our Stores <sup>that it</sup>, put him in mind of Vanity Fair.

In justification of these things, I have heard it plead, that unless the stile of our wares were adapted to the taste of our rich customers, and calculated to tickle their fancy, they would not buy them; And being full of money, we might as well leave it as others. A very poor plea however, I think for a Shopkeeper to make, and reminds me of a similar plea made by a vendor of Spirituous liquors when ~~being reproved~~ <sup>for selling</sup> a man, already half intoxicated. Said if he did <sup>not</sup> supply him with these wares, and he might as well have his money as others.

May it not be a question worthy of thought, whether or no, the making of such Fancy Articles does not have a tendency to stupify and weaken the force of those restraints so wisely imposed upon us, <sup>as judiciously</sup> and designed to guard the sense from partaking of the spirit of the world, or in any wise be seeing its fondness or popularity. I do not say this is the case. But from the preponderance of sense among us in that direction. and from the truth that no effect can exist without a cause. It may do us no harm to see whether if this ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> the efficient cause, it may not be a <sup>auxiliary</sup>.

The progress towards the Spirit, popularity, fine ~~eye~~ <sup>eye</sup>, and fashions of the world, may be slow and almost unperceived. But one step in that direction is sure to be followed by another. Untill serious insurrection upon the original way marks of simplicity and plainness, and are injurious conformity, more or less to the fashions, customs and influences of a dark & sinful world be the result.

I was told a few years since by a respectable man of the Baptist Order, and one who had long been acquainted with the society, and conversant with their customs, habits, manners &c. That he had latterly found them greatly improving, and that he could like, and fellowship them <sup>much better</sup> now than he could formerly - That latterly they were leaving many of their superstitious notions, and could now freely associate with the world in many things, which they formerly most tenaciously abstained from, and that thereby they were obtaining the respect and friendship of the world much more than formerly when in many things they kept themselves so distinct and unsocial - I thought if such was the fact and Shakers were gaining the friendship and popularity of the world at the sacrifice of their <sup>gospel</sup> simplicity and associating with them in customs & habits they formerly derided; It argued not credit to them; or again that <sup>the</sup> friendship of the world was not still enmity against God, and a hindrance to the soul in its progress towards final redemption.

Perhaps I have spoken swift enough on the foregoing subjects and will close my remarks, by simply observing, that by any thing I have said, it has not been my wish or intention to hurt or wound the feelings of any of my gospel kindred, or to cast reflection upon any particular Individual, Family or Society.

Nor do I feel in the least disposed to say to any one "stand by, for I am more holy than thou" My conscious feeling and desire by this communication, being only that

welfare of Zion - the honor of the gospel - and the  
 spiritual progress of us all, who ~~have~~ are called to  
 enjoy both in time and eternity its blessed privileges.

And having a firm and unshaken faith that  
 this work into which we are called, will fully, and  
 eventually, purge its subjects from all evil; and that  
 every plant which our Heavenly Father hath not  
 planted will be rooted up - I feel a fervent desire  
 that with my beloved Brethren & Sisters in the gospel  
 I may ever be found wisely engaged to discern between  
 good and evil - between that which serves God the  
 fountain of Purity and Holiness; and that which feeds  
 an earthly sensual & corrupt nature - and be willing  
 to sacrifice it, root and branch - So that when we are  
 called to give an account of our stewardship it may  
 be done with joy, and <sup>and</sup> with grief - Amen

Ed. Rich. upon buying,  
 selling, speculating &c.

interested in the prosperity of the factory, and in having their work done upon honor and such principles as would establish the credit of its goods and increase their customers - and if reports are true, the thing is working like a charm, and no factory of the kind in the City is more patronised or yields a greater profit

This man from his sympathy for the poor is now enjoying the honor & good will of his fellow men, and the satisfaction of knowing that he is doing to others as he would be done by - And also, of using the means wherewith he was blest, not as an engine of oppression to his fellow creatures, but to help and do them <sup>good</sup> by providing such means for them as increases them the full reward of their labor

The conduct of this man towards helping to restore the just rights of <sup>the</sup> poor laborer so that he is not obliged of any part of his labor to support others in their extravagance and sensuality, is such, as ought to put to shame thousands of fellows men, who for the sake of obtaining the means to live in pomp ~~and~~ and carnal indulgence - are in divers ways "grinding the faces of the poor" and almost as it were taking their hearts blood.

The war and its consequences have afforded many opportunities to this class of inhuman beings to show to whose Kingdom they belong, and how little they ~~they~~ regard the welfare of their fellow creatures. After making large contracts with the Government for supplying soldiers clothing - and monopolizing the business so that they fear no competition they give out their work to poor seamstresses at such low rate of wages as scarcely enables them to keep soul and body together. I saw lately in a public print \* a statement of a poor woman who was employed by one of these speculators - She was from necessity worked for him at making soldier drawers. The wages he paid was only 6 $\frac{1}{2}$  cts per pair and they were to be made without machinery - She ~~could~~ make by the constant application of the needle 12 or 14 hours of the day, only 6 pair, amounting to 37 $\frac{1}{2}$  cts - With this she had to feed cloth & pay house rent for herself and three small children. She at length became so enfeebled in health and reduced for the necessities of life, that she was compelled to apply for public charity - Since reading the above account I saw it published in a New York Paper

\* It must be understood that these remarks were made in war time

that a deputation sent from more than two thousand females recruited from New York waited upon President Lincoln to represent the oppression and sufferings they were subjected to by this shameless class of Speculators - And it was reported, that in listening to the recital of their grievances, he was affected even to shedding tears - And promised them that in all future contracts made by Government for making soldiers clothing, he would use his influence to have them made in such a manner that the seamstresses should receive their just reward for their labor

It is reported and from good authority, that it is from the abject poverty, and miserable condition that numerous females are reduced, by unprincipled Speculators upon their labor, that thousands of them are induced to get their living at the expense of their chastity

It would seem unnecessary for me to go further in detail on this horrid picture of human depravity, and show the various schemes and means which are resorted to, by crafty Speculators, that they may live at ease upon the toil and hard labor of their fellow beings, It is true as Burns says "Man's inhumanity to man, makes countless millions mourn" I say it appears unnecessary to go further in detail upon the subject of Speculation and its evil consequences upon the State of Society; We all know the selfish nature of Adams fallen race, and how prone he is to seek his own ease, interest & popularity at the expense of his brother man; My object by these remarks being merely to show my views of the nature and spirit of Speculation, and why it should find no place among the people of God; And I am fully convinced - that it is not only the duty of Believers as it respects their fellow men, but also their highest ~~and~~ best wisdom if they would avoid the final results it must produce, to stand entirely aloof from all these things, as being Antichristian in nature; and every way inconsistent with the true nature & principles of the gospel And therefore, at all times, and in all cases, be careful that we touch not, taste or handle, the unclean & corrupt thing - The whole system of Speculation belongs to Babelon and helps make up the sum of her Abominations, from whence we are called to come out and be separate lest we partake of her sins and receive of her plagues -

That there are any very extensive Speculation moving among Believers is not pretended, But that there is a strong and growing disposition leaning in that direction, and also for trade and traffic among the

among the world, in the minds of some, I think cannot be disputed. The Idols of some are, that there are many ways to get a living, much easier than tilling the soil, or making useful domestic articles for market. But I think as far as the thing has been proved Experience teaches us to the contrary; and that in the long run, an equal blessing has never attended the one which has the other; And that no substantial increase of temporal wealth has resulted from trade traffic or speculation, beyond the disposal of our own productions

And that most if not all the efforts made to gain temporal wealth, on the principle of speculation trade & traffic in articles not produced among ourselves, have on many accounts, proved worse than a failure. And instead of realizing the the object contemplated have resulted in more or less trouble, and may I not say, shame and reproach, and also great loss and spiritual demoralization, upon the Agents employed. These Agents in pursuance of the object (Money) have necessarily been much from home, and having their associations with an ungodly world, many through such means have lost their protection, who in all probability, would, had they been usefully employed at home, be now useful and honorable members of Society

And I think that upon examination, that among no class in the Society can there be so great a number who have made shipwreck of faith - brought trouble and reproach upon the cause, as among those who have been employed in undue trade and traffic

For one, I am far from believing that such efforts, and kinds of business, to obtain temporal wealth, as necessarily calls Brethren almost constantly from home, exposed to the darkening influences of the world, will eventually end in a blessing to the household of faith, either in things spiritual or temporal -

But as long as the people called Shakers; are obedient to the principles of the gospel - are industrious with their hands, in some useful employment - Prudent and economical in all things committed to their trust - seeing the thing of the world as not abusing them rigidly abstaining from all unnecessary and superfluous articles of food, clothing, Buildings Furniture &c -



I say while such are the governing principles by which they are led - I do not believe they will ever be under the necessity of resorting to such means for a living, as shall be hazarding their spiritual protection - <sup>the safety</sup> ~~the safety~~ of their faith, or doing to others of their fellow men as they would not wish to be done by.

There is perhaps, nothing that begets confidence in Believers among the better class of mankind, ~~the~~ more than finding them strictly honest and upright in their dealings with others - And nothing tends more to disservice our religious profession in their estimation than finding us artfull and crafty to obtain money and get the best of the bargain at the expense of others.

In respect to maintaining the character Believers ought to possess, There are some among us who pay too little regard - Such often boast of the good bargains they have made in trading for such and such articles; And how much more it is worth than they paid for it; Not seeming to reflect that no good <sup>bargain</sup> was ever made that violated the sacred instruction of our Saviour in doing to others as we would be done by. - "It is naught it is naught says the buyer but he afterwards boasts it," says Solomon, And again he remarked "As a nail sticketh between two stones, so doth sin between buying and selling."

I will here relate an anecdote told me by a man in New York before I ever saw a Shaker; and the impression that ~~that~~, and other accounts he gave of the people made upon my mind - The man for a while lived among Believers. And while there, he said some of the Brethren wanted timber for Cooper ware. They applied to one of their neighbors for a large pine tree which they calculated was well adapted for the purpose. He was willing to sell it; and in fixing the price they were to pay; Both parties agreed to make an estimation as near as they could, on the number of staves the tree would make, and the price of such staves were worth in the market, deducting of course their labor in cutting the tree, and splitting out the staves - On these terms the bargain was closed and the tree paid for, according to the estimation both parties had mutually agreed upon. After the Brethren had worked the tree into staves they found on counting them, that they exceeded in number considerable more than the estimation. They received the price of the surplus, and though

under no legal obligation they paid it to the man

I was told also of another circumstance - which shows how tenacious Believers were in those days to do the thing that was right and just between man & man

Some of the men in the Society being engaged in erecting a certain building wanted timber - They went to a man possessing it, and bought a number of trees - On returning home, they reported how cheap they had got their timber, and rather prided themselves in their good bargain, One of the Deacons of the family on hearing their report, felt it to be his duty to investigate the matter and see what it all meant, He accordingly went out and saw the timber - made a just estimate of its worth, and became satisfied that it was from the man's ignorance of its market value that they had obtained it at so low a price - He therefore prized the timber at what he judged was its true value, and sent the Brethren to pay the man the difference

Believers in those days by such a course of conduct and by practically addressing to the teaching of Christ of letting their light so shine among men - that others seeing their good works might glorify their Father in Heaven who thus preached the gospel, in truth and in Righteousness; and in establishing such a character among men, as I hope by trade, traffic, or Speculation from an inordinate love of money will ever be tarnished or become obsolete.

These anecdotes and many other statements made by this person whom I knew to be a man of veracity and every truth full in his other communications, served in my mind to form a barrier against receiving as facts those scandalous reports against Believers which through one or two sermons I heard preached - Thomas Brown Book had some so freely & extensively circulated - For it was unreasonable to my mind that a people so scrupulously honest and upright in all their transactions with their men, could be associated with, or practicing such gross immoralities as many reports charged upon them