But inasmuch as every workman is himself subject to the treatment of the husbandman (see John xv. 1, 2), and every man in the Kingdom of God is in some sense or other a worker on the rest, the distinction is not to be pressed—the parable ranges over both comparisons.

**vineyard]** not the Jewish church *only,* as Greswell, Parables, iv. 355 ff., maintains. The Jewish Church was God’s vineyard especially and typically ; *His Church in all ages* is His *true* vineyard, see John xv. 1.

**2.]** The *denarius a day* was the pay of a Roman soldier in Tiberius’ time, a few years before this parable was uttered. Polybius (but in illustrating the exceeding fertility and cheapness of the country) mentions that the charge for a day’s entertainment in the inns in Cisalpine Gaul was half an as, = 1/20th of the denarius. This we may therefore regard as liberal pay for the day’s work.

**3, 4]** {3} The *third hour,* at the equinox our 9 a.m., and in summer 8, was sometimes called *“the height of the market,”* — when the market was fullest.

“The market-place of the world is contrasted with the vineyard of the Kingdom of God: the greatest man of business in worldly things is a mere idle gazer, if he has not yet entered on the true work which alone is worth any thing or gains any reward.” Stier.

{4} No positive stipulation is made with these second, but they are to depend on the justice of the house-holder. They might expect 3/4ths of a denarius. From the same dialogue being implied at the sixth and ninth hour (*“he did likewise”*) the *“whatsoever is right”* is probably in each case the corresponding part of the denarius, at least *in their expectation;* so that *it cannot be said that no covenant was made.*

**8.]** By the Mosaic law (Deut. xxiv. 15) the wages of an hired servant were to be paid him *before night.* This was at the twelfth hour, or sunset: see ver.12. I do not think the **steward** must be pressed as having a spiritual meaning. If it has, it represents *Christ* (see Heb. iii. 6, and ch. xi. 27).

**beginning** is not merely expletive,