

## Feeding the Poor—At a Sacrifice

In the first centuries  
of Christianity  
the hungry were fed  
at a personal sacrifice,  
the naked were clothed

at a personal sacrifice,  
the homeless were sheltered  
at a personal sacrifice.  
And because the poor were fed,  
clothed and sheltered

at a personal sacrifice,  
the pagans used to say  
about the Christians  
**“See how they  
love each other.”**

## When Bankers Rule

Modern society has made  
the bank account  
the standard of values.  
When the bank account  
becomes the standard of  
values  
the banker has the power  
the technician has to  
supervise  
the making of profits.  
When the banker has the  
power  
the politician  
has to assure law and order  
in the profit-making system.  
When the banker has the  
power  
the clergyman is expected  
to bless the profit-making  
system  
or to join the unemployed.  
When the banker has the  
power  
the Sermon on the Mount  
is declared unpractical.  
When the banker has the  
power  
we have an acquisitive,  
not a functional society.



## Better and Better Off

The world would be better off  
If people tried to become better.  
And people would become better  
if they stopped trying to become  
better off.  
For when everybody tries to  
become better off  
nobody is better off.  
But when everybody tries to  
become better,  
everybody is better off.

Everybody would be rich  
if nobody tried to become richer.  
And nobody would become poor  
if everybody tried to be the  
poorest.  
And everybody would be what he  
ought to be  
if everybody tried to be  
what he wants the other fellow to  
be.

**Easy Essays**  
By Peter Maurin