244 To trade (*Negociari*)

Augustine, *De academicis questionibus*,[[1]](#endnote-1) says we are not the possessors of things in the world but the traders. According to that Luc. 19[:13]: “Trade till I come.” For heaven is the place of true possession. Wherefore Christ, John 2[:16], throwing out those selling from the temple he said, “Make not the house of my Father a house of traffic.” The Sichemites suggested to the sons of Jacob who had entered as shepherds that they trade in the land, Gen. 34[:10]. So, the devil suggests to the shepherds of the Church that they trade, but against this says the Apostle, [2] Tim. 2[:4]: “No man, being a soldier to God, entangles himself with secular businesses.” Traders bought and sold Joseph, Gen. 37[:36]. So other merchants in making alms buy and acquire Christ, but quickly afterwards by their lies and frauds they sell Christ.

1. Augustine, *Contra academicos* 1.1.1 (PL 32:905): iam tibi profecto iniecisset manus, suique iuris te esse proclamans, et in bonorum certissimorum possessionem traducens, ne prosperis quidem casibus servire permitteret. [↑](#endnote-ref-1)