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## THE 'CONDITION OF ENGLAND QUESTION.'

Your one salvation is, that you can discern with just insight, and follow with noble valour, what the law of the case before you is, what the appointment of the Maker in regard to it has been. — LATTER-DAY PAMPHLETS, p. 174, edited by THOMAS CARLYLE.

The case before us is, the duty of England to the English. The law of the case is, that England shall secure to every inhabitant of the empire the utmost possible comfort at the lowest possible cost—that is to say, the least possible demand on the personal liberty, and on the purse of each individual.

And, the appointment of the Maker in regard to it-may it not be

declared to be this?-

That the common-sense of England shall proceed forthwith, and henceforward, to avail itself of the intellectual and physical powers within its reach to that ordained end, pursuing the while the only possible method by which that end may be attained.

THE FIRST STEP OF THIS METHOD.

Fas est et ab hoste doceri. Let us not be unmindful of the two lessons which the language of our dear neighbours—the French—and which the despairing spite of England's arch-enemy, Bonaparte, have set before us in the words:-

Ce n'est que le premier pas qui voûte !' 'Nation de Boutiquiers.'

The principal evil which afflicts society is the enormous quantity of disgusting work which might be dispensed with if Society would set itself in proper order.\*

Menial service must be classed under the head of disgusting work. The command of universal beneficence (justice and mercy included) Do unto others as thou wouldst others should do unto thee-will not allow us to look calmly on while any individual, needlessly and wantonly (but under the flimsy pretence of mere inadvertency), is compelled to pass under the yoke of avoidable disgusting employment. No one willingly sees his own mother, or his own sister, his own father, or his own brother, undertake menial service; no one volunteers, himself, to undertake menial service.

This is THE LAW which points to the need for endeavours to reduce

the quantity of disgusting work throughout the world.

But there is also a very significant suggestion afforded to us (in order to strengthen our resolves in our wayward moods-in our fitful scramblings towards the direction in which we should progress) in the reaction resulting from our continual neglect of the great command. For 'the worm will turn when trod on '-it may not always be able to bite, or sting-seldom to bite or sting to death, but put your foot on the worm -keep your foot on the worm—the worm will still (how can we expect it to do less than) turn-and evermore continue to turn-until the oppression ends. It may be remarked here, not altogether inappropriately, that in earlier times, for centuries hitherto, it has been chiefly the socalled 'lower' classes, which have seemed to stand in need of protection from the oppression of the so-called 'upper' class. In the present time —however overbearing on 'labour' may, in some respects, be the action of 'capital'—it is difficult to determine which suffers most, the 'poor' man at the hand of the 'rich' man, or the 'master' at the hands of his 'servants.'

Many persons will probably assent to the assertion, that the actual condition of menial service, with regard to its relations in every class of life, is as bad for itself as for the rest of the world it is intolerable.

<sup>\*</sup> In attempting to arrange itself in the best possible manner, it is needful that society should bear constantly in mind, above and before all else, the principle involved in the following question:—

How may society set about ordering itself in such a manner, as to do the utmost possible good in improving the condition of all the indwellers of the continuous set in a doing as little injury as possible to printing interests?

earth—at the same time doing as little injury as possible to existing interests?

#### IN CHRISTENDOM-SERFDOM HAS BEEN ABOLISHED-

IN CHRISTENDOM—MENIAL-SERVICEDOM MUST BE MINIMISED. But the object of lessening the quantity of disgusting work required by the needs of society, cannot be attained, so long as people continue to dwell in isolated houses.

Hence it becomes needful to look forward to the time when, for the sake of attaining this object—the greater part of the human race dividing and uniting themselves into Mutual Aid Societies—the Units of General Society will dwell in extensive ranges of buildings (capable of containing 500, 1,000 or more souls), constructed on the most appropriate spot, or spots, respectively in each hundred, parish, or hamlet.

priate spot, or spots, respectively in each hundred, parish, or hamlet.

These Joint Stock Companies will be formed for the purpose of working or cultivating the earth in the best possible manner,\* and as that can only be on a great scale of farming in contradistinction to our actual system, where it is left to individuals on their own account, to farm more or less well, or ill, but any how whatever, almost always at the cost of an amount of care and trouble to themselves in ratio quite disproportioned to the ends attained: while, whether from inability, or from insouciance, insufficient attention (too frequently, no attention) is bestowed on consideration for the interests of their respective employés.

Manufacturing will go hand in hand with farming, in greater or less degree, according to the products accruing on the surface, or below the

surface of the ground in each locality.

In so far as it may be desirable, the business of commercial agency, and of commercial arbitration in general, in behalf of their shareholders, employés, and tenant-lodgers will be undertaken by these companies respectively—the companies providing house-room, and all the requisites (including all the luxuries) of life at cost price, to all the inmates.

The dwellings to be fire-proof, and, being warmed by hot water-pipes, with as few chimneys as possible. Separate houses, or separate sets of rooms, varying in number according to the requirements of large or small families, with every possible household accommodation on each floor, en suite—water, hot and cold, and gas, or other light 'laid on' wherever required.

The principal entrances to these houses, and sets of rooms, to be from the outside of a Space, inclosed, more or less completely, by the ranges of dwelling-houses; but each house and set of rooms to have a convenient means of communication opening into the interior of the said Space for the admission of provisions, cooked or other, or of whatever aid or service—on requisitions from the respective tenant-lodgers—might be furnished to them by the Society's Provision-Distributing Establishment situated in the centre of the said Space.

The intervening space round the central buildings (containing the general business-rooms; rooms of managers of the different departments, etc., and of their assistants; offices, kitchens, etc., and storerooms of all kinds) to be devoted to places of exercise or amusement, libraries,

conservatories, etc., and to be covered with glass roofing.

Within convenient distance from, and outside the ranges of dwellings, the farm buildings, the manufactories, the workshops, the warehouses, and warerooms, and whatever other buildings might be required, would be constructed, and places set apart for amusement, employment, exercise, and instruction of all kind, the means of occasional occupation (varied as much as possible according to the wish of each individual) alternative with the ordinary routine work of the factory, workshop, or farm, being thus presented to the employés and inmates of the institution.

As a Nuisance—Great Cities have long been denounced:—Of Great Cities the Doom has at last been pronounced!

COLONEL H. CLINTON.

<sup>\*</sup> With the view of rendering the general interests of the companies respectively secure, and of assisting the efforts of their (each their own) shareholders, employés, and tenant-lodgers, towards (each) their own well being.

### CONSUMPTION-

May it not be prevented— As Bronchitis, Diphtheria, Coughs, and 'Sorethroats,' are prevented-

By taking a timely spoonful of Cough Mixture?

Many diseases which originate, or which have their seat in the throat, and in the respiratory organs, will be prevented, or removed (or the sufferings arising from them will be greatly alleviated) by a medicine from which the undersigned and his friends have often received the greatest benefit.

The medicine in question is no new discovery, but its merits seem to have been, too long, sadly overlooked; it was prescribed many years since by an eminent Physician. The prescription, without its Doctor's-Latin Dress, is as follows:-

The measures are in fluid ounces.

five and a half ounces. Camphor Mixture ... ••• Spirit of Minderer ... one and a half ounce. ...

Sweet Spirit of Nitre ... half an ounce. • • •

a quarter of an ounce. Ipecacuanha Wine ... ... ... a quarter of an ounce. Syrup of Tolu... ... ...

These ingredients form a mixture which may be denominated a

THROAT AND CHEST ELIXIR, OR COUGH MIXTURE.

If people wish to protect the throat and chest from diseases of many kinds let them take one or two teaspoonfuls of this Elixir as often as any feeling of uneasiness in the throat occurs, and, as a safeguard to the throat and chest, during the night especially—let them take at least one teaspoonful of this Elixir the last thing at night.

The writer of this has no other object than to do good to his Fellow-Creatures by recommending to them a cheap, a safe, and often a very efficacious remedy.

He is unwilling to suppose that any 'Gentleman' belonging to the Medical 'Profession' would not be as anxious to prevent as to cure disease.

Bur—it is a sad reflection—when one considers—how large a number of persons might have been spared-how many hours, and days, and years of pain and sufferinghow many times premature death might have been prevented, had this wonderful safeguard, and alleviative the Throat Elixir-been at all generally known and timelily employed!

COLONEL HENRY CLINTON. 12th May, 1860.

### ASSOCIATED HOMES

### Vis unita fortior. Union is strength:

and there can be no enduring comfort without strength.

That which, for want of a better name, may be called the joint-stock system of living arrangements (described in the paper, entitled, The Condition of England Question, which was published in the Reasoner, in Nov., 1858), is the eventual necessity of the greater part of the human race.

If such must, as I believe it must, become the conviction of the best intellects of the age, why should we any longer defer the inquiry, how best, and soonest, this change from our present wretched, isolated, system of

society may be brought about?

The grand problem to be solved is, how, with the least possible injury to existing interests, the quantity of repulsive labour, and of discomfort in general, everywhere throughout the world, may, to the utmost possible degree, be minimised—i.e., how the quantity of comfort in the world may, to the utmost possible degree, be maximised.

Now-

THERE IS 'NO WAY FOR MEN TO BE'—MADE COMFORTABLE—'BUT WOMEN 'MUST BE HALF-WORKERS.'

Let Society secure for the Fair Half of Humankind the utmost possible relief from avoidable repulsive employment, and, then, the permanent comfort of all Society will, at once, be established on the most solid foundation.

The question—is it desirable to form these 'Associated Homes'?—is,

pre-eminently, the Lady's Question. For-

The providing of Dinner, whether for a large, or for a small, household, is the turning point, on which depends the question whether the life of the Lady of the House (in every house) shall be the life of a free woman, or whether it shall be the life of the first of drudges, at the best, in that house (in every house)?

Let us make arrangements for the supply to each private home in 'The Home Society,' of all things which may be needed; if it is so required, let the 'Soyer' of the establishment provide everything cooked in the best manner, at cost price, and forward it from the central place of supply; and, then, the main source of trouble, and anxiety, of the Household Lady, Serf of Serfs, would cease to flow for ever.

A far less number of servants (helps, assistants) would, in this case, be needed; and the reduction of the number of servants would enable people to pay the few still required at a better rate than now, when so large a number have to be paid from a fund quite inadequate to meet the demands

of justice in this matter.

Since the publication of the before-mentioned paper, little remained to be done (after a Society, consisting of a sufficient number of persons of, as much as possible, congenial dispositions, should have been formed), but that which would result from the combined action of a discreet materfamilias or two, and of an intelligent paterfamilias or two, in organising rules and arrangements for the proposed 'Home Society;' also of a shrewd land agent in selecting the best site; of a clever architect in planning, and of a competent contractor in constructing, the requisite buildings.

Mention may here be made of some of the advantages to individuals, and to families, attending the proposed system of Associated Homes, in comparison with the discomfort which is the lot of almost all individuals and families,

living on the present system of Isolated Homes.

On the one hand:—let us suppose, that of 300 families (1,500 persons), each family has £300 a year to live on. The greater part of these 300 families, living up to, if not beyond, their respective incomes, according to the present isolated system, find great difficulty in living; enjoy few comforts, if they succeed in living at all; and, at the end of ten years, may consider themselves quite fortunate in finding themselves where they were just ten years before.

On the other hand:—Let us suppose these 300 families forming them selves into a 'Home Society,' as before proposed, and throwing into a joint-stock fund whatever sums each family may find it convenient to advance,

by instalments, or on periodical calls, to the company.

For the sake of simplifying the calculation, the above figures are employed, but I am very far from wishing to appear to suggest the notion that the benefits of Association will be confined to any particular class, or to families possessing the income named.

300 families, at £300 a year each, have—

in one year, an aggregate income of £90,000! in ten years, an aggregate income of £900,000!

Can there be any room for doubt whether, within ten years (or whatever may be considered a reasonable time), all these 300 families might not find themselves secured, by means of *proper* economical arrangements, in the possession of permanent and comfortable homes for themselves and for their descendants?

Meanwhile, they would have been receiving from the beginning of the undertaking, a fair interest on the capital advanced, respectively, by each family (accordingly as it might have been convenient to each family to advance such capital), and a continually augmenting reserve fund would have been set apart to provide for future contingencies.

It seems unnecessary to advert farther to the innumerable advantages which cannot fail to result from such a system of living—namely, 'Union

with Liberty.'

The Society would engage in every kind of business which the interests

of the Society required it to undertake.

The Society, as far as might be advisable, would act as its own hotel-keeper, farmer, manufacturer, and commercial agent; as its own banker and assurer; doctor, schoolmaster, advocate, and arbitrator; in short, the Society, as far as possible, would act as the provider of all the safeguards, and comforts, and luxuries of life, at the least possible cost, to all its own members.

Moreover, after this manner, the irksomenesses of all the tyrannies under which we are, now, all, more or less, groaning, might be wonderfully minimised, indeed the yoke of many of these tyrannies might be (as they ought to be) speedily put off our necks altogether.

24th February, 1861.

# THE PROPER ARRANGEMENT OF SOCIETY.

THE point of view from which we must look on Society is this-

All of us, or some of our ancestors, at some time, or other, have been slaves—black, or white,—or have been compelled to undergo the yoke of repulsive employment of some kind or other.

No one of us would relish the idea of being reduced to the necessity of undertaking menial service, or any other, if possible, more repulsive employment, in order to obtain the means of living.

Therefore, obeying the universal Law—'Do unto others that which ye 'would that others should do unto you'—our Duty is clear, viz.:

To arrange Society in such a manner as to minimise the amount of domestic service, and of all other repulsive work—which, even under the best possible Societarian arrangements, may still be required by the absolute needs of Society—and in such a manner also as that such service, or work, may be rendered as little repulsive, and irksome, as possible to those who have to do it.

Now—these things (of the highest possible importance) can only then be secured for the benefit of the whole world, when 'Home Companies, such as I have, elsewhere, described, shall have been (wherever possible) established all over the surface of the Globe.

Suppose such Companies formed, and Land purchased, or taken on lease (with eventual right of purchase).

Each Company would occupy a district of from twenty to forty thousand acres.

The place for the manufacture of every kind of production likely to be required by, or to be profitable to, the Company would be situated near the centre of the said district; and, at convenient distances from the centre, and from each other, Five, or more, Home Company-Dwelling Places (such as I have described in the Paper headed 'The Condition of England Question,') would be, duly, distributed round the centre of the District.

The Population would be about 10,000 souls, nearly equally divided among the several Home Company-Dwelling Places.

The members of the Company would find employment, of every variety, in manufacture, and in agriculture, &c., within the District, in the service of the Company.

In return for work done, they would receive, from the Company, fair remuneration; while they would have the benefit of being supplied, by the

Company, with all the requisites, and luxuries, of life (according to the requirements, and means, of each member) at the lowest possible charge.

The members would also have the choice of all sorts of exercises, and harmless amusements, placed within their reach.

Tramways would convey manufacturers, and field laborers, to and from their places of occupation, daily; all returning, each evening, to their comfortable homes in their respective Home Company-Dwelling Places.

This arrangement would reverse the condition so long, vainly, hitherto, sought for: instead of the *impossible* 'Rus in Urbe' of the *Romans*—the English would have gained for themselves the quite practicable Urbs in Rure; and they would, at the same time, have arrived at that condition in which the greatest attainable degree of comfort might be secured for all.

I have been told that, if I could succeed in persuading people to establish one such 'Home Company,' others would soon be formed.

It is proposed that the first Company should be formed by a sufficient number of selected Heads of Families, of different classes, but consisting of persons, as much as possible, of congenial dispositions.

For example; there are some things which many of us agree in disliking:

Intemperance of every kind;

Cruel Sporting;

Horse Racing;

Betting;

Tobacco Smoking, &c.;

Dancing, and

Play-acting.

Let us begin by keeping such things at a distance from us; if we find that any of them are really essential to our comfort, hereafter, we can, then, have recourse to them.

It has been said that it would be difficult to find 'persons of a sufficiently high type of human nature, as it, at present, exists,' suited for enjoying the comforts of the above described 'Homes.'

This is very far from being my opinion.

On the contrary—I believe that there is a sufficient number of persons, thoroughly qualified to form, and to enjoy the advantages of, many such 'Home Companies.'

HENRY CLINTON.

Barkway, Herts,

2nd March, 1862.

Imorn unda value Cractica