

... on the true  
... of a Christian  
... Parliament  
... Declaration  
... in spirit  
... at the Quatre  
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than injudicious attempts to relieve it. The first & main object is  
to evoke the resources of the labouring classes themselves to their own  
aid. Labour, not almsgiving, must be their support; therefore you  
have most properly determined to begin with suffering as far as  
possible that latter mischievous source of the poor. It may be <sup>help</sup> <sup>play</sup>  
in the first instance to rely a good deal on charitable contributions,  
but they should be employed in finding <sup>out</sup> labour, not <sup>in</sup> gratuitous support  
of the labour thus furnished by charitable funds, should be of such  
a nature as rather to interfere with established trades or employments  
nor to yield such a return as should make the labourer turn to that  
in preference to the established modes of acquiring employment.

As certain returns to skill & capital invested in any employment,  
is necessary, even for the welfare of the hired labourer in that  
employment; whatever it may be. For the Master of a given set of  
labourers, would cease to employ his work-people & pay them  
wages at all, if he did not receive a sufficient remuneration  
for his time, his skill & his risk of money. Acting on this principle I  
was led to condemn, some years back, a manufactory of sacks which I found  
established in a very large Union Work-House. The articles were pointed  
out to me, their price was given, & the poor also in full employment  
were shown me, with considerable triumph. I enquired whether there  
was a ready sale for the articles, the answer was in the affirmative.  
There was I should have stated a Sacking Manufactory <sup>already & several years before</sup> in the town.  
I asked my informants whether they considered it just in the first instance,  
to rate a Master Manufactory for the means of competition that at a  
lower rate than he could <sup>possibly</sup> afford, for the Union House could afford to

Since its capital, since the Guardians had the power of lifting the  
Town for more than the first quota of rates was consumed, with the same  
-factious himself. And secondly whether it was expedient to do, since  
it was manifest that the whole of the Sacking Manufacture must be  
-fired in the end. Masters Labourers & all to the Union & more  
however it could only be carried on, ultimately, at a loss to the rate  
-payers & must degrade & impoverish the Operatives. My representatives were  
attended to as I found, & may add upon the testimony of some of the  
Guardians themselves, with the happiest efforts. In a country like this  
abounding in Capital, more perhaps than in means for the profitable  
investment of it. There is in supplying the necessary Labour, a great difficulty  
without interfering with established trades or employments: but a difficulty  
of this kind, less in other countries than this, may even here be met by  
care & search. There are many things, which it is desirable should  
be done, but which it is no man's business to do, nor when done to  
pay for, therefore tho' every one would enjoy the work when completed,  
none would contribute to <sup>carrying out</sup> it especially in their first instance. Such for  
example is drainage, in the low parts of a large Town, generally inhabited  
by the poor part of the population, the cleaning of the same, supplies of water  
to such parts both for nutriment & cleanliness. Foot-paths around a Town & improve-  
-ment of public roads, not beyond what is convenient or even ornamental,  
but beyond what public money raised by Taxation shall be available for.  
I mention these as samples of the kind of Labour on which the poor should  
be set and one advantage would be that the public would acquire a taste  
for such an improved state of things & would after a time not only bear  
an increased expenditure to obtain it but would even require those  
who had the charge of these matters to discharge them in their own

best manner. The Society would then have produced a real & permanent  
a melioration in Society. They would have improved the taste of the <sup>sickly</sup> ~~sick~~ party  
Given them greater comfort & a desire for more of the same kind & added to  
the fund devoted to the remuneration of Labour; & thus increased  
the means of the Labouring Classes. The same effects might be produced  
by a temperate & small & judicious advance to even private individuals,  
who might thus be both enabled & persuaded to make advances in their  
own employments, which without such aid they would not have the means or  
the spirit to make. But none should come for Labour to a public  
Society, like the one you speak of, who can avoid it. As Tax is absolute-  
ly necessary, to exclude all jobs are not compelled by want to apply  
to apply; & the very constitution of such a Society requires that the Tax should  
be self acting. No enquiries, no system of inspection, will guard effectually  
against improper persons creeping into employments unless the Society  
voluntarily deter mines or makes the Labourers in their employments  
stand in a worse situation than other Labourers, lower wages, more  
disagreeable employment if possible, & longer periods of labour, which  
be required by the Society ~~but~~ while no aid except to the sick or in some  
should be extended by them to any person except in exchange for  
Labour. It might also be desirable to give a large portion or even  
the whole of the wages in kind, instead of money, i.e. in shelter, clothing &  
food. There are however only suggestions thrown out for consideration  
on the spot. The principle attempted to be inculcated is, "always make  
the Labourers trust to themselves, as well for finding Labour which  
they are much more able to do, than their superiors, & for husbanding their means."

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if they fail in this whether from inability or recklessness they must  
pay the penalty in finding themselves in an inferior condition. This may  
seem hard, but depend on it, in the end they will be found most con-  
sistent with real benevolence. Again advancement should be the guiding  
principle of all such associations, as you speak of. Consequently Savings  
Banks, Loan Societies, Monte de Pieté &c &c may very well be looked for to super-  
sede State companies for providing labour &c &c. Two great causes  
of failure in such attempts as we are speaking of, are first a want of faith  
in reliance upon the principles of Human Nature which we must endeavour  
to act upon; in other words <sup>in</sup> those principles upon which all sound Economical  
advancement must be founded: & an attempt to limit their operative  
after they have taken root, & too great desire to meddle <sup>with them</sup>. The Gardener  
plants his seed, keeps his ground well tilled, watered & trenched,  
attempts to dig up his seed to see <sup>whether it is growing on</sup> how it grows: he gives it room to grow, and  
to get its full growth also, but does not attempt to keep it in a state  
constantly to want his care & support; if his crop be of a climbing kind he gives  
space & means for it to climb & rejoices in its luxuriance. — If I have  
said nothing of education it is not because I undervalue it, but be-  
cause I assume that to be the very grand work of all Social improve-  
ment; neither have I said anything <sup>providing for the claims of</sup> of Idleness ~~and~~ Impotence <sup>both</sup> ~~which~~  
from age <sup>infancy</sup> malformation or accident. There must be provided for  
by aid from the funds of the wealthy; but even here we must ever bear in  
mind that charity is necessary. We must not do too much for these <sup>from</sup> ~~or~~ <sup>classes</sup>  
too well. If we deprive even these <sup>helpless persons</sup> of the sympathy & aid of their own class  
we must recollect we cut the distillate off from a fund, in the aggregate

not only larger but more acceptable, & more easily applicable to the necessities  
of the indigent than any funds which the wealthy Class could supply. It is also  
the most natural & brings with it the greatest amount of sympathetic cultivation  
it unites neighbours most closely & most effectually cultivates the kindly  
& social feelings. We in England, are suffering dreadfully from that want  
the old poor law nearly rooted out the <sup>natural</sup> affections of kindred & country  
Fathers refused to assist their Children, Children their parents, Brothers  
Sisters ~~to~~ withheld aid from one another & that of the <sup>most ordinary</sup> ~~most~~  
kind, till they were paid for it, paid that is by an import or rate on  
Society. And let it be remembered that tho' a Law may do this still  
more quickly even voluntary Associations can effect a similar me-  
-chanical result. Custom is a kind of Law. The most liberal & bene-  
-volent person that ever lived need not fear that these limitations  
will hinder the field for his benevolence: after all he will find more  
to be done than he has either time or means to provide for: to which  
we may add, that even were this not the case, there is no real  
benevolence in creating distress for the sake of relieving it. - I find  
it needs any time to put some limitations to my observations which I might  
~~have~~ <sup>written</sup> ~~sent~~ <sup>what</sup> ~~sent~~ <sup>word extend to</sup> ~~sent~~ <sup>what I have said</sup>  
beyond your patience in reading them, ~~hope~~ <sup>they may</sup>  
prove useful; they are <sup>observations</sup> very late, & that perhaps is their greatest, their  
sole merit, if they possess any at all. As for Books it is difficult to  
recommend them the principles <sup>of poor management of social arrangements</sup> must be sought & deduced from standard  
works on Political Economy; such as that of Wages & the Law, that regulate  
them, the distribution of Wealth, & the Law of Population, Malthus &

As Smith especially. Our Parliamentary Reports from time to time & our various  
 subjects afford useful hints & not the less so from showing many blunders that have  
 been made from not keeping steadily in view sound principles. I think I have  
 supplied you with the Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the operation  
 of the Poor Law in England & extracts from the evidence <sup>and reports</sup>. These are particu-  
 larly valuable from the mass of facts they embody. You will find also  
 much that is valuable in Duchatel de la Charite Paris 1829.

Alexandre Mesnier Place de la Bourse. Vol 8<sup>o</sup> & Fevrier Des Claps  
 Dangers de la Population dans Les Grandes Villes de Paris Ballise  
 Librairie de l'Academie Royale de Medecine Rue de l'Ecole de Medecine 17 No.  
 1840 Vol 8<sup>o</sup> If you have not the Reports I shall be very happy in supplying  
 you with them but I think I must have sent them to you already thro'

Davies Chanery Lane. In answer to your enquiries respecting  
 I may state that at this moment there is a Bill before the House  
 of Lords which will no doubt be carried without difficulty, the main  
 law; for admitting them to all Municipal Offices. They will then be subject to one  
 or two disqualifications of a civil nature; they are not yet admitted to seats in the  
 Legislature: that however, there can be no doubt, will speedily follow upon the present  
 conception. More than one Jew has been Sheriff for a County. Sussex & Devonshire  
 have had Jew Sheriffs & London also. A friend of mine Mr Salomon is now waiting  
 in a Court of Law his right to sit as a London Alderman & he has been both Sheriff  
 for London & Sussex or Kent & for Kent County at this moment. He is an acting Proprietor  
 for the County of Kent & I believe for Sussex likewise. Property of all sorts, lands, as well  
 as other, they may hold or acquire, as freely as native Britons. The small remnant  
 of paper I have not fitted shall be over to Mrs Bishop at her request only adding my hopes  
 that what I have already said may prove useful & my earnest wish at any future time  
 to do anything in my power to fulfil your wishes on this subject

I am my dear Miss Birt, Yours most truly  
 G Grove Hill, Torbridge Wells, Kent. J Bishop

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 1845.

with a Mother's care & that in their Aunt's superintendance they do indeed  
 profess to be deprived of their own Mothers. The two Eldest a Girl & a Boy are in Oxford  
 with their father, who has been fortunate enough to have been engaged a most eligible  
 Governour for them: of whom they seem very fond as she is of them. I am  
 Mrs Bishop's writing: the loss of her husband, to whom as you know she was most warmly  
 & tenderly attached, has indeed weighed heavily on her & her fatigues & mental  
 suffering tho' happily they have not injured her health, have reduced her spirits to a very  
 low level & she is grown even for her, very thin.

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Mrs Bishop hopes you will excuse her writing & giving an account for what she has  
 not yet spirits to intrude, the heavy loss we have all sustained in the death of her husband  
 Poole. He died here the end of last Octbr, she came from Oxford to recover her  
 health after her last confinement & sunk finally from Consumption leaving  
 behind her four young Children. The last, a mere Infant, little more than  
 9 Months old, & the youngest but one, who this very day 18<sup>th</sup> March has completed her  
 2<sup>nd</sup> year. They are both Girls & live with us: indeed Children so young could ill dispense