

**THE WORKMAN: HIS  
FALSE FRIENDS AND  
HIS TRUE FRIENDS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649736041

The Workman: His False Friends and His True Friends by Jos. P. Thompson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOS. P. THOMPSON**

**THE WORKMAN: HIS  
FALSE FRIENDS AND  
HIS TRUE FRIENDS**



# THE WORKMAN:

HIS FALSE FRIENDS

AND

6-13

HIS TRUE FRIENDS.

REV. JOS. P. THOMPSON, D. D., LL. D.



*AMERICAN TRACT SOCIETY,*

150 NASSAU STREET, NEW YORK.

# CONTENTS.

## CHAPTER I.

**THE WORKMAN AND HIS WANTS.**—Paris on fire—Railroad riots in America—The Emperor of Germany shot—These all fruits of Communism—Dangers of Socialism—Necessity for work—The Workman's wants—Laws of trade—Human nature ..... 5

## CHAPTER II.

**LABOR.**—Labor defined—Of body and brain—Value in things—Not all value created by labor—Standard of value—Workman's price—Buyer's price—Compensation—Copartnership—Legislation—Communism—Equity ..... 16

## CHAPTER III.

**PROPERTY AND CAPITAL.**—How they differ—Capital necessary to labor—Its rights—Property, how to be used—Public interests—Right of investment—Duties of Property—State control ..... 27

## CHAPTER IV.

**LAND AND INHERITANCE.**—Bible Doctrine of Land; Abraham, Lot, Sarah, Jacob, Joseph—Modes of conveying land—Relations to the family and religion—Naboth's vineyard—Settlement of Cuzana—Laws of occupation and inheritance—Land occupation a necessity; land improvement a duty—Rights of helpship—Mistakes in America—Large and small farms—Population not the measure of prosperity—Reflections in the Harz mountains ..... 45

## CHAPTER V.

**LAW OF PRODUCTION AND TRADE.**—Meaning of laws—False assumptions of Socialists—Such laws in the nature of things—True basis of human existence—Rules and limits of production—Value regulated by demand—Effect of profit on production—Legislation hinders trade—What government may do ..... 63

## CHAPTER VI.

**MONEY.**—The universal equivalent; definition of; a commodity—Promises on paper not money—The Confederacy—The Continental currency—Gold the best basis—Paper must rest on gold—Barter—Commercial exchange—Why gold is the standard—Money an article of trade ..... 75

## CHAPTER VII.

**AIDS TO LABOR.**—Skill increases value—Worth of education—Agassiz and the blacksmith—Self help—Technical schools—Value of science—Machinery; its gains and its losses—Printing—Cotton mills ..... 88

## CHAPTER VIII.

**TRADES-UNIONS AND STRIKES.**—What constitutes wealth—Mr. A. T. Stewart—American and English notions—False views—Trades-Unions—Personal liberty—Rule of majorities—Freedom of action—Government ..... 99

## CHAPTER IX.

**LEGISLATION AND LABOR.**—European government; man the subject of the State—The American theory; the state for man—Governments cannot furnish home and outfit; can care for the health of the workmen; fix a working-day; regulate coinage; establish public works; repress monopolies; keep down taxation; regulate immigration ..... 111

revised 25 Mar 27 JB  
03-22-27 d W B

## CONTENTS.

### CHAPTER X.

**IMMIGRATION.**—Immigration of the Chinese—The President's veto—A question of labor, not of race—Immigration should be left to natural laws—History of immigration—Dangers—Paupers and criminals—Cheap labor and high wages—Moral side of the question—Nation must be homogeneous—Aims of early settlers—Immigrant of to-day ..... 125

### CHAPTER XI.

**SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM.**—Theory stated—Natural laws of society—Reforms may be effected—Attempts at force put down—Difference between Socialism and Communism—The Golden Age—Logical issue of Communism—Social platform of Gotha—American slavery—Creed of the Socialist—What Socialism demands—"Social inequality"—Fallacy of the theory—Testimony of a merchant—Personal characteristics—Social democracy of Germany—Productive associations—Results ..... 139

### CHAPTER XII.

**SOCIALISM AND COMMUNISM IN HISTORY.**—Socialism not the primitive and normal condition of mankind—Communities of Pacific Islands—"Joint family" in India—"Village communities"—Testimony of Prof. Jolly and J. D. Mayne—Agrarian laws of Rome—The Hebrews and early Christians—Modern communities ..... 161

### CHAPTER XIII.

**SOCIALISM, ECONOMICALLY AND ETHICALLY.**—The Commune in politics differs from Communism in society—Socialism hostile to a spirit of enterprise; makes a man a tool—Proudhon—What Christianity proposes—Dr. Nordhoff's History of Communist Societies ..... 180

### CHAPTER XIV.

**ALL FOR EACH, AND EACH FOR ALL.**—Wants of the workman real and imperative—Christianity meets these—What government can do—Voluntary principle—Coöperation in England—Coöperative stores—Workmen must study the system—Principles—Results in London ..... 190

### CHAPTER XV.

**EVERY MAN FOR HIMSELF.**—Self-love an instinct—The Golden Rule—A coöperative society—The workman must be industrious; frugal; must begin right—Example—Mining districts of Pennsylvania—Savings-banks of England—Recreations—Laws of family life—A religious habit—The love of God the highest inspiration ..... 202

### CHAPTER XVI.

**CHRISTIANITY AND SOCIETY.**—The Sermon on the Mount—Christ's own life—What he taught about property—Socialism would annihilate Christianity—Duties of the rich—Changes in New York—Improved dwellings—What must be done ..... 221

### CHAPTER XVII.

**THE FUTURE OF THE WORKMAN IN AMERICA.**—Hard times not peculiar to our times—Macaulay's picture of England—Progress the tendency of modern society—Liberty already secured—Free government flexible and strong—Wise use of liberty—Liberty, not legislation, what labor needs—Workman must have fair play—Justice to the honest poor—Paupers and tramps—Luxury a relative term—Duke of Connaught's marriage—Improvement of condition is certain—What must be done—Health and morals—Spirit of brotherhood indispensable—The Golden Rule ..... 244

# THE WORKMAN.

---

## CHAPTER I.

### THE WORKMAN AND HIS WANTS.

IN May, 1871, the world was startled by the report that Paris was in flames. The fire was not kindled by the shells of the German artillery, for the city had capitulated and the war was over. It was neither accident, nor private malice, nor the recklessness and confusion consequent upon war, that caused this great disaster. The public buildings of Paris, her palaces, museums, theatres, halls of legislation and of justice, were set on fire by an organized band of her own citizens, chiefly workmen, who had saturated the buildings with petroleum in order to make their destruction sure. These incendiaries were not a mob, nor simply a conspiracy; they took the place and the functions of a government. During the terrible days of the



## 6 THE WORKMAN AND HIS WANTS.

siege, a common danger held the citizens of Paris together under such forms of law and order as were dictated by necessity. But with the capitulation of the city the very semblance of authority seemed to vanish, and for weeks anarchy, dealing fire and slaughter, was the only power which Paris knew. This power took the name of the *Commune*. Its purpose was to destroy every vestige, work, and monument of former governments, to efface all distinctions of property and of society, and to set up in France a system of local or communal administration based upon the equal distribution of property, and the recognition of Labor as having the first claim upon the thought and care of civil government. The work of destruction was not simply an act of revenge, nor of warning; it was to prepare the foundations for a socialistic community, and was a type of the spirit of Communism toward all private interests and all vested rights. A measure so desperate shows how deep was the sense of wrong in the workmen who took part in it; a measure so wicked and so cowardly shows how false and blind was the notion by which those workmen were misled. However great their wrongs, the remedy was a still greater wrong.

In the summer of 1877 the world was again

startled by the news that the great lines of railway in the United States had been seized by the workmen employed upon them, that rails had been torn up, station-houses destroyed, locomotives disabled, and all traffic brought to a stand. After an immense loss to the community through the interruption of trade and travel, and by the damages consequent upon the wanton destruction of railroad property, this gigantic conspiracy of Labor against property and law was put down by military power. I call it a conspiracy; for this was not simply a strike by a class of workmen for higher wages in their department, nor a sudden outbreak of violence under a sense of injustice; it was an organized demonstration of laboring men against corporations and capital, and against the community which creates corporations and protects capital by its laws. The attack on the railroads in the United States was prompted by the same motive which actuated the Commune in setting fire to Paris—to assert for workmen the right of control in society and in the state; and the methods by which that right was asserted were the same—destruction and terror.

Still once more, on the 11th of May, 1878, the world was startled by an attempt to assassinate the Emperor of Germany; and the repetition of that

## 8 THE WORKMAN AND HIS WANTS.

attempt on the 3d of June—which came so near being fatal—produced, not alone in Germany, but in many other countries, a painful sense of uneasiness at some new peril to society. For both these assassins were Socialists; and while it would not be just to charge their crime upon the body which acts and votes under this name, yet Hödel and Nobiling attempted to carry out the doctrine of the Socialists, that the interests of workmen demand the overthrow of all existing forms of law and order in human society. The burning of public buildings in Paris, the destruction of railroads in America, the shooting at the Emperor of Germany, were all the deeds of men who professed to have in view the deliverance of workmen from want, and the reorganization of society for the equal benefit of all its members. The want may be real, the aim may be good, but surely every workman who has not lost his moral sense and his common sense together, will be shocked at the idea that his want is to be relieved, his welfare to be secured, by means of arson, robbery, and murder. *Something* must be wrong in a system or a theory which seeks its ends, or makes them known, by such methods.

For this is not a case of political revolution, in which the people rise to throw off the yoke of a