

**OUR LABOURING CLASSES: THEIR  
INTELLECTUAL, MORAL, AND  
SOCIAL CONDITION CONSIDERED:  
WITH SUGGESTIONS FOR THEIR  
IMPROVEMENT**

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Our Labouring Classes: Their Intellectual, Moral, and Social Condition Considered: With Suggestions for Their Improvement by Samuel Couling

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**SAMUEL COULING**

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"While deaf to the complaints of the poor, we have beheld ignorance, wretchedness, and barbarity multiply at home without the slightest regard."—ROBERT HALL.

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TO THE  
RIGHT HON. LORD ASHLEY, M.P.

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MY LORD,

No one has shown a more disinterested and earnest desire to ameliorate the condition of the Labouring Classes, than your Lordship. Your time, your energies, and not a small portion of your wealth, have been devoted to their cause. To your Lordship, therefore, as the "Working Man's Friend," this small work, written with the view of promoting their highest and best interests, is dedicated,

By your Lordship's

Obliged and humble Servant,

THE AUTHOR.

8, NORWICH COURT,  
FETTER LANE.

MARCH, 1851.



## P R E F A C E.

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FOR the publication of the following work, as well as the sentiments it contains, the author is alone responsible. The persuasive partiality of friends cannot be pleaded as a reason why the work is ushered into existence; nor does the author think such a plea either sufficient or necessary at any time. The work owes its origin to an advertisement which appeared in several newspapers about twelve months ago, offering a prize of fifty pounds for the best essay on the "*Social, Intellectual, and Moral Condition of the Working Classes.*" The author being himself a working man, and having, in one way or another, been identified with the working classes for many years, became a competitor for the prize. Though the prize was awarded to



another essay, yet the writer of the following having seen that the Adjudicators were of opinion that the publication of some of the unsuccessful essays "would be opportune and useful," he determined to submit his work to the public. This, however, he was unable to do, until he had obtained subscribers enough to defray the necessary expenses. To this is to be attributed the great delay in the publication of the work, which has, however, in the meantime, been entirely re-written, and much new matter inserted.

To those noblemen and gentlemen who have so kindly subscribed to this humble attempt to do good, the author tenders his sincere thanks.

S. C.

*March, 1851.*

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