

**AN OUTLINE OF THE  
SYSTEM OF EDUCATION  
AT NEW LANARK**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649450275

An Outline of the System of Education at New Lanark by Robert Dale Owen

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)

**ROBERT DALE OWEN**

**AN OUTLINE OF THE  
SYSTEM OF EDUCATION  
AT NEW LANARK**



*Recd. Sept. 7. 1831.*

AN OUTLINE  
OF  
THE SYSTEM  
OF  
EDUCATION.  
AT  
NEW LANARK.

---

By ROBERT DALE OWEN.

---

GLASGOW:

Printed at the University Press,

FOR WARDLAW & CUNNINGHAME, GLASGOW;

BELL & BRADFUTE, EDINBURGH; AND

LONGMAN, HURST, REES, ORME, BROWN, & GREEN,

LONDON.

---

1824.

## DEDICATION.

---

To ROBERT OWEN, Esq.

I DEDICATE this my first production to you, my dear Father, because I trace the formation of a great part of my own character, and the origin of a great part of my own feelings and sentiments to yourself.

In teaching me to think, you led me to examine principles, intimately connected with the best interests of mankind; and I feel that I have derived both pleasure and profit from the examination.

I have seen these principles partially applied to practice, and have witnessed the many beneficial effects which were produced. I have seen their application counteracted by many opposing circumstances, whose influence in rendering the experiment incomplete, had been predicted and explained by the principles themselves.

And it gives me pleasure to know that you are about to commence a more perfect experiment, where practice may uniformly accord with principle; because I believe this to be necessary to prove to the world, that your principles are indeed founded in fact and in true religion.

But its success will scarcely create in my own mind a stronger conviction than I already entertain, of the certainty and facility, with which poverty and vice and misery may be gradually removed from the world.

R. D. OWEN.

## INTRODUCTION.

---

THE system of education which has been introduced at New Lanark, differs essentially from any that has been adopted in a similar institution in the United Kingdom, or, probably, in any other part of the world.

Some particulars regarding it, may, therefore, prove interesting, as exhibiting the results produced on the young mind, by combinations, many of them new, and almost all modified by the general principles on which the system is founded.

It may be necessary to premise, that, the experiment which has been here instituted for the purpose of ascertaining the capabilities of the human mind, at a very early period of life, cannot, by any means, be considered as a full and complete, but, on



the contrary, as merely a partial and imperfect one ; and the results thence obtained, however satisfactory, not as those which a system of training, rational and consistent throughout, may be expected to produce, but only as a proof—an encouraging one, it is presumed—of what may be effected even by a distant approximation to it, under the counteraction of numerous prejudices and retarding causes.

The difficulties and disadvantages, incidental to an experiment of this nature, will be most correctly estimated by those, who may have had an opportunity of witnessing the introduction of any new system, however beneficial ; and the pertinacity with which old established habits and ideas continue to hold out against apparently self-evident improvements.

Such individuals will give to the following considerations their due weight :

That, as the children lodge with their parents, and remain in school during five hours only, each day, the counteracting influence of an association with persons who have not received a similar education, must

be very great, particularly as those persons, whether parents, relations, or elder companions, are such as, from their age and experience, the children generally look up to with respect, and whose habits and manners they are but too apt to adopt implicitly as a model for their own.

That the difficulty was very great in procuring teachers, who, to the requisite fund of knowledge, general and particular, should unite all the various qualifications of habits, and of temper, so essential in a teacher of youth; unaccompanied too with any pedantry, which might prevent him from regarding his pupils in the light of younger friends, or conversing familiarly with them, and entering into their ideas, or even sometimes into their little projects and amusements, or which might disincline him to be himself, when necessary, instructed and directed.

That, as the parents in general avail themselves of the permission which is granted them, to send their children into the manufactory at ten years of age, the education of these children, being thus broken off at the most interesting and important period, ge-

nerally remains incomplete ; for, although the schools are open in the evening for the instruction of those older children who are employed in the works, yet many do not attend regularly, and it is found that those who do, cannot, after ten hours and a half of labour, apply in the same manner, or derive, by any means, the same benefit from that instruction, as the day scholars.

That many of the children, previously to their admission into the schools, had been permitted to acquire bad habits and improper dispositions, an acquisition which is frequently made, to a great extent, before the little creatures have reached the age of two years, and which most parents, under existing circumstances, have neither the knowledge, nor the means, to prevent. And lastly,

That several of the arrangements, necessary to the completion of the system, are yet only in progress, and that many more remain to be introduced.

NEW LANARK, }  
Oct. 1823. }