

THE REPROOF OF BRUTUS

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The Reproof of Brutus by John Minter Morgan

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JOHN MINTER MORGAN

**THE REPROOF OF
BRUTUS**



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REPROOF OF BRUTUS.

HOMINEM PAGINA NOSTRA SAPIT.

John Hunter Alago

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PREFACE.

INTENDING to compose a few lines to prefix to a work * preparing for publication, I found myself so far led on by the subject, that it proved too long for my original intention. I therefore resolved to extend it, and to publish it in a separate form.

I could not but feel gratified by the commendations bestowed upon my former Essay, † as it convinced me, that the attempt to give some attraction to an unpopular but most interesting and highly important subject

* "Hamden in the Nineteenth Century, or Colloquies on the Errors and Improvement of Society."

† "The Revolt of the Bees."

had not altogether failed of success. Those who honored that performance with their notice may, by this time, have discovered reasons to regret their very prematurely passing judgment upon the cause it advocated. The absolute necessity for adopting the measures therein recommended, is now become imperative, and any further delay must be fraught with the most serious and alarming consequences.

The late numbers of the *Quarterly Review* have contained articles giving a faithful and striking description of the miserable condition of the peasantry, and of the working classes in general. At length the true cause of their distress is recognised, and the remedies proposed are of course more applicable to the nature and urgency of the case. As yet the writers have not discovered, that the difficulties which press on all the other classes of society have their origin in the same source; and that when those are located who are at present destitute, scientific power* will still continue

* Besides the articles on the employment of Machinery alluded to in the text, the following remarks upon Absentees appear in the January number of the *Quarterly Review* :—

to drive others out of employment, to reduce to a minimum the wages of those who remain, and to render a profitable application of capital more and more difficult.

Small is the number of those who now have any confidence in those petty expedients, originating in mis-

“The conduct of those who go for pleasure, and they are in reality by far the largest portion of the whole, appears to us to deserve the severest reprobation. Many of them abandon the most important duties, which, as land-owners, magistrates, heads of families, or members of society, they can be called on to perform; and most of them, instead of endeavouring to copy only the useful and elegant accomplishments of the people among whom they sojourned, have fallen into an imitation of other qualifications, of more easy, but much less honorable acquisition.”

Again:—“If they had thought fit to transfer themselves and their fortunes altogether to another land, they had a perfect right to do so; but while they continue to possess land or goods here, which have been secured at an enormous cost, it certainly seems unreasonable that they should be permitted to withdraw themselves from those burdens by which that security has been purchased. The number of English settled in the Netherlands, France, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy, is supposed to exceed one hundred thousand, drawing from the country not less than five millions annually—a sum so large, that if, instead of being scattered among strangers, it were spent in the deserted halls and mansions of these islands, it would materially alleviate the distress with which we have been struggling.”

taken opinions as to the actual cause of the accumulating disorders of society.

However financial operations, a change of currency, and other political regulations may in a small degree occasion a temporary aggravation of the evil, they are totally inadequate to account for that general commercial distress which is felt not only throughout this country, but extends over Europe, India, and the two Americas.

In contemplating the history of our species, there is no fact more striking than this:—that in every period of extraordinary difficulty has arisen some individual whose elevation of mind, towering far above his contemporaries, has discovered the source of their miseries, and, sustained by the energies of his genius, conducted them into untravelled paths of improvement.

But in these our days a new class has sprung up, who, although more deeply imbued than others with the errors of the age in which they live, have complimented each other into a belief that *they* are the chosen ones of Israel.

Ignorant of human nature, and of the first principles