

**REPORT OF THE MEETINGS
OF THE CONGRESS OF THE
ADVANCED MINDS OF THE
WORLD**

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Report of the Meetings of the Congress of the Advanced Minds of the World by Robert Owen

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ROBERT OWEN

**REPORT OF THE MEETINGS
OF THE CONGRESS OF THE
ADVANCED MINDS OF THE
WORLD**

R E P O R T
OF THE
MEETINGS OF THE CONGRESS
OF THE
ADVANCED MINDS OF THE WORLD,
CONVENED BY
ROBERT OWEN,
HELD IN ST. MARTIN'S HALL, LONG ACRE,
AND IN
THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION,
JOHN STREET, FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON,
FROM THE 12TH TO THE 25TH OF MAY, 1837,

To consider the best peaceable methods and means for changing the present most ignorant, false, unjust, cruel, and evil system of human society, and for introducing the enlightened, true, just, merciful, and good system of society, for forming men's character, producing wealth, and governing the human races.

" The Character of man is formed for him, and not by him."

SECOND EDITION.

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1857.

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R E P O R T
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS
OF THE
ADVANCED MINDS OF THE WORLD,
FROM
THE 12TH TO THE 25TH OF MAY, 1857.

R E P O R T
OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS
OF
ADVANCED MINDS OF THE WORLD,
FROM THE 12TH TO THE 25TH OF MAY.

PREFACE.

I CALLED this Congress to prepare the governments and people of all nations for the greatest change which has ever been made in the history of the human race ; to change falsehood for truth,—ignorance for knowledge,—poverty for wealth,—division for union,—ill-will, anger, jealousy, hatred, and all repulsive feelings, for charity, kindness, love, and all attractive feelings,—in other words, to change evil for good, suffering for pleasure, and misery for happiness, over the world.

In fact, to change a system for governing society, of continued inconsistency, contradiction, and counteraction, for one of never-ceasing consistency and perfect harmony, in spirit, principle, and practice. In short (to change a pandemonium for an earthly paradise.)

But to effect this great and glorious change for the human race, it is absolutely necessary that all the laws of men should be now superseded, by the All-good, all-wise, all-merciful, and all-efficient laws of God ; the laws of men being the creators of all vice, crime, repulsive feelings, and physical and mental sufferings of all of human-kind.

And also to terminate the reign of superstition upon earth, now called the religions of one name or another, for the universal religion of Truth or of Christianity, which consists alone in applying the spirit of love and charity for all men to practice in every action of their lives, irrespective of all physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and practical differences, so as to prove by our conduct that we love our neighbours as ourselves. And this is to be the **PRACTICAL PUBLIC RELIGION** of mankind, leaving all free to think and express any additional **PRIVATE** or **PERSONAL** thoughts respecting the Great Creating Power of the Universe, or what they may call their sectarian religion, or to have no religion if they cannot comprehend or feel the all-importance of acting to their fellow men in ever consistent accordance with the pure spirit of universal love and charity.

For by the laws of nature all minds should be perfectly free to express their convictions, without hindrance from any of their fellow men, singly or united.

And lastly to prepare an undeveloped, and while undeveloped, unbelieving generation in the new Spiritual Manifestations, to try these spirits, and to listen to the instructions of those spirits who when tried prove themselves to be truthful and superior.

ROBERT OWEN.

1st of June, 1857.

REPORT OF THE MEETINGS AND ENTIRE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONGRESS OF THE ADVANCED MINDS OF THE WORLD, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN ST. MARTIN'S HALL, LONG ACRE, AND IN THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION, JOHN STREET, FITZROY SQUARE, LONDON, FROM THE 12TH TO THE 25TH OF MAY, 1857, CALLED BY ROBERT OWEN TO CONSIDER THE BEST POSSIBLE METHODS AND PEACEABLE MEANS FOR GRADUALLY CHANGING THE PRESENT MOST IGNORANT, FALSE, UNJUST, CRUEL, AND EVIL SYSTEM OF HUMAN SOCIETY, FOR THE ENLIGHTENED, TRUE, JUST, MERCIFUL, AND GOOD SYSTEM, EXPLAINED AND ADVOCATED BY MR. OWEN, FOR FORMING AND DEVELOPING MEN'S PHYSICAL, INTELLECTUAL, MORAL, AND SPIRITUAL CHARACTER, FOR PRODUCING, DISTRIBUTING, AND ENJOYING ALL DESIRABLE WEALTH, AND FOR PLACING, EMPLOYING, AND GOVERNING THE HUMAN RACES IN PERFECT HARMONY WITH THE DIVINE UNCHANGEABLE LAWS OF HUMAN NATURE AND THE UNIVERSE.

First Meeting, May 12th, in St. Martin's Hall.

On this day, at noon, the *Conductors of the Periodical Press, and the Popular Writers* of the civilised world met, previous to the commencement of the Congress, in order to have explained to them by the venerable Reformer the important objects for which they were invited to attend, when the following address was clearly and distinctly read by Mr. Daniel Cotter, and fully explained by Mr. Owen.

ADDRESS OF ROBERT OWEN TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PERIODICAL PRESS AND TO POPULAR WRITERS, ATTENDING, AT HIS REQUEST, A MEETING IN ST. MARTIN'S HALL, LONG ACRE, LONDON, ON THE 12TH OF MAY, 1857.

GENTLEMEN,—

I have requested your presence here at this time, to explain to you the result of the experience acquired through a long life devoted to the investigation of the causes of human evils and the permanent remedy for them.

Among the causes of great good and evil, the Press in all countries stands vividly prominent. The causes of its good and its evil are familiar to me, as they must be to all who reflect upon the subject. But, as the past is irrevocable, our time will be best occupied in attending to the future, and especially to the present.

United, you wield a power beyond the means of calculation, to immediately benefit the population of the world, and to hasten that period when all shall be well instructed in the most useful knowledge; shall have their characters (physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual, and practical,) well-formed for them from birth; shall have the most valuable wealth abundantly created and distributed most advantageously for all; when the human race shall be, by the attractive qualities given to each, united as brothers and sisters of one good and enlightened family; and when all shall enjoy a high degree of substantial happiness, by all doing at all times the will of the Great Creating Power of the Universe, by acting in accordance with the unchanging laws given from the beginning to humanity.

You, gentlemen, are now called upon to make yourselves well versed in the knowledge of the principles