

**BRITISH SLAVERY, AN APPEAL TO
THE WOMEN OF ENGLAND
ALSO, THE DUTY OF ABOLISHING
THE LATE HOUR SYSTEM: AND
MAXIMS FOR EMPLOYEES**

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British slavery, an appeal to the women of England also, the duty of abolishing the late hour system: and maxims for employees by Thomas Wallace

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THOMAS WALLACE

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THE LATE HOUR SYSTEM: AND
MAXIMS FOR EMPLOYEES**

THIS LITTLE WORK IS RESPECTFULLY
Dedicated to
R. D. GRAINGER, ESQ., M.D., F.R.S.,
THE LATE
HONORARY AND INDEFATIGABLE
SECRETARY OF THE
METROPOLITAN DRESSMAKERS' AND MILLINERS' SOCIETY,
AND THE
ENLIGHTENED AND BENEVOLENT SUPPORTER
OF EVERY PLAN FOR
THE MELIORATION OF THE CONDITION
OF HUMANITY,
BY HIS
SINCERE AND GRATEFUL FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.

P R E F A C E.

THE Author of these Essays has only one desire, that they may be rendered *useful*. He rejoices to learn, that the Dressmakers' and Milliners' Advocate has been warmly welcomed, and that its appeals have not been in vain in certain quarters.

He has merely the happiness of his fellow-creatures at heart, in issuing these unpretending, but sincere and earnest, appeals.

Bridport, 1850.

BRITISH SLAVERY.

THE attention of the public in the metropolis, and, indeed, in every part of the empire, has recently been directed, and directed most humanely, and effectually, to a most interesting and important class of the community, the dressmakers and milliners of our country, whose health, interests, moral and religious welfare, have been, for a long series of years, most cruelly neglected.

It awakens our astonishment, that the benevolent and christian inhabitants of this kingdom have not been aroused to a consideration, a profound and serious considera-

tion, of this great question, until the present period, after so much mischief has been occasioned, and such a train of accumulated and fearful evils has been entailed.

When the multitudes of young females are contemplated, who have been engaged in dressmaking and millinery occupations, from generation to generation, and from century to century; and when the appalling miseries which they have quietly endured, until they successively dropped into the grave, are soberly regarded, it is surprising that general attention was not directed to their case, that public sympathy was not awakened in their favour, that the voice of a nation's indignation was not heard pleading loudly on their behalf, and that simultaneous and determined efforts were not made for the alleviation of their condition, and for their deliverance from such degrading and ruinous enthrallment, as that in which they were so unfeelingly held.

It is, however, the characteristic of human nature, that "all seek their own." There is

not that inquiry into the condition of others—that sympathy with the trials of others—that concern for the happiness of others—and that exertion for the intellectual and moral elevation of others—which are so beautiful in themselves, and which should be prominently exhibited.

The voice of those occupying comparatively humble stations is unheard by the generality, or, if it does awaken, occasionally, some degree of attention, that attention is not so riveted as to inspire much interest, and to induce energetic and combined effort, in order that loud remonstrance may be expressed, and that a redress of grievances may be secured.

Besides, it is well known that the spirit of trade is very grasping, selfish, and hard. It is always crying, "Give! Give!" Its demands, especially, at the present period, are rapacious and insatiable. It allows scarcely any time for domestic quiet and comfort—for early intellectual and moral training—for the enjoyment of daily and