HOW TO WIN OUR WORKERS, A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE LEEDS SEWING SCHOOL FOR FACTORY GIRLS

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How to Win Our Workers, a Short Account of the Leeds Sewing School for Factory Girls by Mary A. Hyde

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MARY A. HYDE

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Trieste

HOW TO WIN OUR WORKERS.

A SHORT ACCOUNT

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THE LEEDS SEWING SCHOOL FOR FACTORY GIRLS.

BY MRS. HYDE.

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DEDICATED, BY PERMISSION, TO THE EARL OF CARLISLE.

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""But what is to be done with our manufacturing population, with our agricultural, with our over increasing population? cry many. Aye, what? Many things can be done with them, a hundred things, and a thousand things, had we once got a soul, and begun to try."-CARLYLE.

Cambridge :

MACMILLAN AND CO. AND 23, HENRIETTA STREET, COVENT GARDEN,

London. 232.9.264

THE RIGHT HON.

THE EARL OF CARLISLE.

MY LORD,

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I WAS encouraged to solicit your Lordship's permission to dedicate these pages to you, by the conviction that no one has done more to promote sympathy between different classes than your Lordship. No one more entirely possesses the talents, manners, and disposition requisite to soften and conciliate mankind (which a well-known writer affirmed to have been the special mission of "the Howards").

TO

DEDICATION.

and no one has had more extensive opportunities of manifesting those high qualities.

That your Lordship may long live to diffuse a genial influence around you, and to advance the cause of education and charity, is the sincere prayer of

Your Lordship's

Obliged and faithful Servant,

-

MARY A. HYDE.

EAST DEBEHAM, March, 1862.

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A SHORT ACCOUNT

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THE LEEDS SEWING SCHOOL.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY.

On the 13th of March, 1854, the late Mr. Justice Talfourd, in charging the Grand Jury at Stafford Assizes, made use of the following words :---

"Separation between class and class is the great curse of British society; for this, we are all, more or less, in our respective spheres, in some degree responsible; and this is more complete in the manufacturing than in the agricultural districts, where the resident gentry are enabled to shed around them the blessings resulting from the exercise of benevolence, and the influence and example of active kindness.

"I am afraid we all of us keep too much

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aloof from those beneath us, whom we thus encourage to look upon us with suspicion and dislike. Even to our servants, we think, perhaps, we fulfil our duty when we perform our contract with them, when we pay them their wages, and treat them with the civility consistent with our habits and feelings, when we curb our tempers and use no violent expressions towards them. But how painful is the thought that there are men and women, growing up around us, ministering to our comforts and necessities, continually inmates of our dwellings, with whose affections and nature we are as much unacquainted as if they were the inhabitants of some other sphere. This feeling. arising from that kind of reserve peculiar to the English character, does, I think, greatly tend to prevent that mingling of class with class, that reciprocation of kind words and gentle affections, gracious admonitions and kind inquiries, which often, more than any book-education, tend to the culture of the affections of the heart. and the refinement and elevation of the character of those to whom they are addressed. And, if I were to be asked what is the great want of English society, I would say in one word, SYMPATHY."