

**AN INQUIRY INTO THE ABUSES
OF THE CHARTERED SCHOOLS IN
IRELAND: WITH REMARKS UPON
THE EDUCATION OF THE LOWER
CLASSES IN THAT COUNTRY**

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An Inquiry into the Abuses of the Chartered Schools in Ireland: With Remarks upon the Education of the Lower Classes in That Country by Robert Steven

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ROBERT STEVEN

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DEDICATION.

To the Honourable the SELECT COMMITTEE of the HOUSE of COMMONS, on the Education of the lower Orders of the Metropolis.

MY LORDS AND GENTLEMEN,

I KNOW not to whom I can, with so much propriety, dedicate the following pages on the state of Education in Ireland, as to you, who have so meritoriously exerted yourselves, during the last Session of Parliament, in the investigation of the various Charitable Institutions for the Education of the Poor of the Metropolis. It would have been well, had this taken place before the moral malady arising from ignorance, had acquired so much strength. But it is not now too

late. I hope that the sentiment is now general, that nothing, under the blessing of God, is so well calculated to restore the moral tone of the Country, and elevate the poor from their present depression, as Education; an Education grounded on the Sacred Scriptures. Let all the children be taught to read, let their minds and memories be early stored with the truths of Holy Writ, and I doubt not, but that, in due time, one half of the prisons, now crowded with felons, will be more than enough for all the purposes of justice. The brief Sketch of *some* of the abuses connected with education in Ireland, which I have given, must convince every honest man, who loves his Country, that your labours are but commencing. What I have stated respecting the Chartered Schools, is but of one stall in this stable of Augeas. To Parliament, as the right-ful Guardian of the Country's honour

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and happiness, do I look for an investigation.

The day is surely past, in which a British Public can endure such enormous abuses as these.

If a desire, manifested on your part, to render that important Branch of the United Empire a brighter jewel in the Imperial Crown—if a wish of extending the blessings of a good education to the poor in general—if a regard for the moral regeneration of Ireland, fail in awakening to an Inquiry; the responsibility will lie with Parliament.

I have done what I could to bring the momentous subject before you. If the result be beneficial to Ireland, I shall be abundantly rewarded.

I am,

My LORDS and GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient humble Servant,

ROBERT STEVEN.

LONDON, 13th June, 1817.

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