

THOUGHTS UPON GOVERNMENT

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649363711

Thoughts upon government by Arthur Helps

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ARTHUR HELPS

**THOUGHTS UPON
GOVERNMENT**

G. K. OGDEN

THOUGHTS
UPON GOVERNMENT

BY

ARTHUR HELPS

LONDON
BELL AND DALDY
YORK STREET, COVENT GARDEN

1872



DEDICATION.

DEAR LORD DERRY,

I dedicate this Work to you.

We have long been friends, and in former days we were sometimes associates in work.

I have, however, another motive, independently of friendship or of association in by-gone labours, for dedicating this Work to you.

I do so mainly because I do not know of any statesman of the present day who will be more inclined to appreciate whatever truth and force there may be, in that chapter of the Work which sets forth the large and frequent opportunities for judicious action, in political affairs, which belong to the Improver, in contrast to the Reformer.

I believe that you will thoroughly sympathize with my views on this subject; and that you will agree with me in thinking that, without ignoring the largest and deepest political questions, more of the social well-being of the people may be made to depend upon improvement, in

the matters which I have alluded to, than even in what are called great reforms.

If this Work should find some favour with men like yourself, but not otherwise, I propose to give a Second Series of 'Thoughts upon Government,' which I have already prepared in part, and which Series will deal with the action of Government in such matters as Emigration, Education, Recreation, Sanitary Improvement, War, and the Preparation for War.

Subsequently to this work going to press, it has been suggested to me, that possibly there may be some misconception in regard to what I have written about honours. It was written upon a general survey of the subject, extending over many years. I did not mean to contend, that honours had not often been most worthily conferred upon deserving men, in this and other countries; but that there were many grievous faults, both of omission and commission; and that the whole subject did not appear to me to have met with due consideration from modern governments.

I remain,

Very faithfully, yours,

ARTHUR HELPS.

LONDON : *November 1871.*



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THOUGHTS
UPON
GOVERNMENT.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

I THINK, that there are few studies, CHAP.
I.
which would conduce more to human happiness, than a thorough consideration of Government—of its duties, its powers, its privileges, and especially of the limits which should be assigned to its interference. Much more is dependent upon government than at first sight appears. Its functions do not merely include peace and war, the maintenance of justice and the regulations of police; but they relate to material well-being of all kinds. Functions
of govern-
ment.

CHAP.
I

And, what is perhaps of even greater importance, the advancement of Art, Science, and Literature depends, much more than is generally imagined, upon the functions of government being well-defined, well-directed, and judiciously exercised.

It is also to be observed, that that invaluable part of the education of grown-up people, which is evoked by political action, should be adequately maintained, and, if possible, continually extended. Everybody should be made to aid in government.

Aid to
government the
duty of
all.

It is universally admitted that we live in an age of rapid transition. New modes of thought have arisen amongst us ; new elements of political force have been developed ; new branches of science are playing a very significant part in human affairs. Take political economy, for instance—a science so recent, that there are many persons who may almost remember its introduction ; that is, its introduction into England, for the great Italian writers already had considered the principal subjects of political economy, which were, for the most part, new to us. We

Political
economy.