

**RETROPROGRESSION: BEING
AN ACCOUNT OF A SHORT
RESIDENCE IN THE CELEBRATED
TOWN OF JUMBLEBOURGH**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649399765

Retrogression: Being an Account of a Short Residence in the Celebrated town of
Jumbleborough by Various

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VARIOUS

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RETROPROGRESSION.

BEING

AN ACCOUNT OF A SHORT RESIDENCE

IN

THE CELEBRATED TOWN

OF

JUMBLEBOROUGH.

"Look before you leap."
Old Proverb.

BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY JAMES BURNS.
1839.

INTRODUCTION.

THERE is an anecdote told of a worthy methodist minister, who, being requested to baptise an adult by immersion, led his convert a short distance from the shore, and, desiring him to kneel down in the water, performed the ordinance by causing him to lean *forward* until he was entirely immersed. A baptist, who stood on the shore, told the methodist as he returned from the water, that that was not the proper way to baptise.

“Ah,” said the person addressed, “and how do you baptise?”

“*Backward*,” said the other, “to be sure!”

“I thought so,” said the methodist, “for that is the way you do every thing.”

Akin to this was an instance which came under my own knowledge. An acquaintance of mine had a horse of such an ugly temper, that whenever he came to the foot of a hill he stood like a statue; nor could any appli-

cation either of coaxing or of the whip induce him to move an inch, until the owner alighting from his chaise, reversed the whole order of the procession, and *backed* the horse and carriage up the hill. Then the amiable brute being again turned round, and finding himself once more on a level road, condescended to proceed on the journey, until another hill occurred, when the same process was repeated.

I have sometimes thought that this tendency to advance backward was not confined to one religious denomination, nor to my friend's ill-tempered horse. It has seemed to me that some of the moral reformers of the present day, who are undoubtedly actuated by the best and purest motives, and are willing to devote their time, their labor, and their wealth, in endeavors to promote the welfare of their fellow beings and the good of their country, do sometimes from excess of zeal and an over impatience to see the result of their good intentions, and sometimes from error in judgment, injure the very cause they are laboring to promote, and, like the horse which I have mentioned, accomplish the ascent of the hill, (when they manage to escape the precipice at its side) at an expenditure of much unnecessary time and labor, by *retrogression*, when it might have been

done just as effectually and certainly much more comfortably and safely, by the old fashioned way of going quietly forward.

The writer of the following pages is the last person in the world to wish to throw an obstacle in the way of well-doing. He is willing rather to do all in his power to forward any enterprise of the good results of which he has satisfactory evidence. It is only because he is convinced from what his own eyes have seen, and his own ears have heard, that many of the measures of the present day have produced more evil than good, that the following pages are given to the public. If they have the effect only of drawing attention to the subject, and of inducing the friends of reform to inquire if they are really taking the best means of bringing about the desired end, the author's object will be accomplished, and this little volume will not have been published in vain.

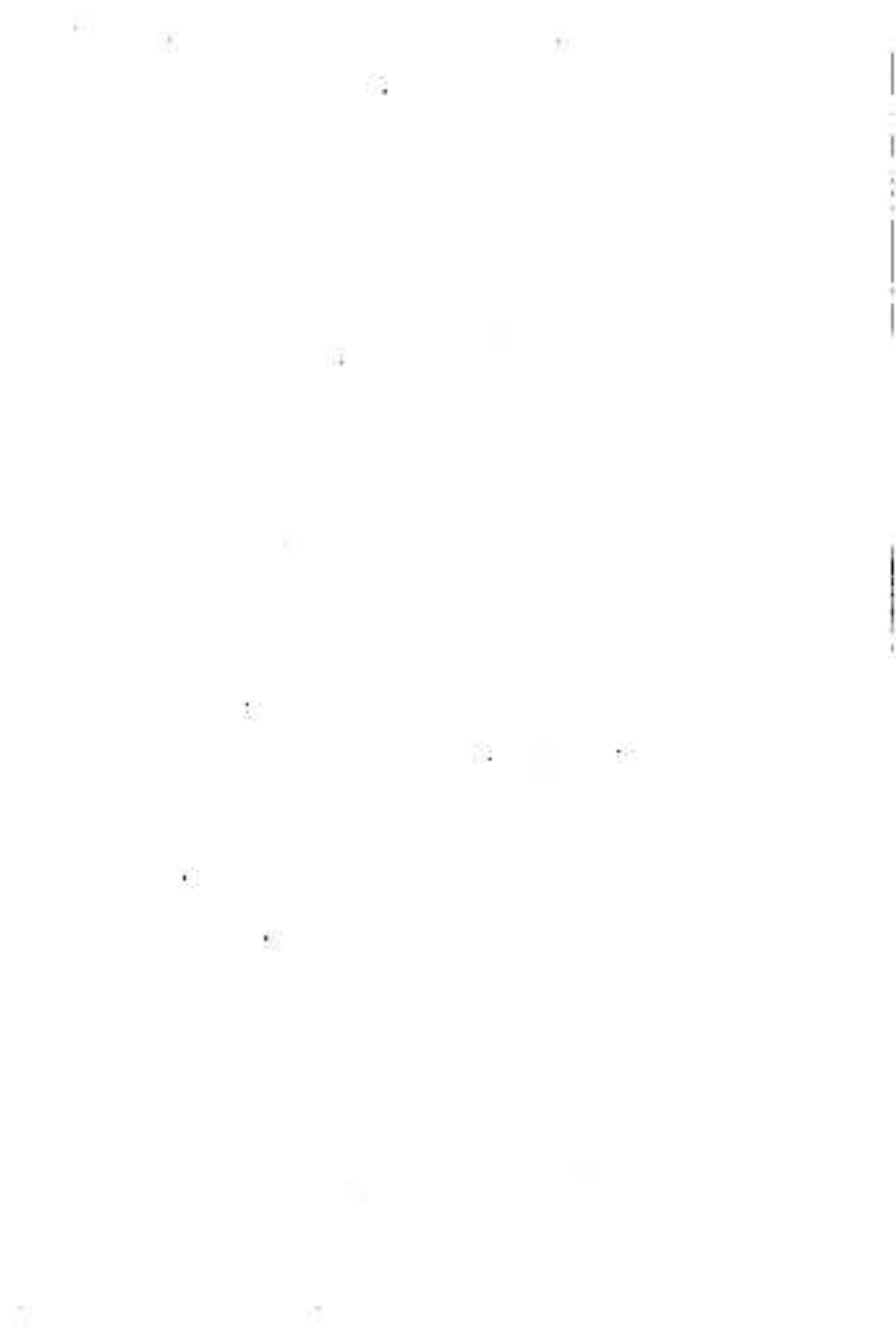


Figure 1. Scatter plot showing the relationship between the number of children (X-axis) and the number of children who are 18 years or older (Y-axis). The data points are labeled with letters A through S.

RETROPROGRESSION.

CHAPTER I.

Wherein the reader is set down in the famous town of Jumbleborough, and formally introduced to several very respectable inhabitants of that very respectable place, and is moreover made acquainted with some of their peculiarities, and some of their worthy achievements.

THE town of Jumbleborough, at the period of my acquaintance with it, was a place of some importance. It contained three parishes, with their respective churches, one denominated the East, and another the South parish;—and the third, which was of more recent formation, at the extremity of the town, was known as the West parish, composed principally of persons who from various motives had removed from the other two.

The three parishes were marked out by very distinct limits, and there was an evident difference in the habits and characters of their respective inhabitants. My acquaintance being almost exclusively confined to the men and things of the eastern section of the town, it will not be expected of me to enter into any minute description of the other two. It will be sufficient to state in general terms, that the principal occupation of the good people of the South and West was agriculture, while those of the East were chiefly employed in manufactures. It must not be concealed that a considerable degree of rivalry existed between the different parishes, and on some occasions this feeling led to hard words, and almost to hard blows ; and it must be admitted that the folks of the East parish, taking it into their heads that they knew more than all the rest of the world put together, used sometimes to assume a good deal, and