

# **THE QUESTIONS OF THE DAY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649377794

The questions of the day by Charles Girdlestone

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**CHARLES GIRDLESTONE**

**THE QUESTIONS  
OF THE DAY**



THE  
QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

BY THE  
CREATURE OF AN HOUR.  
[Rev Charles Girdlestone, MA]

" Evil is wrought  
" By want of thought,  
" As well as want of heart."  
Hoop.

LONDON :  
LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, LONGMANS, & ROBERTS.

1857.

HN  
385  
G48



## PREFACE.

---

THE author of the following work has lived long enough in the world, to have observed, not without much reflexion, all those stirring events of the present century, which have chiefly influenced society as now existing. Looking back to the rapid flight of time past, and anticipating a yet more swift passing away of that which remains, he is anxious for the present to say a few words to the public, on subjects which are obviously and intimately connected with human welfare. For there are few thoughts that press with more painful weight upon his mind, in connexion with his expected departure hence, than the deep conviction, that no small part of the misery he must leave behind him in the world is easily preventible, and that yet little is done for its prevention. In the greater part of our most sore social emergencies, the want and the supply, the disorder and the antidote, seem to be as near and as convenient to

each other, as were our starving troops, in the Crimea, to their stores of food and clothing ; with nothing, in either case, to hinder their coming happily together, except ignorance, timidity, prejudice, and pride. To throw ever so little light, if it be but the light of truth, on the questions discussed in this volume, must tend to dissipate these grievous obstructions to human happiness ; and may promote, it is hoped, the more general enjoyment of those manifold blessings, which are placed in abundance within reach of all, but which, as matters are now ordered, are seldom actually attained to by the greater part of mankind. Such an attempt, if in any measure likely to succeed, cannot but be fitting employment for one, who has been taught to love all men as his brethren ; and who, in honor of the Divine Teacher of that sentiment, longs to do some service to as many as he can. And although he has no objection to avow every principle upheld in these pages, he publishes them without his name, under the notion, that they are less likely to do any good at all in a name which his readers might not know, than in one which is as appropriate to them as to himself,

THE CREATURE OF AN HOUR.

May, 1857.



# CONTENTS,

ARRANGED ALPHABETICALLY.

	PAGE
I. <i>Art and Art Unions</i> . . . . .	1
II. <i>Beer and Gin</i> . . . . .	7
III. <i>Celibacy, Marriage, and Divorce</i> . . . . .	13
IV. <i>Christianity National and Individual</i> . . . . .	20
V. <i>Church and State</i> . . . . .	26
VI. <i>Dissenting Churches</i> . . . . .	34
VII. <i>Education</i> . . . . .	42
VIII. <i>Emigration and Transportation</i> . . . . .	49
IX. <i>Free Trade</i> . . . . .	56
X. <i>Mahomet versus Pope</i> . . . . .	63
XI. <i>Missions and Missionary Societies</i> . . . . .	72
XII. <i>Our Criminal Population</i> . . . . .	79
XIII. <i>Peace or War</i> . . . . .	86
XIV. <i>Places of Worship</i> . . . . .	93

	PAGE
XV. <i>Politics</i> . . . . .	101
XVI. <i>Revision of the English Bible</i> . . . . .	110
XVII. <i>Rich and Poor</i> . . . . .	117
XVIII. <i>Sanitary Reform</i> . . . . .	124
XIX. <i>Sewerage and Agriculture</i> . . . . .	133
XX. <i>Sports for the People</i> . . . . .	141
XXI. <i>The Funds or National Debt</i> . . . . .	146
XXII. <i>The Sabbath</i> . . . . .	156
XXIII. <i>University and School Reform</i> . . . . .	164
XXIV. <i>Yesterday, To-Day, Tomorrow</i> . . . . .	174

THE  
QUESTIONS OF THE DAY.

---

I. ART AND ART UNIONS.

CAN Art civilize mankind? I mean The Fine Arts, and especially paintings of the highest order, which, for the sake of brevity, and on the ground of their superiority, often usurp the name of Art. Does this art tend to check, in all classes, or in any, the indulgence of vicious propensities? And if it be so, will the progress of Art itself be furthered, by securing a sale by lottery for those productions of our living artists, which otherwise would not meet with purchasers? Let us glance at the last question first. But is it a question? Can success in any department of production be promoted by the operation of a bounty? Do pictures, and prints, and statues form an exception to the most plainly proved conclusion in all political economy? Art must be at a low ebb,