

# **THE ENGLISH REPUBLIC**

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The English Republic by W. J. Linton & Kineton Parkes

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**W. J. LINTON & KINETON PARKES**

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REPUBLIC**



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BY  
W. J. LINTON

*EDITED WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES*

BY  
KINETON PARKES



LONDON  
SWAN SONNENSCH E I N & C O .  
PATERNOSTER SQUARE

1891



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## INTRODUCTION.

MR. WILLIAM JAMES LINTON was born in London on December the 7th, 1812, and was educated at a school at Stratford, Essex, conducted by the Reverend Dr. Burford. When he was sixteen he became a pupil of G. W. Bonner, a well-known engraver on wood, residing in Kennington Road, and to whom he was apprenticed. During the years of his apprenticeship were sown those seeds of liberty which were just then freely floating in the air, which afterwards resulted in the voluminous writings on social subjects, which form so considerable a portion of his work in literature. His was a large nature, and the art of engraving was never a mere profession with him, but part of his life, just as was his love of liberty and of poetry. On the conclusion of his apprenticeship he became a professional wood engraver, subsequently joining Orrin Smith in Judd St., Brunswick Square. When, in 1842, *The Illustrated London News* was started, Linton and Smith engraved much important work for that journal. In this year he was editing *The Odd Fellow*, a magazine of politics and general literature, which was afterwards called *The Fireside Journal*. A few months before Orrin Smith's sudden death, the partners removed to No. 85 Hatton Garden, and these premises were retained by Mr. Linton for several years. It was here that many of the most revolutionary spirits of that excited time were wont to congregate, and from this address several of Mr. Linton's early publications were issued. About the year 1838 Mr. Linton became acquainted with James Watson, the celebrated publisher of Queen's Head Passage, Paternoster Row, with whom he was on terms of friendship until his death, and also with Hetherington, Cleave, and other leaders of the extreme Radical and Chartist parties. Contact with such men as these fired the young artist's blood, and he threw himself into the struggle with all the impetuosity of his fervent nature. In appearance he was

animated and handsome, with bright eyes and long auburn hair. He was generous with his time and talents, and open-handed with his money, and whenever a young reformer, or propagandist, was in want of an illustration for a tract or pamphlet, the engraver-poet was ready with a design, which he drew and engraved gratuitously. All the circulars of the "Garibaldi Fund" were designed and engraved by him. He was always a friend of the "Friends of Italy." Even at this early period his reputation as an engraver was spreading over England and America, and his faculty of design was as great as his facility with the graver.

When the outbreak of Frost, Jones, and Williams occurred, and these three men were condemned to death for high treason, Mr. Linton was among the first of those who came forward to prepare the monster petition which resulted in the commutation of the sentence. In 1844 he was intimately associated with Mazzini, and assisted him in bringing before the notice of Parliament the proceedings of Sir James Graham, who had caused letters to Mazzini and other exiles in England to be opened, and one of the results of which was the judicial murder by the Austrian Government of the brothers Bandiera. The case was taken up from Mazzini and Linton by James Stanfield and T. S. Duncombe, who brought it forward in the House of Commons. From this time forward Mr. Linton's relations with Mazzini and other Italian refugees were of an intimate nature. He was also connected with W. J. Fox and his party. In 1848 he was the deputy selected by the English workmen to carry their congratulatory address to their French brethren, on the establishment of the first Provincial Government.

The first of the series of publications which Mr. Linton has issued from time to time was *The National, a Library for the People*, which was published by James Watson in 1839. It was a kind of miscellany consisting of extracts from writers of liberal views, with comments by Mr. Linton, who also supplied original articles. It ran to twenty-four numbers, forming a single volume, each number containing an engraving. In 1845 a remarkable book appeared called "Bob Thin." This was a satire on the then