
You have been prodigal of your advice, let me give you a little now. Study the principles of "representative legislation" and "universal franchise," and the necessities of which consist of the views, wishes, and necessities of the nation collected in an unbiased manner. In short, the perfect emanation of the people will be this, and this alone is liberty. In my opinion, "the thing odious" of despotism is to desert the people, the mode in which the lever of Universal Suffrage has been worked. Grant to others the same right which you wish to exercise so largely yourself; and, above all things, be true to the people. Let the people be the standard of error, and it will materially assist in keeping you on the path of rectitude. Waiting your reply.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
AN IMPASSIONED CHARTIST

A WOLVERHAMPTON paper gives an account of marriage, celebrated a week or two back under the most awful circumstances, viz. the bride was married in his 77th year, and the bride "seven sweetens." The result for the venerable old fellow who, it is said, thrust his neck into the noose of matrimony, was even more disastrous. We see that about a week afterwards, "whilst Mr. B. was sitting up to his ears in his bed," he was found, having fallen into his carriage with his young bride, steep down and was taken up by the corpse." Poor H. is said to be "happy," what a happy release for the poor "bride"!

THE NORTHERN STAR

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1840.

FOREIGN POOR LAWS.

NO. II.

6. PRUSSIA.—Throughout the whole kingdom Prussia, the fund for the support and maintenance of the poor is raised from private charity. Its only private beneficence does not suffice, that the Government advances money for this purpose. Each town and commune is obliged to take charge of the poor who may happen to reside within them, and consequently there is no passing from one parish to another without a refusal to maintain an individual, because he is of long to another parish.

In each town there is a deputation, who undertake the collection and distribution of these funds. Under this society are general sub-committees, whose care of the poor is confined, and for the purpose the town is divided into four districts. The amount is thus raised. Each house proprietor, or inhabitant of a floor, or apartment, is in his house visited by some of the members of the sub-committee who in return for the donation, deliver a receipt of the amount.

Every person who can work is required to do so; those who *will not work* (and these are some) are obliged to enter the poor-house, where labour is compulsory. Where the party is not forced to go into the work-house, support is rendered by giving a dwelling (with a garden, if in the country) fuel, salt, &c., &c., wholly or partly, sometimes by boarding poor men, according to the necessity of the case.

It is left to every parish to determine the mode of

community, to provide and select at their option a livelihood for those individuals, having a settled abode under their jurisdiction, who cannot procure a livelihood for themselves. Should the proprietor not fulfil this obligation, he is compelled to do so.

When from bad crops, inundations, &c., a general scarcity prevails, *works of public utility*, such as *turnpike roads, drains, and the like*, are ordered by the *Government*, in order to afford the inhabitants means of subsistence, which work is paid for out of money or in food, as most suitable according to circumstances.

All families capable of going to school are obliged to attend it. When the parents are unable to do so, the expense, the young must be sent either at the cost of the community, which must also find them clothing, and feeding, and then apprentice them.

Such a system as this, liberal and kindly in its parts, we are told, "is found universally to succeed, and to act beneficially on industry."

7. **SAXONY.**—The plan in this country resembles much that pursued under the *old Poor Law* in England. Persons receive from the parish to which they belong assistance in proportion to their inability to maintain themselves. A sum is fixed upon as necessary to support a man and his family; and if he cannot earn the whole, the difference is paid him as relief; if he be ejected because he cannot his rent, the parish interferes, and guarantees payment to those who agree to receive the houseless man.

8. **WURTEMBERG.**—The information regarding this province is remarkably full and precise. The land itself consists of about 8,000 English square miles, inhabited by 1,578,000 persons. It is divided into sixty-four *bailliwick*, which are

divided into parishes, containing each not less than 500 individuals. A large proportion of the parishes possess a fund called *pium corpus*, arising partly from voluntary contributions but chiefly from funds bequeathed previously to the Reformation, had been employed for the purposes of the Roman Catholic worship and instead of being confiscated by the Government as was the case in England, were directed to be employed for charitable purposes. How different this to the English! plunder! Many of them are also almshouses for the residence of the poor, and endowments for their use, and almost every parish possesses an estate called an *allemand*, which is joint property of the persons, for the time being having a *bürgerrecht*, or the right of citizenship in the parish, and is, together with the *pium corpus* endowments, the primary fund for the relief of the poor. Subject to the claims of the poor, the *allemand* is divided equally among the burghers. *Bürgerrecht* is obtained by inheritance, or purchase; it is lost by emigration or gross conduct.

Whoever cannot derive necessities of life from property, labour, &c., has a claim on the support of the community. In times of distress, all, whether they be property or not, if they find it requisite, are entitled to relief. Those, who would willingly work, have means found them by the magistrates but those who will not work, shall be compelled to do so. According to old laws, persons, who have still a house and a little land, who have suffered by failure of crops, &c., are assisted by the communities.

The community is bound to advance money to poor mechanics, who cannot carry on trade without such aid. In-door relief is afforded either in the houses of members of the committee or in poor-houses, or at the homes of the individuals.

In the poor-houses the food consists generally of the morning of soup, at noon a farinaceous and vegetables, and once, twice, or three times a week, a quarter, or half-a-pound of meat.

Besides this, every person receives in most of the houses from four to seven pounds of bread weekly and in some places a few krentzer every week; wine is given only where there are special endowments for that purpose.

The authors of the materials, whence the account is taken, state it as their opinion that pauperism under this system is diminishing, and the number of paupers, which in 1820 amounted to 64,396, does not now exceed 50,000, or about one-fifth of the whole population.

9. BAVARIA.—Every town is to have an institution for the poor, for whose support all the inhabitants are bound to contribute according to their means. Materials and tools are to be distributed to the poor who cannot obtain work, to be used at their own homes; until other situations can be obtained for them. Houses of nourishment are erected for the helpless poor, while alms are given in more extensive houses, who are not so impotent as to require admission into these houses. They are frequently found among the different households, and when circumstances permit, kitchens are to be erected on purpose for preparing nourishing soups, partly gratis, and partly for sale.

No marriage between people without capital is to be allowed, without the previous permission of the poor institutions.

This regulation, putting aside its harshness and injustice, has a considerable influence in keeping down the population, which is at present very

per bushel was submitted to on Foreign
American Flour did not move so freely
as was to be expected. New Orleans
short supply, and remained unaltered in
the finest short would command 3s. 4d. per
but of new Oatmeal there has been a good
supply, which had been pressed for
to 4d. per load; the best was sold at 38s. 6d.
bushels, at Manchester on Saturday. Old Oats
in moderate request, and a cargo of
wheat has been retailed at 3s. 21 to 3s. 3d.
No change as regards barley, Beans, &c.
very limited demand for each article.

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