

MANIFESTO

OF

ROBERT OWEN

TO ALL GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES.

PEACE, CHARITY, LOVE, UNION, AND PROGRESS, TO ALL THE
INHABITANTS OF THE EARTH.

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A great moral revolution is about to be effected for the human race, and by an apparent miracle.

Strange and incredible as it will at first appear,—communications, most important and gratifying, have been made to great numbers in America and to many in this country, through manifestations, by invisible but audible powers, purporting to be from departed spirits, and to me especially from President Jefferson,—Benjamin Franklin,—His Royal Highness the late Duke of Kent,—Grace Fletcher, my first and most enlightened disciple,—and many members of my own family, Welch and Scotch.

No one who knows me will attribute superstition to me, or want of moral courage to investigate truth, and to follow it wherever it may lead.

I have honestly and fearlessly applied my best faculties to examine the religions, laws, governments, institutions, and classifications, of all nations and peoples, and I have found them all to be based on a fundamental principle of error, which pervades the whole, and which, in consequence, produces, in each of these divisions of society, evil instead of good.

I have applied all my powers of mind as honestly and fearlessly to investigate these new manifestations, said to be made by departed spirits, from another advanced state of our existence.

Until the commencement of this investigation, a few weeks since, I believed that all things are eternal, but that there is a

constant change in combinations and their results, and that there was no personal or conscious existence after death.

By investigating the history of these manifestations in America, and subsequently, as will be narrated, through the proceedings of an American medium, by whose peculiar organisation manifestations are obtained, I have been compelled, contrary to my previous strong convictions, to believe in a future conscious state of life, existing in a refined material, or what is called a spiritual state. And that, from the natural progress of creation, these departed spirits have attained the power to communicate their feelings and knowledge to us living upon the earth, by various means.

From the communications which have been made to me, through the aid of this American medium,* from Jefferson, Franklin, Grace Fletcher, and the father of our present Sovereign, I am informed that these new manifestations, or revelations, from the spiritual, or, more truly, the refined material world, are made for the purpose of changing the present false, disunited, and miserable state of human existence, for a true, united, and happy state, to arise from a new universal education, or formation of character, from birth, to be based on truth, and conducted in accordance with the established laws of human nature.

A change which, with the concurrence of the existing authorities in Europe and America, disregarding all old prejudices, may be now easily effected, to the lasting benefit of all upon earth.

To delay the public announcement of these all-important truths, now that they are known to me, would be to delay unnecessarily the change from ignorance to knowledge, from poverty to wealth, from disunion to union, from falsehood to truth, from deception to honesty, from evil to good, and from general misery to universal happiness.

The means to effect this change in all countries are known.

* The medium referred to is Mrs. Hayden, residing at No. 22, Queen Anne Street, Cavendish Square. All who have had opportunities of becoming well acquainted with Mrs. Hayden will testify to her simplicity of mind, to the kindness and benevolence of her disposition, and to the truthfulness of her professional statements, as well as to her extreme sensitiveness when her veracity is doubted.



The means by which the evils enumerated are created have become obvious.

The means by which the good may be secured, can be now, peacefully and with wise foresight, introduced and gradually extended over the world.

The obstacles to be removed, to prepare the way for these changes, are the errors of all religions, and the uncharitable feelings which each necessarily creates against the members of all other religions.

And the error of all existing governments, respecting the fundamental principle which can alone cultivate and stimulate the natural faculties of man, to unity, charity, truth, love, or real goodness, among the human race, from the birth to the death of each.

These obstacles are to be now removed,—not by violence, or abusive language, or in an unkind spirit; but with patience, forbearance, perseverance, and love for mankind, regardless of colour, clime, country, class, sect, or party, or difference of race or condition.

All are to be made happy, or none can be made to be substantially and permanently so.

The means by which to effect this, the greatest of all changes in human existence, are, like all the operations of nature to attain general important results, simple in principle and easy in practice.

All that is requisite is, to supersede, without violence, the false fundamental principle on which alone human affairs have been until now constructed and governed, and the characters of all have been cultivated and formed from birth. And in practice, to abandon the evil course of creating inferior and injurious conditions, now universal throughout all countries, necessarily making those within them inferior and injurious to themselves and others. And, instead of these evil proceedings, to commence the practice of creating good and superior conditions only, in which from birth to place all of the human race. And then, from necessity, all will become good and superior, and gradually, by this new education, *very* good and *very* superior.

Were it not for these new and most extraordinary manifestations, there would arise a conflict between the evil spirits of democracy and aristocracy, which would deluge the world with blood, and would create universal violence and slaughter among all nations. But these manifestations appear to be made at this period, to prepare the world for universal peace, and to infuse into all the spirit of charity, forbearance, and love.

These new and extraordinary manifestations have not changed my confidence in the truth of the principles which I have so long advocated, nor my assurance of the benefits to be derived from their universal application to practice. On the contrary, the certainty of the immense permanent advantages to be insured by the adoption of this system by the human race, has been confirmed to me by the spirits of Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, the Duke of Kent, and Grace Fletcher.

Those who are wise, and who are not opposed to the universal happiness of mankind will mark, learn, and inwardly digest these things.

ROBERT OWEN.

London, March 30, 1853.

[This manifesto forms part of the second number of *Robert Owen's Rational Quarterly Review and Journal*, which will contain a narrative of the manifestations which have convinced the writer that the communications made to him have really emanated from so-called spiritual existences. To be published (for the author) on the first of May, by J. Watson, Queen's Head Passage, Paternoster Row; Truelove, 240, Strand, London, and all other independent booksellers. *Price One Shilling.*]

