

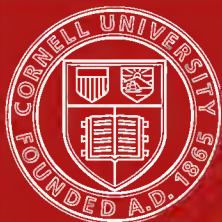


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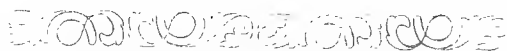


Robert Ower









# THE NEW HARMONY COMMUNITIES.

GEORGE BROWNING LOCKWOOD.

1902.

THE CHRONICLE COMPANY,  
MARION, IND.



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# **The New Harmony Communities.**



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## *New Harmony's Place in History*

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On the Indiana side of the Wabash river, fifty-one miles above its mouth, the village of New Harmony lies within the shelter of a long range of encircling hills. In summer New Harmony's dooryards are shaded by a veritable forest of maple and gate trees, above which, here and there, rise the gables and dormer-windowed roofs of quaint buildings suggestive of another country and another century. The vandal hand of business enterprise has not been heavily laid upon this place, and thus it happens that the New Harmony of to-day bears everywhere the impress of its earlier and greater years. Houses reared by German communists in the second decade of the century, and in the twenties occupied by members of the Owenite communities, still stand in New Harmony's quiet streets. A large and handsomely housed public library, rich in the heritage of collections of books brought to the place by the scholars and *savants* of community days,—more than this, the character of the present population, which includes a large number of the descendants of the Owenite communists,—suggests a time when New Harmony was the promised land of Owenism,—a social experiment station towards which the eyes of the whole world were turned and not in vain, if we take into account the several great movements which in later years have made the New Harmony failure appear a wonderful success.

Parke Godwin, in his "Popular View of Fourierism," divides social reformers into three classes of "architects of society," as he calls them: first, the pure theorists, who have contented themselves with picturing an ideal state of society, without suggesting a practical effort at its attainment, as Plato in the "Republic," Moore in "Utopia," Harrington in "Oceana," and Campanella in "City of the Sun"; second, the practical architects, as the Rappites, Moravians and Shakers, who, on religious rather than on economic grounds, have established societies in imitation of the supposed communism of the early Christians; third, the theoretico-practical architects, who have combined the

enunciation of social theories with actual experiments, as Owen, Cabet, Fourier and St. Simon.

By strange coincidence, New Harmony became the scene of the most notable experiments yet attempted by the "social architects" of two of these three classes. Among religious communists, the Rappites, founders of Harmony, have been most successful, and their residence in Indiana marked the high tide of their growth in wealth and numbers. There has not been another trial of philosophical communistic association so auspiciously undertaken, or so thoroughly carried to a conclusion, as that which Robert Owen inaugurated at New Harmony more than three-quarters of a century ago. Brook Farm has occupied a larger place in literature, but as a serious effort at solving the social problems of its time, it did not approach New Harmony in importance. To New Harmony, Brook Farm was as a playground to a workshop. Brook Farm afforded temporary amusement to a congenial coterie of literary celebrities who cherished romantic ideals in common, but it bequeathed little to the world except their individual contributions to the literature of that period. The New Harmony experiment was conducted in a less romantic atmosphere, but it was more earnest, thorough and satisfying, and to the modern student of sociology it is more significant as a social venture. As Owenism was the forerunner of Fourierism, so New Harmony was the forerunner of Brook Farm. As Brook Farm was the center of a group of Fourieristic phalansteries, or colonies, so New Harmony was the inspiration of a large number of Owenite experiments, scattered over so wide a range of territory that they assumed the proportions of a national movement. Robert Owen declared, Emerson says,—and Owen is not the only witness to the fairness of his contention,—that Fourier learned all he knew of communism from a study of Owenism. If this be true, Brook Farm was only a far-off reflection of the great experiment at New Harmony.

Notable as New Harmony was in its own time as the scene of an ambitious effort at social regeneration, the perspective of years is necessary to an adequate portrayal of its importance in American history. The death-bed of Robert Owen's "social system" became the birthplace of several distinct movements which have assumed great



proportions since the story of the New Harmony communisms became a half forgotten chapter in the history of social experiments. There the doctrine of universal elementary education at public expense, without regard to sex or sect as a duty of the state, was first proclaimed in the middle west, and through the labors of Robert Dale Owen, more than any other one man, this conception of the state's duty has found expression in a common school system that is the glory of the republic. Through William Maclure, Robert Owen and Joseph Neef, Pestalozzi's pupil and the author of the first American works on the science of teaching, the Pestalozzian system of education, now everywhere predominant, was first successfully transplanted to this country. William Maclure's manual training school at New Harmony was the second of its kind in the United States, and through that institution and its popular publications, the idea of technical training was first widely disseminated in this country. The infant schools established at New Harmony by Robert Owen, "the father of infant education," and conducted throughout the lifetime of the communistic experiments, were the first of their kind in America. It was in the schools at New Harmony that the theory of equal educational privileges for the sexes was first put into practice. Through William Maclure, "the father of American geology," Thomas Say, "the father of American zoology," Constantine Rafinesque, the pioneer ichthyologist of the west, Charles Albert Lesueur, the first classifier of the fishes of the Great Lakes, Gerard Troost, one of the earliest American mineralogists, and the younger Owens, New Harmony became the greatest scientific center in America, and the first important scientific outpost in the west; there came such distinguished students as Sir Charles Lyell, Leo Lesquereux, Prince Alexander Philip Maximilian and his company of scientists, F. B. Meek and Dr. Elderhorst. New Harmony became the headquarters of the United States Geological Survey, with one of its own students, David Dale Owen, in charge; it was the site of a museum containing the remarkable collections of Say and Maclure, and of a scientific library unexcelled on the continent. One member of the New Harmony coterie of *savants*, William Maclure, was one of the founders of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, another, Robert Dale Owen, became the

legislative father of the Smithsonian institution. It was in certain of the New Harmony communities that women were first given a voice and vote in local legislative assemblies, and there the doctrine of equal political rights for all, without regard to sex or color, was first proclaimed by Frances Wright. Through this brilliant woman, too, New Harmony became one of the earliest centers of the abolition movement, and spoke forcibly through Robert Dale Owen to President Lincoln when emancipation hung in the balance. Through Robert Dale Owen, New Harmony impressed upon American law the modern conception of the legal rights of women, and in New Harmony was founded by Frances Wright what is known as the first woman's literary club in the United States. The New Harmony Thespian Society (1828-1875) was one of the earliest among American dramatic clubs. New Harmony in 1826 afforded the first known American example of prohibition of the liquor traffic by administrative edict. Through William Maclure New Harmony gave to the west a system of mechanics' libraries from which dates the beginning of general culture in more than a hundred western communities. Through Josiah Warren New Harmony originated a philosophy of individualism, a rebound from communism, which has had sufficient vitality to survive its author for nearly a half century and to impress itself indelibly upon modern economic thought; beyond this, it is claimed by credible authorities that from Josiah Warren, who founded the New Harmony "Time store," and originated a system of "labor notes," Robert Owen derived the idea out of which have grown the great labor co-operative societies of Great Britain,\* constituting the most successful labor movement of the century. Even the religious latitudinarianism of the New Harmony communists, so bitterly denounced in its own day, has served as a leaven of liberality in religious thought itself, until the narrow type of religion which the Owenites so steadfastly opposed, has in large measure disappeared.

So it is that the little torch of learning long ago kindled in the wilderness, made New Harmony a center of light and leading while it was yet surrounded by "the trackless

\*This is affirmed by John Humphrey Noyes, and denied by Robert Owen's friend and biographer, Lloyd Jones.



**GEORGE RAPP'S RESIDENCE AND GRANARY OR FORT.**  
The House was Later Occupied by the Owens.





wild." But New Harmony's place in history has never been adequately appreciated, and it is worth while, in studying the history of the Owenite communities, to trace to their source some of the movements which rose from the ruins of the "social system."

It seems proper to preface a history of the Owenite communities with a brief account of the German communistic colony which paved the way for Robert Owen's experiment at New Harmony, if it did not indirectly suggest it. While the Rappite régime is less interesting, and vastly less important, than the Owenite period, it affords a strong background for the later experiments, the failure of George Rapp's success standing out in vivid contrast to the success of Robert Owen's failure.



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## *The Rise of the Rappites.*

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In slow succession there passed through the beautiful valley of the Wabash,—described by Col. George Croghan as early as 1765, as “one of the finest countries in the world,”—the roving Indian, the Jesuit missionary, the French trader, the British red-coat, the colonial soldier and the American pioneer. But, strangest feature in all this strange procession of invaders, there entered the Wabash river one spring day in 1815, several boat-loads of Würtemberg peasants. Eight hundred strong, clad in the garb of the Fatherland, this quaint company went ashore at a point near the site of the present village of New Harmony. They knelt on the bank about a patriarchal leader, and with song and prayer dedicated “Harmonie” to the uses of a Christian brotherhood. These were the Rappites,—German peasants, primitive Christians, practical communists, and disciples of George Rapp. As an organized protest against the existing state of religion in Germany, they had left the shores of their Fatherland behind them ten years before.

During the seventeenth century the German prototype of Puritanism called Pietism, had caused the flame of faith to burn brighter in the churches, through the ministrations of Spener, Gerhardt, Franke, Arndt and other Wesleys and Whitfields of that revival movement. But in the eighteenth century, official religion again degenerated into “a multiplicity of meaningless ceremonies.” The universities of Germany “became hotbeds of vice and infidelity.” On the one hand there were in the ministry those who guarded against their unbelief by the assumption of zealous bigotry and narrow Biblical construction,—on the other hand there were skeptics and rationalists filling pulpits and receiving the support of the church.

“The church now,” says Hurst, “presented a most deplorable aspect. Philosophy had come, with its high-sounding terminology, and invaded the hallowed precincts of scriptural truth. Literature, with its captivating notes, had well-nigh destroyed what was left of the old Pietistic

fervor. The songs of the church were no longer images of beauty, but ghastly, repulsive skeletons. The professor's chair was but little better than a heathen tripod. The pulpit became a rostrum, where the shepherdless masses were entertained with essays on such general terms as 'Human Dignity,' 'Truth,' and 'Light.' The peasantry received frequent and labored instruction on the raising of bees, cattle and fruit. The poets of the day were publicly recited in the temples where the reformers had preached."

But in certain portions of Germany the people retained their former simplicity, and stoutly resisted the encroachments of what they considered wicked innovations. Especially was this true of southern Württemberg, where societies like the early Methodist organizations were formed for the conserving of piety, and a spirit of fanaticism was rampant which contrasted strangely with the rationalism prevalent elsewhere. There were frequent prophecies of the end of the world as a punishment for the sins of the people. One party of schismatics, called Separatists, disgusted with the new order of things, set out to found an asylum in Russian Tartary, near the Caspian Sea. Joseph Bimeler, at the head of a considerable following, denounced the state as "that great Babylon," and, with his associates, refused to pay taxes. Persecuted and frequently imprisoned, Bimeler finally led a colony out of Germany, and on five thousand acres of land in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, founded "Zoar." Here this communistic society so prospered that in less than fifty years its property was valued at a million dollars.

Preceding and instigating this emigration, however, was that of George Rapp and his religious followers, who sought the religious freedom offered in the United States as early as 1803. George Rapp and Michael Hahn were zealous layworkers and leaders of Pietism in Württemberg at the end of the eighteenth century. Rapp was a vine-dresser and farmer of plebeian descent, and a man of unusual strength of character. Born in 1757, he began to speak in his own house when about thirty years of age, giving to his congregation, which gathered from miles around, the results of years of reading and careful Bible study. Hahn was a man of literary talent as well as an orator of great power. He did not separate from the established church, but sought to reform it from within.

Rapp refused to coöperate with what he considered a corrupt ecclesiastical institution, and though he counseled strict obedience to the laws, which included payment of tithes to the church, neither he nor his followers attended regular services. Hahn and Rapp, therefore, no longer worked together, and Rapp, with the following of three hundred families which his preaching had attracted, was compelled to endure religious persecution of no gentle type.

At this time, as well as in later years, George Rapp taught certain doctrines which were peculiarly his own. Since the Rappites acknowledged no written creed, we must accept his views as theirs. Rapp evolved a curious doctrine concerning what he called "the dual nature of Adam." He taught that Adam contained within his own person both the sexual elements, reading literally, in confirmation of this, Genesis i: 26-27: "And God said, let us make man in our own image, after our own likeness, and let them have dominion. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them." This Rapp held to mean that both the creator and the created had this dual nature, and had Adam been allowed to remain in his original state, he would have begotten offspring without the aid of a female. But Adam became discontented, and God separated from his body the female part. This is the Rappite interpretation of the fall of man. From this Rapp concluded that the celibate state is more pleasing to God, and that in the "renewed" world man would be restored to the Adamic condition. After a period of religious excitement subsequent to the removal of the Rappites to America, marriage was renounced, and celibacy became a rule of community life. There is evidence that prior to this time Rapp had himself performed marriage ceremonies. Passages of scripture quoted in support of celibacy were Matthew, xxii: 30: "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of heaven." Matthew xix: 10-12, 22-30: 1st Corinthians, vii: 7-8, 25-27 and 29: 1st Thessalonians, iv: 3-5: Revelations, xiv: 4. Rapp taught that the coming of Christ and the "renovation" of the world were near at hand. Father Rapp and many of his followers firmly believed that he would live to see the reappearance of

Christ in the heavens, and that he would be permitted to present his followers to the Savior. It is related that when Father Rapp was upon his death-bed, at the age of ninety years, his last words were: "If I did not know that the dear Lord meant that I should present you all to him, I should think my last moments come."

Of Jesus, Rapp taught that he was, like Adam, a dual being, and that he enjoined upon his followers a community of goods. In support of this position Rapp referred to Acts iv: 32, in which it is said of the early Christians: "And the multitude of them that believed were of one mind and one soul: neither said any of them that aught of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common." Total regeneration Rapp declared necessary to salvation. The sum and substance of his creed of conduct was: Love to God above all, and to thy neighbor as thyself, without laying much stress on form, letter or ceremony. Though Rapp believed in the doctrine of future rewards and punishments, he did not believe that this punishment would be eternal. "In some far distant geological cycle the universe of matter, which, like the universe of spirit, has been distorted and diseased through the fall, will be restored to its former beauty and happiness, and sin and suffering will finally be banished."

Before leaving Germany Rapp and a number of his followers had been brought before the king for the teaching of heretical doctrines and refusal to attend the services of the established church. The ruler, who happened to be a liberal man, inquired if Rapp and his associates were accustomed to obey the laws of the state. The accusers reluctantly admitted that they were. "Then let them believe as they please," said the king, and dismissed the prisoners. Petty persecution, however, did not cease with this display of royal clemency. "If we could only find a land where religious toleration is enjoyed," declared the Rappites, "we would wish to be there even if we might for a while have to live upon roots."

Thus, in 1803 George Rapp and several associates, including his adopted son, Frederick Rapp, had set out for the United States, for the purpose of locating a colony in the new world. They selected and bought a large tract of land near Zehentople, Pennsylvania, and in the following autumn, three ships, carrying one hundred and twenty-five

families of the adherents of Rapp, had followed him to the land of religious liberty. About one-third of these joined one Haller in founding a settlement in Lycoming county, but six hundred members remained with Rapp and settled upon an estate of five thousand acres of unimproved land. They set to work, under the direction of Rapp, with such zeal that they soon made comfortable homes for the entire population.

In 1805 the "community of equality" was established. The agreement to which the members bound themselves specified that:

1. All cash, land and chattels of every member to be a free gift for the use and benefit of the community, and to be at the disposal of the superintendents as if the members had never possessed them; members pledge themselves to submit to the laws of the community, to show a ready obedience to the superintendents, to give the labor of their hands for the good of the community, and to hold their children to do the same.

2. George Rapp and his associates to give to each member such secular and religious education as would tend to his temporal welfare and eternal felicity, to supply to members all the necessities of life, to support them and their widows and children alike in sickness, health and old age.

3. In case of withdrawal, a member's money to be refunded to him without interest; if he had come in without capital such a sum to be awarded to him as his conduct as a member would justify. (This section was abrogated in 1808.)

One hundred and fifty acres of land were cleared the first year, and forty to fifty log houses erected, besides a large church, mills and shops. The next year four hundred acres were cleared, a saw mill, tannery, store-house and distillery erected, and a vineyard of several acres planted. The Rappites had six hundred bushels of surplus grain, and three thousand gallons of whiskey, none of which they drank themselves, for it is a peculiar fact that while the Harmonists were long famous for the excellence of their distillery output, strict temperance has always been a rule of their organization. Even the use of tobacco was forbidden.

The renunciation of the married state by the Rappites dates from 1807. Persons formerly married, of whom there

was a large number in the community, were separated and placed in different establishments. From that day to this, there has not been an instance of marriage among the original Harmonists, excepting in a few cases where young people eloped and deserted the community. The acquiescence of the society in this rule reveals the supreme authority of George Rapp, who was revered as a prophet and a saint.

The remarkable prosperity of the community may be judged from a report of the products in 1809, four years after the removal to America. In that year they raised six thousand bushels of Indian corn, four thousand bushels of wheat, the same of rye, five thousand bushels of oats, ten thousand bushels of potatoes, and four thousand pounds of flax and hemp, besides other less important products. During this year they made their first woolen cloth spun by hand from yarn. In the following year the woolen factory was erected. The community now included about one hundred and forty families comprising seven or eight hundred persons. Two thousand acres of land were under cultivation, and there was a large surplus for sale. A visitor to the settlement at this time said: "We are struck with surprise and admiration at the astonishing progress in improvements and the establishment of manufactories which this little republic has made in five years. They have done more substantial good in the short period of five years than the same number of families scattered about the country, have done in fifty. This arises from their unity and fraternal love, added to their uniform and persevering industry. They know no self-interest except that which adds to the interest and happiness of the whole community."

The Rappites soon realized the disadvantages of a situation twelve miles distant from navigation, and discovered the inadaptability of their land to fruit cultivation, in which they desired to engage extensively. It is also said that they desired a warmer climate. In 1813 Frederick Rapp was delegated to go farther west in search of a new home. Rapp traveled all over the territory bordering on the Ohio, and finally chose a beautiful tract of land on the Wabash river, a few miles above its mouth. In addition to twenty thousand acres of government land, he



purchased several adjacent improved farms, a total of nearly thirty thousand acres.

The Harmonists sold their property in Pennsylvania, with all improvements, at a great sacrifice, for one hundred thousand dollars, and early in 1815 went down in boats and founded the village of "Harmonie," where a large advance party had begun the requisite clearing in the preceding June.

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## *The Rappites in Indiana.*

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"When Rapp, the Harmonist, embargoed marriage  
In his harmonious settlement which flourishes,  
Strangely enough as yet without miscarriage,  
Why called he Harmony a state sans wedlock?  
Now here I have the preachers at a dead-lock.

"Because he either meant to sneer at harmony  
Or marriage, by divorcing them thus oddly.  
But whether Rapp learned this in Germany  
Or not, 'tis said his sect is rich and godly:  
Pious and pure beyond what I can term any  
Of ours. \* \* \*

—Byron.—Don Juan, Canto XV., Verse 25.

All that we know of the history of the Rappite community on the Wabash is gleaned from the accounts of travelers who visited the settlement, which immediately attracted wide attention in the West, and became the largest town in the territory of Indiana. The last of the thousand persons who were members of the original community died some years ago, and the Harmonists have kept no record of their proceedings.

The Rappites found themselves pleasantly situated on the Wabash. The broad river which flowed before the town furnished power for a large grist mill which they erected some miles below. Almost opposite the settlement lay an island of three thousand acres, affording excellent pasturage for their flocks. The great estate which they were to till was more fertile than the farms they had deserted, and the undulating hills which enclosed the river bottom furnished ample territory for vineyards. Favorably to Rapp's ideas, they were further removed from enervating contact with the outside world, and the simple peasants were here less liable to become dissatisfied with their mode of life by the contemplation of that of others. There was little in the hard life of the pioneers who inhabited the surrounding country to tempt the Rappites from their comfortable homes, and though the squatters regarded with contempt the servile allegiance of the Harmonists to Father Rapp, they must have envied them the oasis which they soon created in the wilds of Indiana at a time when the total population of the

state was but a few thousand, and the life of its settlers was one of constant hardship and danger.

The Rappites soon discovered, however, that their new home was not a serpentless Eden. The first breaking up of the bottom ground released the germs of malaria, and the death rate was enormous during the first five years of the settlement. While the ratio decreased in later years, it is claimed by some authorities that the Rappites held to a resolution made during the first year of their residence in Indiana to remain only long enough to improve the land sufficiently to make it salable. In the last year of their residence on the Wabash, it was officially stated that but two members of the community died,—a surprisingly low death rate, showing the establishment of healthful conditions.

It was not long until Harmonie began to show evidences of German thrift. Numerous log, frame and brick buildings were erected, orchards and vineyards were planted. Among the first buildings constructed was a large frame church, having a belfry with a clock striking the hours and quarters. This was replaced as a place of worship in 1822 by a huge brick structure. One entire block was given to manufacturing purposes, and among the buildings were a cocoonery and silk factory, a saw-mill, brick-yard, brewery, distillery, woolen mill and an oil mill. The power in several of the smaller manufacturing establishments was derived from a tread mill propelled by dogs. The brick dwelling houses erected by the Rappites still stand as monuments to the faithful work of their sturdy builders. The frames were made of very heavy timbers, and the spaces between the weather-boarding and the plastering were filled with cement and brick. Four large buildings were erected to serve as community houses. What was known as "Number 1" has been torn down; Number 2" is now a general store; on its south wall is an old-fashioned sun-dial which has been faithfully telling the time since community days. "Number 3," partially rebuilt, is used as a hotel, "The Tavern." "Number 4" has been converted into an opera house. A large brick house was built as a residence for Father Rapp. Near it was a brick and stone structure used as a granary, and intended also for a fort, or refuge for the population in case of invasion by the squatters, of whom the Rappites stood in







**COMMUNITY HOUSE NO. 2**  
Scene of the First Successful American Experiment in Pestalozzian Education





much dread. This structure was provided with loopholes, and was so substantially built that its defense would have been easy. It was never used for other than peaceful purposes. It became in later years a museum and a woolen mill; now rapidly falling into decay, it is one of the picturesque features of New Harmony.

George Flower, one of the founders of an English settlement in Edwards county, Illinois, describes the village as he saw it in 1819. A large portion of the land included in the estate, he says, was of the best quality, between two and three thousand acres being under cultivation and fenced. The town consisted of several brick and frame two-story houses for the use of small families, all built after one model, with ample gardens, well fenced and neatly cultivated, and a vast number of log cabins, neatly kept. There were also five or six very large buildings, three-stories high, which contained the community families, of sixty to eighty individuals each. Rapp had a brick mansion, a large building, with a granary of the most solid masonry, and a large brick church itself a curiosity, the plan, it is said, being given to Mr. Rapp in a dream. There were four entrances to the church, closed by folding doors; the doors were about one hundred and twenty feet from each other. The upper story was supported by twenty-eight pillars of walnut, cherry and sassafras, the walnut pillars being six feet in circumference, and twenty-five feet high; the others were twenty-one feet high and of proportionate circumference; a surprisingly large building, Mr. Flower declared, for this country. William Herbert, a London traveler, writes of this church: "I can scarcely imagine myself to be in the wilds of Indiana, on the borders of the Wabash, while passing through the long and resounding aisles and surveying the stately colonnades of this church." There were shops for every occupation, Mr. Flower tells us, represented in the community, magnificent orchards of grafted fruit in full bearing, and extensive vineyards.

"This singular community of Germans," Mr. Flower writes, "had little or no communication with the outside world, except through the miller, the store-keeper, the tavern-keeper, and Mr. Rapp. All who went to Harmony, with surprise observed with what facility the necessities of life were acquired and enjoyed by every member of

Rapp's community. When compared with the privations and discomforts to which individual settlers were exposed in their back-woods experience, the contrast is very striking. The poor hunter that brought a bushel of corn to be ground, perhaps from a distance of ten miles, saw with wonder people as poor as himself, inhabiting good houses, surrounded by pleasant gardens, completely clothed with garments of the best quality, supplied regularly with meal, meat and fuel, without any apparent individual exertion, and he could not fail to contrast the comforts and conveniences surrounding the dwellings of the Harmonists, with the dirt and discomfort of his own log hut, and it opened to his mind a new train of thought. One of them said to me in his own simple language: 'I studies and I studies it,' an expression that depicts the feeling of every person that obtained a sight of Rapp's colony at Harmony."

At the time of the founding of the community in Pennsylvania, a record was made of the amount of property contributed by each member, and it was agreed that at the withdrawal of any member, this amount, or its equivalent, should be returned to him. In 1808, as before stated, this agreement was abrogated, and in 1818, after the removal of the Harmonists to Indiana, the record was destroyed, on motion of George Rapp, unanimously adopted by the society. With its consignment to the flames, the last tie which bound the Rappites to the system of individual property was dissolved.

We are not at a loss to explain the wonderful authority acquired by George Rapp as leader of the Harmonists. Nearly six feet in height, with patriarchal beard and stately walk, he commanded the reverence of the members of his sect as a prophet among them, while his cheerful and kindly manner, his sympathetic and plain-spoken way of talking over with the Harmonists their smallest trials, made him beloved as well. Father Rapp shrewdly maintained a nominal cabinet, or board of advisers, chosen from among the more intelligent members of the community, such as might be able to set up a rival leadership. He gained great prestige by playing on the superstitions of the peasantry. He professed to be guided on many occasions by communications received in visions, as noted by Flower, for instance, in building a great structure in

the form of a Greek cross on plans supposed to have been handed down from heaven. Among other traditions of Rappite days still lingering in New Harmony, is one concerning the existence of an underground passage connecting Father Rapp's cellar and the granary, or fort. Through this passage, the story goes, Father Rapp was accustomed to appear as from the ground, mystifying the simple workmen, and perhaps leading them to believe that their labors were constantly within the range of his observation. It is also said that Father Rapp entered his pulpit through a tunnel leading to the church porch from his house just across the road.

There still remains in New Harmony what is known as "Gabriel's Rock"—two lime-stone slabs, originally one stone, ten feet by five, and five inches thick. Upon one a square figure is traced, occupying the center, and upon the other appears, seemingly, the imprint of two feet,—the print of the right foot being perfect, while the forepart of the left foot has disappeared. The tradition is that Father Rapp informed his followers that these were imprints of the feet of the angel Gabriel, who had alighted upon earth to convey to the society a message from heaven. David Dale Owen concluded that the figures were chipped in the stone by Indians. Another theory is that the slab was hewn from the pictured rocks along the Mississippi, which was traversed by the Harmonist flat-boats in the extension of their trade. H. R. Schoolcraft, the famous traveler and ethnologist, who visited Harmony in 1821, gives a labored description of the rock. "The impressions," he writes, "are to all appearances those of a man standing upright, the left foot a little forwards, the heels turned inwards. The distance between the heels by an exact measurement was six and a quarter inches; three and a half inches between the extremities of the great toes. By an accurate examination it will, however, be ascertained that they are not the impressions of feet accustomed to the use of European shoes, for the toes are pressed out, and the foot is flat, as is observed in persons who walk barefoot. \* \* \* The probability is that they were caused by the impression of an individual belonging to a race of men ignorant of the art of tanning hides, and that this took place in a much earlier age than the traditions of the present Indians. This supposition is strength-

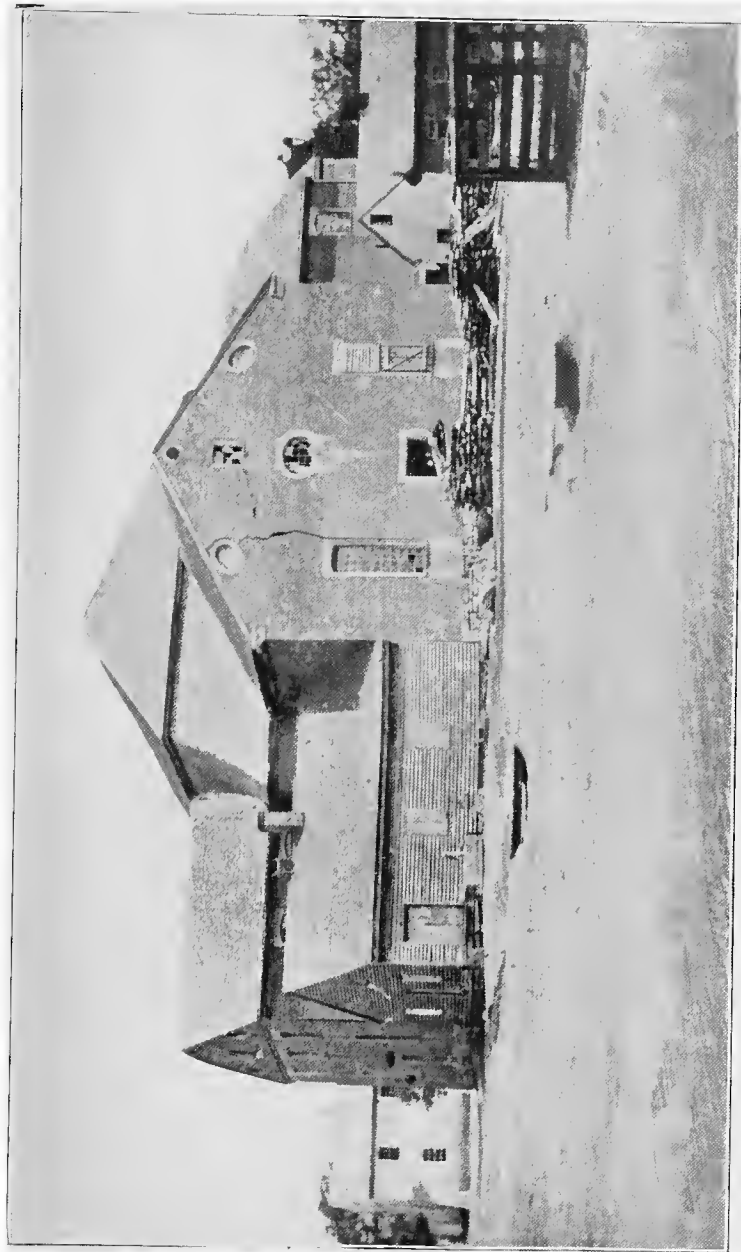
ened by the extraordinary size of the feet. In another sense the imprints are strikingly natural, since the muscles are represented with the minutest exactness and truth. This weakens the hypothesis that they are examples of the sculpture of men living in the remotest ages of this continent. Neither history nor tradition gives us the slightest information of such a people, for it must be kept in mind that we have no proof that the people who erected our remarkable western *tumuli* ever had a knowledge even of masonry, much less sculpture, or that they had invented the chisel, the knife or the axe, other than those made from porphyry, hornstone or obsidian. The medium length of the human male foot may be accepted as ten inches. The length of the foot print described amounts to ten and a fourth inches, the breadth measured over the toes in a right angle with the first line is four inches, but the greatest spread of the base is four and a half inches, which decreases at the heels to two and a half inches. Directly before these impressions is a mark similar to a scroll, of which the greatest length is two feet, seven inches, and the greatest breadth twelve and a half inches. The rock bearing these interesting impressions is of compact limestone, bluish-gray in color." The Duke of Saxe-Weimar, who visited New Harmony only two years after the departure of the Harmonists, says: "This piece of stone was hewed out of the rock near St. Louis and sold to Mr. Rapp." This theory, therefore, seems to have the weight of authority.

Father Rapp taught humility, simplicity, self-sacrifice, neighborly love, regular and persevering industry, prayer and self-examination. He also demanded that each evening anyone who had sinned during the day should come to him and confess his transgression. No quarrels were allowed to pass through the night uncompromised, the rule which declares, "Let not the sun go down upon thy wrath," being literally enforced. Persons seeking admission to the community were compelled to make full confession of their sins, this being considered requisite to the forgiveness of God.

Two periods of religious service were observed,—one on Sunday, when two services and a Sunday school were conducted, one on Thursday, when general services were held. In the church were two bells, one of which called







THE RAPITE CHURCH





the people to and from their daily labors, and another, said to have been the largest imported up to that time, marked the opening of religious services. Father Rapp presided and preached at all the religious gatherings of the community. For the purpose of making religious instruction more personal, the community was divided into classes according to sex and age. Four holidays were observed, Christmas, Easter Sunday, Pentecost and Good Friday, besides three feast days, February fifteenth, the anniversary of the founding of the society, Harvest Home and an annual "Lord's Supper" in the autumn.

The day's work was conducted after a fixed routine. Between five and six the people rose, breakfasted between six and seven, lunched at nine, dined at twelve, ate an afternoon lunch (vesperbrod) at three, and supped between six and seven. At nine o'clock the curfew bell was rung. Women as well as men labored in the fields, as many as fifty sometimes being employed in a body, harvesting wheat, or breaking flax in the streets. Often they marched to the fields to the music of a band which was one of the regular institutions of the community. On summer evenings this band, stationed in the public garden, discoursed the old German hymns while the women busied themselves with their house-work, the stolid peasants dozed upon the door-steps, and the children shouted at play in the streets. It is said that this band often played upon the hillsides while the peasants labored in the valley. A hundred acres of wheat were harvested by the sickle in a day,—a remarkable result for that time.

John Woods, a member of the settlement at English Prairie, twenty miles from "Harmonie" on the Illinois side of the Wabash, visited the Rappites in 1820. He says that the value of their property was then estimated at a million dollars. "Each lives in his own house," writes Woods, "but all dine at one hour and take their meals in the same manner." Woods says that the houses were distributed among the Harmonists by lot, but "though there was of necessity much difference in the size and equipment of the various buildings, there was no dissatisfaction or disturbance over the apportionment." He declared them to be a most industrious people, but said the greater part of them were not very enlightened. "As I approached the place in July, I met their plow teams, sixteen in number,

just entering a field of wheat stubble. I was much pleased with their appearance." Woods counted eighty-seven milch cows going to pasture, driven by a herdsman who, according to another authority, lived in a house on wheels, called "Noah's Ark." "The dress of the Harmonists," writes Woods, "is uncommonly plain, mostly of their own manufacturing. The men wear jackets and pantaloons, with a coarse hat; the women a kind of jacket and petticoat, with a skull cap and straw hat made in the factory here. As this society do not marry, I presume they depend upon immigration from Germany to keep up their numbers, as the Americans are not likely to join them; most of them regard the Harmonists with jealousy on account of their engrossing most of the business of this part of the country." Woods' surmise as to the method employed in keeping up the numbers was correct. In 1817 one hundred and fifty recruits from Württemberg swelled the membership.

Morris Birkbeck, an associate of the Flowers in the Edwards county settlement, visited Harmony frequently, and in his diary of August third, 1817, gives the following account of a short stay there: "When I arrived on Sunday evening, all were at services. I found even the tavern deserted, and was compelled to call the keeper from the church in order to secure accommodations. Soon the entire body of people, which is about seven hundred, poured out of the church, and exhibited so much health, peace and neatness that we could but exclaim: 'Surely, the institutions which produce so much happiness, must have more of good than of evil in them,' and here I rest, not lowered in my abhorrence of the hypocrisy, if it be such, which governs the ignorant by nursing them in superstition, but inclined in charity to believe that the leaders are sincere.

"The colony is thrifty and useful to the community. The Harmonists set a good example in neatness and industry. Though the population is ignorant, it is advanced in the social scale perhaps a hundred years beyond their solitary neighbors.

"I am quite convinced that the association of numbers in the application of a good capital, is sufficient to account for all that has been done, and the unnatural restraint which forms so prominent and revolting a feature of their

institutions, is prospective, rather than immediate, in its object.

"Strangers visit their establishment, and retire from it full of admiration, but a slavish acquiescence, under a disgusting superstition, is so remarkable an ingredient in their character that it checks all desire of imitation."

Connected with George Rapp in the leadership of the Harmonists was Frederick Rapp, who for many years served as manager of the business interests of the Rappites. Frederick Rapp was the adopted son of George Rapp, and a man of intelligence and education. He met a violent death in 1834, some allege at the instigation of George Rapp, incensed at his son's refusal to put away his wife. A more probable story is that he was fatally injured by a falling tree at Economy, Pa. Frederick Rapp contributed to the community most of its attractive features. By nature an artist, he was the originator of plans which made Harmony one of the most attractive villages in America. Had it not been for his influence upon George Rapp, amusements would have been few in the place and the unrelieved monotony of the community might have impelled even the stolid Rappites to renounce their allegiance and seek happier homes.

While Father Rapp was king of the community Frederick Rapp was his secretary of state. Father Rapp controlled internal, Frederick Rapp external affairs. Through Frederick Rapp the community held business and political connection with the outside world. Frederick Rapp was a member of the convention which met under the famous oak at Corydon and framed the first constitution of Indiana, preliminary to the admission of the territory to the Union. He was afterwards a member of the state legislature. Among the important committees upon which he served was that which located the state capital at Indianapolis in 1820.

Under the younger Rapp's administration, Harmony became a garden of neatness and beauty in the wilderness. The gabled roofs of the buildings were lifted above the forest of black locust trees which the Rappites seemed to love so well. The broad river, the vine-covered hills, the fertile valley with its peaceful town, the stately church and the fruitful orchards, furnished a scene of Acadian beauty which seemed a vision of promise to the Owenite

communists who succeeded to the ownership of the estate. In the language of Mr. John Holliday: "It would seem to the traveled visitor like some quaint German village, transported from the Neckar or the Rhine, and set down in this western waste like an Aladdin's palace." There were tables and benches in the orchards, and on each machine in the factories stood a vessel filled with flowers.

A work of art credited to Frederick Rapp still to be seen in New Harmony is the figure of a rose and the accompanying inscription carved upon stone to decorate the doorway of the Rappite church. The reference, Micah, iv: 8, reads, in the Lutheran edition: "Unto thee shall come the golden rose, the first dominion."

A short distance from the village was a famous horticultural design which visitors came miles to see. It remained as an object of curiosity during the years of the Owen settlement, but the only present reminder of its existence is a pleasant grove of locust trees which marks the spot where it stood. A labyrinth of vines and shrubs was constructed about a summer house, rough on the exterior, but beautifully furnished within. Robert Owen was told, on his first visit there, that this was the emblematic representation of the life the colonists had chosen. Robert Dale Owen says: "It contained many circuitous walks, enclosed by high hedges and bordered with flowering shrubbery. It was arranged with such intricacy that without some Daedalus to furnish a clue, one might walk for hours and fail to reach a building erected in the center. This was a temple of rough material, but covered with vines of grape and convolvulus, and its interior neatly fitted up and prettily furnished. Thus George Rapp had sought to shadow forth to his followers their final state of peace and harmony; and the rough exterior of the shrine, and the elegance displayed within, were to serve as types of toil and suffering, succeeded by happy repose."

The Rappites carried out strictly in every-day life, the moral laws and religious observances prescribed by Father Rapp. Any transgression of these regulations was punished, not by Father Rapp, but by a refusal of the remaining members of the society to associate with the wrongdoer until full forgiveness had been obtained. There is no account of a single infraction of the law of celibacy. In later years, elopements were not unknown, but the care

with which the sexes were separated prevented a frequent repetition of the offense, and such transgressors were not again admitted to the society, except after the performance of prolonged penance. The character of Father Rapp has never been questioned, and his example went far towards insuring good conduct on the part of his followers. The reputation for honesty borne by the Rappites was one of the secrets of their commercial prosperity. Flour, woolen goods or distillery products bearing the Harmony brand, were known to be of the best quality, and this fact secured them trade from all parts of the country. Robert Owen said of them: "It is due to the society who formed this settlement to state that I have not yet met with more kind-hearted, temperate and industrious citizens, nor found men more sincere, upright and honest in all their dealings, than the Harmonists."

The jealousy of neighbors and the natural hatred of the squatters for this simple sect, led in the early years of the settlement to the circulation of reports injurious to their credit. It is related that when on one occasion Frederick Rapp made his regular trip to Pittsburg for supplies, he found himself denied credit by merchants of that city. In deep discouragement and humiliation, he went to the river side to weep and pray. He was found there by a merchant, who was so touched by Rapp's dependence on prayer to release him from his troubles, that he offered him all the supplies he could transport in two four-horse wagons. The offer was accepted with thanksgiving, and in a short time the merchant was paid in full. Several years later this man was on the verge of financial embarrassment during a period of business depression. When the news reached the Harmonists, Frederick Rapp filled his saddle bags with coin, and hastening to Pittsburg, saved their benefactor from bankruptcy.

The financial management of the society was always most careful. Mr. Arthur Dransfield, librarian of the workingmen's institute at New Harmony, has in his possession a letter from Frederick Rapp, concluding a transaction with William Maclure involving over one hundred thousand dollars, in which Rapp gives minute directions for the disposition of a balance of sixty-five cents due the society.

The moundless surface of the Rappite cemetery at New Harmony, which occupies the site of an old Indian burying-ground, bears witness to the fact that the community was one of perfect equality. Old and young, high and low alike were at death laid to rest under the trees, with only the elders as witnesses. Before morning left the place of burial had been sodded over, with nothing left to distinguish the spot, although a plan indicating the site of each grave was retained. It is said that the exact situation of Father Rapp's grave at Economy, is unknown.

Robert Dale Owen, in "Threading My Way," gives us the last information we have of the Rappites in their Indiana home, describing them just as his father found them before their departure from the Wabash valley:

"Harmony was a marvelous experiment from a pecuniary point of view, for at the time of their emigration from Germany, their property did not exceed twenty-five dollars a head, while in twenty-one years (i. e., in 1825), a fair estimate gave them two thousand dollars for each man, woman and child, probably ten times the average wealth throughout the United States; for at that time each person in Indiana averaged but one hundred and fifty dollars' worth of property, and even in Massachusetts the average fell far short of three hundred dollars for each adult and child. Socially, however, it was doubtless a failure; as an ecclesiastical aristocracy, especially when it contravenes an important law of nature, must always be. Rapp was an absolute ruler, assuming to be such by virtue of a divine call, and it was said, probably with truth, that he desired to sell Harmony because life there was getting to be easy and quiet, with leisure for thought, and because he found it difficult to keep his people in order excepting during the bustle and hard work which attended a new settlement. At all events, he commissioned Mr. Flower to offer the whole property for sale.

"When my father reached the place, he found among the Germans, its sole occupants, indications of plenty and material comfort, but with scarcely a touch of fancy or ornament, save the flowers in the gardens and what was called the labyrinth.

"The toil and suffering had left their mark, however, on the grave, stolid, often sad German faces. They looked well fed, well clothed (so my father told me), and seemed

free from anxiety. The animal had been sufficiently cared for, and that is a great deal in a world where millions can hardly keep the wolf from the door, drudge as they will; where hundreds of millions, manage as they may, live in daily uncertainty whether in the next week or month (chance of work or means of living failing), absolute penury may not fall to their lot. A shelter from life-wearing cares is something; but a temple typifies higher things,—more than what we shall eat, and what we shall drink, and where withal we shall be clothed. Rapp's disciples had bought this dearly,—at the expense of heart and soul. They purchased them by unquestioned submission to an autocrat who had been commissioned,—perhaps as he really believed, certainly as he alleged,—by God himself. He bade them do this and that, and they did it,—commanded them to forego wedded life and all its incidents, and to this also they assented."











**OLD FORT AS BUILT.**



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## *The Rappite Hegira.*

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"In the twenty-fourth of May, 1824, we have departed. Lord, with thy great help and goodness, in body and soul, protect us."  
—Inscription under a stairway in Community House No. Two, at New Harmony, left by one of the Rappites.

Ten years after the Rappite advance guard reached "Harmonie," the Harmonists made way for the advance of a more interesting social experiment. The sale of the estate is curiously connected with the history of the famous English settlement in Edwards county, Illinois, established by Richard Flower on an estate of twenty thousand acres in 1818. Mr. Flower and his associates had intimate business relations with the Rappites, and frequently visited the Harmonist colony. In 1828, an effort was made to legalize slavery in Illinois, and in the front rank of the opposition were the English colonists in Edwards county, led by Richard Flower, and his son Edward, then a youth of eighteen. The anti-slavery campaign was successful, but the activity of the Flowers was so distasteful to those favorable to slavery, that attempts were made to assassinate the young man. His father deemed it prudent to take him to England to remain until the excitement should subside. Before leaving he was commissioned to sell the Harmonist property by Father Rapp, who offered him a commission of five thousand dollars. Edward Flower never returned to America, but achieved great prominence in England as a participant in several reform movements, notably the agitation for the abolition of the check-rein on horses. His daughter Sarah wrote the hymn, "Nearer, My God to Thee." During the civil war Edward Flower took the platform in England in behalf of the Union cause.

The elder Flower visited New Lanark, and laid before Robert Owen the advantages of Harmony as a site for a communistic establishment in the New World, where Mr. Owen might work out in practice theories long promulgated by him. The sale was effected, the whole tract with all its improvements, and most of the valuable equipments,

going for less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Strong reasons must have impelled Father Rapp in his desire to move the colony back to Pennsylvania, for this sale was made at a great sacrifice, though at a large advance over the original expenditure ten years before. Double the sum received would have been a modest estimate of the value of this princely estate and well-built town. Removal, too, meant the sacrifice of a trade extending all over the adjacent states, and down the Mississippi to New Orleans, as well as the abandonment of prosperous stores at Vincennes, Ind., and Shawneetown, Ill. Nordhoff catalogues the Rappites' reasons for leaving Indiana as fever, ague, unpleasant neighbors, and remoteness from business centers, from all of which causes they had indeed suffered. But fever and ague, according to the statements of the Harmonists themselves, had about disappeared in 1824, and the Rappites ought easily to have been able to defend themselves against the depredations of unorganized squatters. According to Dr. Schnack, one authority states that the Harmonist property had become involved, and that Rapp was compelled to sell; it is certain, however, that the Rappites had sufficient funds to redeem their property from any such complications, for within eight years after their return to Pennsylvania, they not only paid for their estate, and erected upon it the village of Economy, but were able to pay one hundred and five thousand dollars to a party of seceders. Another authority says: "I have been informed that Mr. Rapp adopted this plan in order to have the new deeds made out in his name, and thus hold possession of all the landed property, as well as the control of the funds for which Harmony was sold." There seems to be no evidence to corroborate this supposition. Doubtless the Harmonists found some difficulty in transporting supplies from Pittsburgh, and Frederick Rapp realized that a better market for their products would be afforded in the east.

With the proceeds of the Harmony sale, an estate was purchased in Beaver county, Pennsylvania, eighteen miles below Pittsburgh, on the Ohio river, not far from the site of their first settlement. A steamboat was built for the Rappites, and they descended the river in detachments. A village was built, and called Economy. In Economy the Harmonist society has remained, its uneventful history

broken only by the great secession of 1831-32, a brief account of which we obtain from Nordhoff's "Communitic Societies of the United States":

"In 1831 there came to Economy a German adventurer, Bernhard Müller by name, who had assumed the title 'Graf,' or Count Maximilian De Leon, and had gathered a following of visionary Germans, whom he imposed, with himself, upon the Harmonists, on a pretense that he was a believer with them in religious matters." (Another authority states that Müller claimed to have come directly from Württemberg.) "He proved to be a wretched intriguer, who brought ruin on all those who connected themselves with him; and who began at once to make trouble in Economy. Having secured a lodgment, he began to announce strange doctrines; marriage, a livelier life, and other temptations to worldliness, and he finally succeeded in effecting a serious division, which, if it had not been prudently managed, might have destroyed the community. After bitter disputes, at last affairs came to such a pass, that a vote had to be taken in order to decide who were faithful to the old order, and to Rapp, and who were to Count de Leon, before an agreement was reached." When the vote was taken, it was found that five hundred stood with Father Rapp, and two hundred and fifty with Count de Leon. When Father Rapp heard the result he quoted from the book of Revelation: "And the tail of the serpent drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to earth."

"The end of the dispute," continued Nordhoff, "was an agreement, under which the society bound itself to pay to those who adhered to Count de Leon, one hundred and five thousand dollars in three installments, all payable within twelve months; the other side agreeing on their part, to leave Economy within three months, taking with them only their clothing and household furniture, and relinquishing all claims upon the property of the society. This agreement was made in March, 1832, and Leon and his followers withdrew to Philipsburg, a village ten miles below Economy, on the other side of the river, where they bought eight hundred acres of land. Here they set up a society on communistic principles, but permitted marriage, and here they very quickly wasted the large sum of money they had received from the Rappites, and after a desperate

and lawless attempt to extort more money from the Economy people, which was happily defeated, Count de Leon absconded with a few of his people in a boat to Alexandria, on the Red river, where he perished of cholera in 1832. Those he had deluded meantime divided the Philipsburg property among themselves, and set up each for himself, and a number afterwards joined Dr. Keil, in forming the Bethel community in Missouri."

Nordhoff points out the fact that the Harmonists had demonstrated in this transaction their great prosperity during the few years of their existence as a community. In twenty-seven years they had built three towns, and endured all the expense and loss of three removals, and yet they were able to produce this immense sum of ready cash. The Harmonists, at the time of their removal from Indiana, were reported to be worth a million dollars, and New Harmony tradition has it that bullion was conveyed from Father Rapp's cellars in wagon loads to the boat which conveyed the Rappites to Economy. "During this whole time, moreover," says Nordhoff, "they had lived a life of comfort and social order, such as few individual settlers in our western states at that time could command."

George Rapp died on August seventh, 1847, greatly mourned by his people. One of his last hours was spent in preaching to the Harmonist congregation from his death-bed, through the open window. Shortly before his death, he called the members to his bedside, one by one, where he bade them good-by and exhorted them to the perpetuation of the principles he had taught them. After his burial, the members again signed the agreement. R. L. Baker, long since dead, and Jacob Henrici, who died on Christmas morning, 1892, were elected to succeed him, ruling in conjunction with seven elders. Henrici was succeeded in the senior trusteeship by John Duss, a young man who had been educated in the schools of Economy, but drifted west in early manhood. In Missouri he became a school-teacher, a candidate for superintendent of public instruction, and owner of a cattle ranch. Being called to Economy to take charge of the schools, he became successively elder, junior trustee and senior trustee and ruler of the society. Strangely enough, this successor to the authority of George Rapp is a married man, with two children.



The society at Economy now consists of nine members. Most of the buildings in the village are now occupied by tenants, the management of the place being vested in the small coterie of owners. The wealth of the society is variously estimated, and usually overestimated. The mills, once operated at a large profit, have long been closed. The society has lost considerable sums by unfortunate investments. A considerable amount has been expended in successfully defending the society in the courts against claims prosecuted by withdrawing members. The decrease of members has lessened the expenses, and the oil wells on the Rappite estate have yielded a steady income. The society is no longer a community, however, but a close corporation, administered for the benefit of the few remaining members.

But for the executive ability of John Duss, it is generally agreed that the accumulations of the Rappites would before this have been entirely swept away. Thirty years ago the wealth of the Rappites was variously estimated at from \$10,000,000 to \$30,000,000, but when Trustee Duss succeeded to the management of the society's affairs, it was found to be almost bankrupt with lawsuits on hand that threatened to wipe out the last vestige of the vast property. By strict administration of the affairs of the community on business principles, Mr. Duss succeeded in saving several hundred thousand dollars after clearing the society of debt.

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With the other buildings conveyed to Robert Owen at New Harmony was the immense church of the Rappites. For a time after the dissolution of the Owen communities, this building was partitioned off in rooms, but after William Maclure's death it was presented to St. Stephen's Episcopal church. The east wing was for years used as a ball-room, and the room south for a theater, the walls being, according to Dr. Schnack, "beautifully frescoed and painted." Later a part of the building was used as a pork packing establishment. In 1874 the Rappites sent Jonathan Lentz to New Harmony. He purchased the church building and the lot upon which it stood. Of the large building he tore down all but the east wing, using the brick to construct the wall which protects the Rappite cemetery to

this day. This wall is one foot thick, five feet high, covered with a heavy limestone coping, and guarded by iron gates. The Harmonists gave the church lot, together with the remaining material and the wing standing, to the town of New Harmony. According to Dr. Schnack, they also gave two thousand dollars of the sum necessary to construct the building which, until a few years ago, was occupied by the library of the workingmen's institute, and is now used as a public school. According to an inscription, this building was erected "In memory of the Harmony society, founded by George Rapp, 1805." With this act of philanthropy, the connection of the Rappites with New Harmony ceased.

Thirty years ago, a writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* well foreshadowed the destiny of the Harmony society. "It needs no second thought," he said, "to discern the end of Rapp's schemes. His single strength sustained the colony during his life, and since his death one or two strong wills have kept it from crumbling to pieces, and converted the whole machinery of this system into a powerful money-making agent. These men are the means by which it keeps a hand on the world, on the market, perhaps I should say. They are intelligent, able, honorable, too, we are glad to know, for the sake of the quiet creatures drowsing away their remnant of life, fat and contented, driving their plows through the fields, or sitting on the stoops of the village when evening comes. I wonder if they ever cast a furtive glance at the world, and the life from which Rapp's edict so early shut them out. When they finish working, one by one, the great revenues of the society will probably fall into the hands of two or three, and be returned into the small currents of trade according to the rapid sequence which always follows the accretion of large properties in this country"

From a sordid standpoint, at least, we may denominate the Harmony society a successful communism; its history perhaps forms the nearest approach to a justification of communistic association, but to what extent this justification continues is a question which can only be determined by a careful analysis of the primary elements contributing to this success. What may be said of the Harmony society in this connection may in large part be declared of all religious communistic associations in America, which have

been the only successful attempts at community life. "The temporary success of the Hershutters, the Moravians, the Shakers, and even the Rappites," says Miss Peabody, in "Christ's Idea of Society," "has cleared away difficulties and solved problems of social science. It has been made plain that the material goods of life are not to be sacrificed in doing fuller justice to the social principles. It has been proved that with the same degree of labor, there is no way to compare with that of working in a community, banded by some sufficient idea to animate the will of the laborers. A greater quantity of wealth is procured with fewer hours of toil, and without any degradation to the laborer. All these communities have demonstrated what the practical Dr. Franklin said, that if every one worked bodily three hours daily, there would be no necessity of any one's working more than three hours." Many economic ideas of the present day are based upon such suppositions regarding the success of coöperative labor like that of the Harmonists. Robert Owen received much of his communistic inspiration from the apparent success of the Rappists, and the origin of every American communism can be traced to a belief that these experiments have demonstrated the practicability of communistic principles. This success, in a great degree, however, seems to have sprung from favorable circumstances not the result of communistic association, while we may reasonably enquire if there has not been, indeed, a degradation of the laborer, and whether his life has not been even harder and more barren of compensating advantages than the life which the individual system would have offered him.

In the first place, the Rappites, the Shakers, the Amana-ites, and in fact most of the communistic societies which have proved successful, secured advantages by the purchase of large tracts of wild land at a low price. The land held by the Harmonists in Indiana increased in value since their departure far more in proportion than did the wealth of the Rappites. They owned, before leaving Indiana, for instance, a considerable portion of the site of the city of Terre Haute, which George Rapp secured in foreclosing a mortgage of something over a thousand dollars. This new country, moreover, afforded an unusually profitable market for manufactured goods, since manufactures had then been little developed. The German peasants who made up the

Harmony society, and other successful religious communities were thrifty and industrious. Moreover they worked, not three, but ten hours a day. The Harmonists were peculiarly prepared for their communistic state by their previous experiences in Germany. They had little of the American idea of liberty, and had endured such intolerance of private opinion and suppression of religious freedom that even the rigid disciplines of the new society afforded relief. In their simplicity, these peasants were pleased and satisfied by the freedom from responsibility, and the good food and clothing which the community afforded them. The contemplation of the hard life of the pioneers about them made the community seem a haven of refuge. Their exclusive use of the German language furnished another barrier against the outside world. Celibacy was one secret of their material success. There were few children to rear and educate; this unproductive class of accessions was supplanted by the entrance of able-bodied men and women, many of whom added considerable wealth to that of the society. Celibacy has been a rule of practically every successful communism. We are frequently reminded of the Amana society, in Iowa, as an example of communistic success under the family system. But while the wealth of the Harmonists twenty years after their removal to America was thirteen times as much *per capita* as the average in Indiana, and seven times that in Massachusetts, it is shown in Historical Monograph No. 1 (1890), of the University of Iowa, that the average *per capita* wealth of the Amana society in 1890 was about ten per cent less than the average wealth in the state of Iowa: this after an American residence of nearly fifty years, with practically the same collateral advantages which contributed to the wealth of the Rappites. The Zoarites, a communistic society in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, which was until recent years successful, had permitted marriage after the year 1830, although they taught that the celibate state is more commendable, and that this teaching was observed is shown by the fact that they added only seventy-five to their original membership during the first fifty years of their residence in this country.

Peculiar reasons made possible the peaceful and prosperous association of the Harmonists. Among these conditions was ignorance in the masses, controlled by intelli-

gence in a limited leadership. "Jacobi," says Noyes, "seems disposed to give special prominence to leadership as a cause of success. He evidently attributes the decline of the Beizelites, the Rappites and the Zoarites to the old age and death of their founders." We must also remember the superstition which prevailed among the Rappites, cultivated and directed by a theocratic head; akin to this their belief in the near approach of the judgment day, which made them careless of private effects.

We cannot over-estimate the importance of religion as a cohesive force in societies like that of the Harmonists. Upon religious grounds their community was founded; religion was the guiding principle of their daily lives. "Religion," says Horace Greeley in his "Recollections of a Busy Life," "often makes practicable that which were else impossible, and divine love triumphs where human science is baffled. Thus I interpret the past successes and failures of socialism. \* \* \* With a firm and deep religious basis, any socialistic scheme may succeed, though vicious in organization, and at war with human nature; without a basis of religious sympathy and religious aspiration it will always be difficult, though I judge not impossible." "Communities based on religious views have generally succeeded," said Charles A. Dana, in the New York Sun of May first, 1869. "The Shakers and the Oneida community are conspicuous illustrations of this fact, while the failure of the various attempts made by the disciples of Owen, Fourier and others, who have not the support of religious fanaticism, proves that without this great force the most brilliant social theories are of little avail."

How far has the destruction of the family in the Rappite and other communities contributed to the possibility of individual effacement? Is the institution of marriage in its present form based upon and a preserver of individualism? Is family life as now constituted a stumbling block in the way of socialism, in so far as socialism proposes to broaden sympathy for the circumscribed family circle until it becomes sympathy for universal mankind? Advocates of communism have almost invariably proposed to destroy, change or regulate the institution of marriage. Robert Owen declared that marriage based on the possession of private property was "one of the great trinity of evils which have cursed the world ever since the creation of

man." The Oneida Perfectionists "propose to abolish family ties by the institution of free love." The Zoarite elders opposed marriage "because it makes a division of interests among the brethren." Jacobi calls attention to the fact that in nearly all communistic associations attended by a degree of success, marriage is sacrificed for communism. John Humphrey Noyes cites an article by Charles Lane, a Fourierist, in the *Dial* of January, 1844, in which he says:

"The maternal instinct, as hitherto educated, has declared itself so strongly in favor of the separate fireside, that association, which appears so beautiful to the young and unattached soul, has yet accomplished little progress in the affections of that important section of the human race,—the mothers. With fathers, the feeling in favor of the separate family is certainly less strong; but there is an indefinable tie, a sort of magnetic *rapport*, an invisible, inseverable umbilical cord between the mother and the child, which in most cases circumscribes her desires and aspirations for her own immediate family. All the accepted adages and wise saws of society, all the precepts of morality, all the sanctions of theology have for ages been employed to confirm this feeling. \* \* \* The question of association and of marriage are one. If, as we have been popularly led to believe, the individual or separate family is the true order of Providence, then the associative life is a false effort. If the associative life is true, then the separate family is a false arrangement. By the maternal feeling it seems to be decided that the coexistence of both is incompatible, is impossible. \* \* \* That the affections can be divided, or bent with equal ardor on two objects so opposed as universal and individual love, may at least be rationally doubted. \* \* \* The monasteries and convents which have existed in all ages have existed solely by the annihilation of that peculiar affection on which the separate family is based. \* \* \* Spite of the speculations of hopeful bachelors and æsthetic spinsters, there is somewhat in the marriage bond which is found to counteract the universal nature of the affections, to a degree, tending at least to make the considerate pause before they assert that, by any social arrangements whatever, the two can be blended into one harmony. \* \* \* It is only the deter-

mination to do what parents consider best for their families and themselves which renders the o'er-populous world such a wilderness of selfhood as it is. Destroy this feeling, they say, and you prohibit every motive to exertion."











OWEN'S PROPOSED VILLAGE.  
From an Old Print.



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## *Robert Owen and the Industrial Revolution.*

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"As long as he was merely a philanthropist he was rewarded with nothing but applause, wealth, honor and glory. He was the most popular man in Europe. Not only men of his own class, but statesmen and princes listened to him approvingly."—Frederick Engels.

"The interest of the life of Robert Owen," as his friend and biographer, Lloyd Jones, has said, "lies not in the completeness of its success, but in its practical wisdom and devotion to principle." Yet, measured from a strictly practical standpoint, the work of Robert Owen has not been without its great results. Frederick Engels declares: "Every social movement, every real advance in England on behalf of the workers, links itself on to the name of Robert Owen." Robert Owen has been called "The Father of English Socialism." The great labor coöperative societies of Great Britain, which in one year divided profits amounting to thirty-five million dollars, and have conferred inestimable benefits upon the working people of Great Britain, are in themselves a monument to his philanthropic labors. "His specific plans as a social reformer," writes ~~Robert Dale Owen~~ Robert Dale Owen, "proved on the whole, and for the time, a failure, \* \* \* yet, with such earnestness, such indomitable perseverance, and such devotion and love for his race, did he press, through half a century, his plans upon the public, and so much truth was there mixed with visionary expectation, that his name became known, and the influence of his teachings has been more or less felt over the civilized world. A failure in gross has been attended by sterling incidental successes, and towards the great idea of coöperation,—quite impracticable as he conceived it,—there has been, ever since his death, very considerable advance made, and generally recognized by earnest men as eminently useful and important."

A brief review of the social and industrial conditions which gave occasion and purpose to the career of Robert Owen is necessary to an understanding of his life and work.

The concluding years of the eighteenth century marked the beginning of an industrial revolution. Human power had received a magnificent impetus from an era of great invention, but this increase of power brought in its immediate train serious results for the laboring classes of England. Machinery began to supplant manual labor so suddenly and so rapidly, especially in the great cotton industry, that thousands of men, willing to labor, were deprived of employment. Factory owners began to realize immensely upon their investments. While their establishments were enlarged, wages were reduced, for not only were the recently employed clamoring for work, but the rural population was flocking by thousands to the factories on account of the prevalent agricultural depression.

In many ways the whole population of England suffered from this rapid transformation. The expense of machinery, and inability to compete with the greater facilities of the large factories, caused the extinction of the smaller establishments. As a result, the personal relation which had formerly existed between employer and employé was destroyed, to the infinite damage of the latter. Intoxicated with the possibilities of wealth so suddenly opened before them, the great factory owners gave no heed to the welfare of their thousands of employés. The workmen were herded together in squalid and crowded quarters, with none of the comforts or pleasures of wholesome home life. No provisions were made for the education of children who were employed by thousands in the factories. The intellectual and moral results of such a system were deplorable. The English laboring classes, but a generation before happy, independent and respected, became, in effect, slaves to their grasping employers. Everywhere in these large establishments ignorance and vice were prevalent to an alarming extent. Whereas the passage of an employé from a lower to a higher state could formerly be effected with little difficulty, under the new régime it became almost impossible. The majority of those engaged in manufacturing must, from the nature of things, remain laborers. It became more difficult to ascend the social ladder. The division of labor resulted in simplifying the task of each workman, making him a mere cog in a great machine, and thus rendering him more dependent. Luxury increased among the upper classes, and class feeling was developed.

"The rich man," says one writer, "came to labor only for the increase of his capital, the poor man to satisfy the cravings of his stomach."

By strange coincidence, this enslavement of the English working classes came at a time when ideas of political freedom were everywhere in the ascendant. In France and in America old political institutions had been shattered, and flushed with their success, the people looked forward to the near approach of a social as well as a political millenium. They had looked upon monarchical institutions as the source of all inequalities of condition, and seemed to think that the disenthronement of royalty meant the end of all unhappiness and oppression. The continent produced a school of philosophers who advocated a reorganized society, based upon higher conceptions of public duty. In France, St. Simon, "representative of a discontented and impoverished aristocracy," was the first advocate of socialism. Fourier, an idealist, one of the middle class, and Baboeuf, a social reconstructionist, were promulgating ideas of social regeneration against which the English channel was no barrier.

"England," says Sidney Webb, a Fabian society socialist, "was covered with rotten survivals of bygone circumstances. The whole administration was an instrument for class domination and parasitic nurture. The progress of the industrial revolution was rapidly making obsolete all laws, customs, proverbs, maxims and nursery tales: and the sudden increase of population was baffling all expectations and disconcerting all arrangements. At last \* \* \* 'every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost' became the social creed of what was still believed to be a Christian nation."

"At this juncture," says Frederick Engels, "there came forward as a reformer a manufacturer twenty-nine years old, a man of almost sublime and childlike simplicity of character, and at the same time one of the few born leaders of men." Robert Owen was born of humble parentage at Newton, Montgomeryshire, England, May fourteenth, 1771. Though fond of learning, his schooling was quite limited, for when but ten years old he went to London to become an apprentice to a Stamford draper. Fortunately he found a well selected library in the home of his employer, and five hours a day were regularly spent by the boy in eager

reading. At the close of his apprenticeship, Robert Owen took service with Flint & Palmer, large retail drapers at London Bridge, where he received one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year and his board. Here he worked from fifteen to eighteen hours a day, and managed to save almost the whole of his salary, since during his whole lifetime he never indulged an injurious or expensive habit. His next employer was a Mr. Satterfield, with whom he remained until he reached the age of eighteen.

Owen's first enterprise on his own account was a partnership with a wire-worker named Jones, who was interested in the new machines just invented for spinning cotton. Into this business Owen took five hundred dollars borrowed from his brother. The establishment was soon employing forty men in the manufacture of spinning machines. As Jones was not a partner to young Owen's taste, he sold out for three of the "mules" which they were making. With this and other machinery, operated by three men, Owen made fifteen hundred dollars as his first year's profit.

Soon afterwards Owen became superintendent of a Manchester cotton mill owned by a Mr. Drinkwater. The young man assumed the whole responsibility of managing the factory, in which five hundred men were employed. So successfully did he fill this position that the quality of goods manufactured by the Drinkwater mill soon commanded a fifty per cent. advance above regular prices. His services were recognized by an increase of salary, and an agreement of partnership with Mr. Drinkwater, which was signed by Owen at the age of twenty. In 1791 Mr. Owen used the first Sea Island cotton brought into England from America, which was soon to furnish a large proportion of the raw material used in English cotton mills. Soon after the partnership was formed, Mr. Drinkwater's daughter was married to a wealthy cotton manufacturer, who desired to enter the partnership. On the first intimation of this plan, young Owen burned up the agreement with Mr. Drinkwater, and, though he remained in his position as superintendent until his successor could be secured, he refused reemployment at any price.

During Mr. Owen's apprenticeship and his connection with factory management, he was thrown into a daily contact with the toiling classes which was largely to influence



his conduct as an employer. He regarded with sorrow and indignation the debased condition of the laboring people, and with alarm the frequent riots indicative of the deep-seated discontent prevailing in the factory towns. The condition of the children employed in factories especially appealed to him. Denied a knowledge of even the elements of education, separated from all the influences of home which are so important a determinant of character, children of honest parents were forced to work side by side with those brought from the workhouses to labor at starvation wages. These children were habitually flogged and debarred from moral and religious instruction. In such squalid and vicious surroundings, they grew to a sour and debased maturity. Some employers attempted in a clumsy way to better these conditions, but such rare efforts were generally rendered useless by the ignorant sensitiveness of the poor. Though the factory act of Robert Peel (1802) limited the hours of labor to twelve, and provided for the elementary education of all apprentices, the provisions for the enforcement of this law were so feeble as to render it practically inoperative.

Robert Owen, soon after his release from the Drinkwater establishment, accepted an offer of partnership with Borrowdale & Atkinson, a wealthy and established firm. In this factory he superintended the manufacture and sale of yarn. During his connection with this firm he was elected a member of the Manchester literary and philosophical society, with which he maintained a conspicuous connection for many years. It was under the supervision of this society, at the instigation of Mr. Owen, that the investigations were carried on which formed the basis for Sir Robert Peel's later bills for the relief of the laboring classes.

Robert Owen's marriage was the culmination of a very business-like romance. While on a business trip to Glasgow, he met a Miss Dale, daughter of David Dale, owner of an extensive manufacturing establishment at New Lanark, Scotland. Something in Miss Dale's enthusiastic descriptions of this great factory, and doubtless something in the pleasure which he felt in her companionship, induced him to make a trip to New Lanark on a visit to the Dale establishment. Upon his return to Manchester, young Owen wrote a proposal of marriage to Miss Dale. Her acceptance was conditioned on the doubtful approval of her

father. The young manufacturer was too shrewd to plead his own cause at once, unknown as he was, but trusted to the results of a business venture to win the coveted consent. He again visited the factory, thoroughly investigated its workings, returned to Manchester and gained the consent of his partners to a project for purchasing the New Lanark mills in connection with another firm in which he had also become a partner. The bargain was soon concluded, the purchase price being three hundred thousand dollars. His marriage with Miss Dale was soon arranged, and the union seems to have been a most happy one, though Miss Dale was a staunch Presbyterian in religious doctrine, and Robert Owen was, to say the least, unorthodox in his views concerning religion.

On January first, 1800, Robert Owen assumed control of the New Lanark mills, and began his illustrious career as a practical philanthropist. He found drunkenness, neglect of work and theft common among the New Lanark operatives, though Mr. Dale had been an employer more than usually considerate. In the town of New Lanark were thirteen or fourteen hundred families, and from four to five hundred pauper children. The work which Robert Owen accomplished in the training and development of these miserable creatures into educated and contented men and women gave to him and to New Lanark an international reputation. Representatives of royalty, philanthropists and educators from all parts of Europe journeyed thither to study the processes which Mr. Owen put in operation for the betterment of the working people in his mills.

Mr. Owen first sought out the recognized leaders among his employes, and explained his plans to them. Though these were first regarded with suspicion, the New Lanark operatives soon began to realize his sincerity and to coöperate with him. Owen taught cleanly habits, and enforced them in the town with such rigor that there were frequent complaints from people with an aversion to soap and sanitation. He discouraged the credit system and established a store in which the people were furnished goods at cost, the saving being estimated at twenty per cent. He instituted a system of checks to detect pilfering, and opened a debit and credit account which at the end of each year served as a complete record of each workman's conduct,

and as a guide in the promotion and increase of salaries of the more worthy. These were called "books of character."

In 1806 the United States placed an embargo on cotton, and Mr. Owen was afforded an opportunity to display his real feeling towards the people in his employ, and as Lloyd Jones says, "to make a complete conquest of their good will." The advanced price of raw material crippled the English factories, and, among others, the New Lanark mills were compelled to close. To the surprise of the employés, their wages were continued in full during this suspension. Ever after this occurrence, Mr. Owen commanded the love and respect of the workmen of New Lanark.

Mr. Owen's partners, however, did not fully endorse such extraordinary consideration for the comfort of their employés, and while such plans were well enough as experiments in philanthropy, they did not regard them as business-like. It could not be alleged that Mr. Owen's management was unprofitable, since the mills, now beginning to be filled with a better educated, more capable and more willing class of employés, made money as never before. Mr. Owen would not consent to any change of policy, and was therefore compelled to form a new partnership and make a new purchase of the establishment, which now sold for four hundred and twenty thousand dollars. Mr. Owen proceeded with his work of establishing schools and improving the condition of the working people until the members of the new partnership in turn became dissatisfied, and finally forced the sale of the property at auction. Though Owen's enemies alleged that the value of the establishment had depreciated during his management, an exciting contest for its possession took place between the old partners and Mr. Owen, who had enlisted financial support from several wealthy Quakers. The property was finally sold to Mr. Owen for seven hundred and seventy thousand dollars. The employés at New Lanark had watched with anxious interest the progress of the sale, and when the news of Mr. Owen's success came, a general celebration was held. Mr. Owen rode through the streets in a carriage drawn by a long line of his workmen, and there was an illumination of the town and rejoicing among its people. When the books of the second co-partnership were balanced, it was found that the profits of the four years,

after setting aside five per cent. interest for the capital employed, were eight hundred thousand dollars.

Two classes of schools were founded by Robert Owen at New Lanark. The infant schools were the first of their kind. The higher school was for older children up to twelve years of age. Very little was taught in the infant schools, the chief object being to give the children congenial and helpful companionship. Mr. Owen held that children should never be angrily dealt with, and corporal punishment was prohibited. There was a large play room in which the pupils played various games. "Teaching by book was regarded as the least effectual of methods." The visitors who came to New Lanark for the purpose of seeing the schools in operation were very numerous. They arrived "not by hundreds but by thousands annually." "I have seen," says Robert Owen, "as many as seventy strangers at once attending the early morning exercises of the children in the school." Among these visitors were many of the first persons of the kingdom, as well as numbers of illustrious strangers. The Duke of Holstein (Oldenburg) and his brother stayed several days with Owen at New Lanark that they might thoroughly understand the system of infant instruction in operation there. The Grand Duke Nicholas, afterwards Emperor of Russia, offered Mr. Owen large inducements to remove his colony to the Russian empire. Prince John and Maximilian of Austria spent some time at New Lanark. Many foreign ambassadors became guests of Mr. Owen, among them Baron Just of Saxony, whose sovereign presented a gold medal to Robert Owen as a mark of approval. An attempt was made by disciples of Owen to establish a similar settlement in London, but unfavorable conditions caused the failure of the experiment.

Mr. Owen was destined again to be embarrassed by troubles in the partnership. From the standard of belief held by his associates in business, Mr. Owen was heretical in his moral and religious teachings. In their eyes the games of the kindergarten were frivolous and vain. William Allen and others accused him of infidelity, and of promulgating such sentiments among the people of New Lanark. Though a committee under the chairmanship of the Duke of Kent, grandfather of the present King of England, acquitted him of the charge, everything possible was

thrown in the way of the new schools. Mr. Owen was finally forced out of the New Lanark mills. From the beginning his management had been financially prosperous, and the community had been made by him one of the happiest and most orderly in England. The results of Robert Owen's work at New Lanark are summed up by an American traveler (Mr. Griscom), who stayed some time at the place: "There is not, I apprehend, to be found in any part of the world, a manufacturing community in which so much order, good government, tranquility and rational happiness prevail."

"Up to this time," says a biographer, "we see Robert Owen fighting with the difficulties by which he was immediately surrounded; reforming such abuses as were operating to the injury of the people; giving to them more comfort, more independence, more manliness, more hope; above all, gaining among them that confidence and coöperation which might enable him to work out the changes on which he relied for proving the practicability of reforms that might be applied to the rapidly growing cotton industry in all its branches throughout the kingdom."

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## *Agitation in England.*

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Labor troubles which culminated in the riots of 1811 at last awakened the conscience of the English people, and brought them face to face with the evil results of the factory system. Robert Owen and his following of reformers began to be accorded a respectful hearing. Until the dissatisfaction of the laboring classes found expression in desperate crusades against machinery and the assumption of a threatening attitude toward the employing classes, the "poverty, degradation, deformity, ignorance and premature death" suffered in the crowded factory settlements as the result of overwork, scanty food and unwholesome sanitary conditions, seemed to be regarded with carelessness.

Since 1803 Robert Owen had devoted a large portion of his time to the consideration of the labor problem, and upon this question wrote voluminously. The year 1815 was for him a period of great activity. He called a meeting of factory owners at Glasgow for the purpose of asking the repeal of the revenue tariff on raw cotton, and considering means of improving the condition of the working people. The first suggestion was unanimously adopted; Owen's motion regarding the second purpose did not even receive a second. Mr. Owen flooded the kingdom with copies of the address delivered by him at this session. In part he had said:

"True, indeed, it is that the main pillar and prop of the political greatness and prosperity of our country is a manufacture which, as now carried on, is destructive of the health, morals and social comfort of the mass of the people engaged in it. It is only since the introduction of the cotton trade that children at an age before they had acquired strength or mental instruction, have been forced into cotton mills, those receptacles, in too many instances, for living human skeletons, almost disrobed of intellect, where, as the business is often now conducted, they linger out a few years of miserable existence, acquiring every bad habit which they may disseminate throughout society. It is only since the introduction of this trade that children

and even grown people were required to labor more than twelve hours in a day, not including the time allotted for meals. It is only since the introduction of this trade that the sole recreation of the laborer is to be found in the pot-house or gin-shop, and it is only since the introduction of this baneful trade that poverty, crime and misery have made rapid and fearful strides throughout the community.

"Shall we then go unblushingly and ask the legislators of our country to pass legislative acts to sanction and increase this trade,—to sign the death warrants of the strength, morals and happiness of thousands of our fellow creatures, and not attempt to propose corrections for the evils which it creates? If such shall be your determination, I, for one, will not join in the application,—no, I will with all the faculties I possess oppose every attempt to extend a trade that, except in name, is more injurious to those employed in it than is the slavery in the West Indies to the poor negroes, for deeply as I am interested in the cotton manufacture, highly as I value the extended political power of my country: yet knowing as I do from long experience both here and in England the miseries which this trade, as it is now conducted, inflicts on those to whom it gives employment, I do not hesitate to say: *Perish the cotton trade, perish even the political superiority of our country, if it depends on the cotton trade, rather than that they shall be upheld by the sacrifice of everything valuable in life.*"

During the next session of Parliament, Robert Owen was actively urging a bill stipulating that no child under ten years of age, or unable to read, should be employed in the factories, proposing the establishment of schools for their especial benefit where reading, writing and arithmetic should be taught, and stipulating that the hours of work in mills, including two hours for meals and recreation, should not exceed twelve and a half a day. The bill also provided for more thorough methods of factory inspection by government agents. Nothing more significant of the devotion of Robert Owen to the welfare of the workers could be cited than the fact that he worked assiduously for the passage of this measure, not only in direct opposition to the wishes of his fellow manufacturers, but of most of the operatives, who had been taught to regard him as an enemy of the industry which gave them employment. "At



this period," Mr. Owen writes, "I had no public intercourse with the operatives and working classes in any part of the two islands, not even in the great metropolis. They were strangers to me and to all my views and future intentions. I was at all periods of my progress, from my earliest knowledge and employment of them, their true friend: whilst their democratic and much mistaken leaders taught them that I desired to make slaves of them in my villages of unity and coöperation." When reviled and repudiated by those in whose behalf he labored, Robert Owen continued fighting their battles with ardor undaunted by their misinterpretation of his motives.

A meeting was called of the members of the House of Commons favorable to factory reform legislation, and Sir Robert Peel was chosen to introduce the measure. It took four years to secure its passage, when the measure came out so mutilated that its provisions brought little relief to those for whose relief it was intended. While this bill was pending, Robert Owen remained in London, and conducted a campaign of education such as England had never witnessed before, and which made his name a household word throughout the kingdom. Thousands of tracts and papers were circulated. Owen bought by the ton copies of newspapers containing his arguments, and on one occasion the London mails were delayed twenty minutes by a deluge of documents posted by him. In 1816 appeared "Observations on the Effect of the Factory System." "From certain parliamentary reports," says Robert Dale Owen, "in connection with Sir Robert Peel's factory bill, my father derived data in proof that the machinery employed in Great Britain in cotton spinning alone, in one branch, therefore, of one manufacture, superseded at that time the labor of eighty million adults: and he succeeded in proving to the satisfaction of England's ablest statistician (Colquhoun) that if all the branches of the cotton, woolen, flax and silk manufactures were included, the machine-saving labor in producing English textile fabrics exceeded in those days the work which two hundred millions of operatives could have turned out previous to the year 1760." In 1817 Mr. Owen issued: "A Report Addressed to the Committee for the Relief of the Laboring and Manufacturing Poor." In this treatise colonies for the poor were

advocated, and the destruction of pauperism by a system of education and manual training was proposed.

It may well be said that Robert Owen secured in the enactment of such legislation the first embodiment of the principle of governmental interference in internal trade relations, a principle which lies at the base of present day socialism, and which has come to assume large importance in modern legislation. These early laws advocated by Mr. Owen were the first industrial measures designed for the relief of the laboring classes, and established a precedent for all labor legislation since effected in England and America.

About this time Mr. Owen made a public declaration of religious principles, insistent advocacy of which brought him, in the language of Sargent, "neglect, hatred, calumny, contempt and all the evils that follow an excommunicated man." From this time his popularity as a reformer began to wane, for the strong religious sentiment of the English people regarded with apprehension his sweeping attacks on existing creeds. This declaration was a strategic mistake, but it revealed the thorough independence of Robert Owen. It lost him the friendship of his most influential allies, brought him an irresponsible following which injured his cause, and connected his theories in the popular mind with atheism and anarchy.

Soon after this declaration Mr. Owen visited the educational establishment of M. de Felenberg, at Hoffwyl, Switzerland, whither he had sent his sons for their education. On this trip he presented a memorial in behalf of the laboring classes to the crowned heads in convention at Aix-la-Chapelle. In 1819 he stood for Parliament in Lanark borough. By the combined efforts of labor leaders and factory owners he was defeated in his aspirations. There was nothing of demagogy in his "Appeal to the Laboring Classes," issued in 1819, and an opponent who more loudly swore his fealty to the common people was returned. Only the working people of a district in which so many years of Robert Owen's life had been spent in philanthropic undertakings, were to blame for the inability of Mr. Owen to advocate his principles at the succeeding session of Parliament.

At this time Richard Flower arrived in England, bearing a commission from George Rapp to sell the great Harmon-

ist estate. He found Robert Owen in the disappointment of several of his plans, and suggested "Harmonie" as an eligible site for putting in practical operation plans for communistic colonization which Mr. Owen had long been publicly advocating. "The offer tempted my father," writes Robert Dale Owen. "Here was a village ready built, a territory capable of supporting tens of thousands, in a country where the expression of thought was free, and where the people were unsophisticated. I listened with delight to Mr. Flower's account of a frontier life, and when, one morning, my father asked me, 'Well, Robert, what say you, New Lanark or Harmonie?' I answered without hesitation, 'Harmonie.' Aside from the romance and novelty, I think one prompting motive was that if our family settled in western America, it would facilitate my marriage with Jessie," a young woman who quickly forgot the younger Owen after his emigration to America. "Mr. Flower could not conceal from us his amazement, saying to me, I remember, 'Does your father really think of giving up a position like this, with every comfort and luxury, and taking his family to the wild life of the far West?' He did not know that my father's one ruling desire was for a vast theater in which to try his plans of social reform." Then too, the younger Owen tells us, "the success of the Rappites greatly encouraged my father." The preliminaries were arranged with Mr. Flower, and in December, 1824, Mr. Owen came to the United States to complete the purchase of the property, afterwards officially known as New Harmony. The bargain was closed in the spring of 1825, and Mr. Owen became the owner of an estate consisting of nearly thirty thousand acres of land,—three thousand acres under cultivation by the Harmonists, nineteen detached farms, six hundred acres of improved land occupied by tenants, some fine orchards, eighteen acres of bearing vines, and the village of Harmonie, with its great church, its brick, frame and log houses, and its factories, with almost all the machinery. It constituted an admirable site for the great experiment which Robert Owen had decided to inaugurate.



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## *The New Moral World.*

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"Civilization! How the term is misapplied! A state of society based upon ignorance, deranging the faculties of all!

"The affairs of the world carried on by violence and force, through massacres, legal robberies and devastations, superstitions, bigotry and selfish mysteries!

"By living a continual life of hypocrisy, and public and private deception!

"By supposing that the most degrading and injurious vices are the highest virtues!

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"And yet this conduct of gross ignorance and rank insanity is called civilization!"

"The New Moral World," from which the sentences just quoted are taken, while not published at the time of the New Harmony experiment, was a later compilation of the beliefs held and promulgated by Robert Owen at that time. It embodies the theories upon which the New Harmony communities were founded, and a brief review of its teachings will serve to throw much light upon the history of the New Harmony venture.

"The New Moral World," Mr. Owen declared, "is an organization to rationally educate and employ all, through a new organization of society which will give a new existence to man by surrounding him with superior circumstances only." "New and strange as this statement will appear, even to the most learned and experienced of the present day," the author declares, "let no one rashly pronounce it to be visionary, for it is a system, the result of much reading, observation and reflection, combined with extensive practical experience and confidential communication with public official characters in various countries, and with leading minds among all classes: a system founded on the eternal laws of nature, and derived from facts and experience only: and it will be found on full examination, by competent minds, to be the least visionary and the most easy of practice of all systems which have been proposed in ancient or modern times to improve the character and to ensure the happiness of the human race."

"The religious, moral, political and commercial arrangements of society have been on a wrong basis since the commencement of history," declared Mr. Owen. The new

society which would be possible by the adoption of his principles he prophesied would be a heaven of happiness.

As a basis for his philosophy, Mr. Owen stated what he called "the fundamental laws of human nature." In brief, these were as follows:

Human nature is a compound of animal propensities, intellectual faculties and moral qualities.

These are united in different proportions in each individual.

The diversity constitutes the difference between individuals.

These elements and proportions are made by a power unknown to the individual and consequently without his consent.

Each individual comes into certain existing circumstances which act upon his original organization, more especially during early life, and by impressing their general character upon him, form his local and national character.

This influence is modified by the original character of the individual; thus character is formed and maintained.

No one decides his time or place of birth, his circumstances or his training.

Each individual may receive, in early training, either true or false fundamental ideas.

He may be trained to either beneficial or injurious habits, or a mixture of both.

Each person must believe according to the strongest conviction that is made upon his mind, which conviction is not determined by his will.

He must like or dislike, according to his experience.

His feelings and convictions are formed for him by the impression of circumstances upon his original organization. His will is formed by his feelings or convictions: therefore his physical, mental and moral characters are formed independent of himself.

Impressions which are at first pleasureable become by repetition indifferent, and finally painful. Impressions which succeed each other beyond a certain rapidity are finally dissipated and weakened, and at last destroy enjoyment.

Health, improvement and happiness depend upon the due cultivation of all physical, intellectual and moral qualities, upon their being called into action at a proper period

of life, and being afterwards exercised temperately, according to their strength and capacity.

Bad character results from bad innate tendencies placed in the midst of bad surroundings: a medium character from bad tendencies in good surroundings, good tendencies in unfavorable surroundings, or mixed tendencies in mixed surroundings. A superior character results from a good constitution placed among favorable circumstances, when the laws, institutions and customs are in accordance with the laws of nature.

From these beliefs regarding human nature, Mr. Owen formed the following "laws:"

I.—Man cannot be a subject of merit or demerit.

II.—The feelings and convictions are instincts of human nature.

III.—The individual should always express his feelings without restraint. The will is the mental feeling, and when we speak of the will keeping us from certain action, we simply mean that our mental feeling was stronger than our physical feeling. Nature's laws require that physical, mental and moral feelings should in all temperance be exercised.

IV.—Personal ambition and vanity will be destroyed by a knowledge of the fact of mental and moral irresponsibility.

V.—The practice means the removal from the world of all inferior circumstances tending to produce bad character.

Happiness depends upon the harmony of physical, mental and moral proportions. The diversity of mankind is essential to human happiness. The individual who is morally, mentally or physically weak calls for our compassion, not for our condemnation. Good habits must be given to all, or they cannot be given to any. A superior human being, or anyone approaching a character deserving the name of rational, has not yet been known among mankind. "Before such a being can appear," a great change must occur in the whole proceedings of mankind: their feelings, thoughts and actions must arise from principles altogether different from the vague and fanciful notions by which the mental part of the character of man has been hitherto formed; the whole external circumstances relative to the production and distribution of wealth, the formation of

character and the government of men must be changed, remodeled and reunited into a new system. The fundamental errors of the old system have prevented man from becoming rational; the new laws will produce charity, kindness, intelligence and happiness.

The elements of the science of society, Mr. Owen declared to be as follows:

1. A knowledge of the principles and the application to practice of the laws of human nature; laws derived from demonstrable facts, and which prove man to be a social being.

2. A knowledge of the principles and practice of the best modes of producing in abundance the most beneficial necessities and comforts for the support and enjoyment of human life.

The most necessary wealth Mr. Owen declared to be air, water, food, health, clothing, shelter, instruction, amusements, the affection of our associates and good society. To secure these, there must be a cordial union of mankind. Upon a certain amount of land should be combined skill, labor, capital and population. These elements should be directed by those who understand the laws of God and principles of society. The greatest loss and waste result from the disunited minds and feelings of mankind. Armies, churches, lawyers, doctors and exclusive universities are the greatest obstacles to progress. The professions as such should be done away with, and the professional men employed as teachers or rulers of the people under the new principles. There is a great loss from the separation of trades, and the expense of exchange and transportation. Four departments will be instituted in the new social state: (1) of production of wealth; (2) of distribution; (3) of formation of character; (4) of government. These elements should be united in each community. Beautiful surroundings should also characterize each of these new settlements. The greatest saving will result from having the best of all that society requires. These arrangements, with the destruction of the professions, will cause a saving of from fifty to sixty per cent. The departments of production will be made so attractive that labor will be a pleasure which all will desire. As a result of all these arrangements wealth will be put into the hands of the consumer at one fourth the present cost.



3. A knowledge of the principles and practice of the best methods of distributing wealth.

The middleman Mr. Owen declared to be an expensive luxury. The three classes of these, retailers, wholesalers, and extensive merchants, all strive to get the most out of their materials. There are more establishments than are necessary for handling the goods, and much capital and labor is thus rendered useless. The present system of distribution is a dead weight on society. It is a contrivance "to add to the cost of production, to deteriorate qualities, to employ unnecessary capital, to demoralize the character of those employed, and it trains men to become slaves to their customers and tyrants to their dependents." By keeping separate store houses in separate establishments on the premises where the material is produced, and from these distributing for daily consumption, ninety-nine per cent. of this expense can be saved. Mr. Owen inveighed against "imaginary representations of wealth, such as gold, silver or paper," and claimed that the monetary systems of England and America were the causes of great distress. He proposed the establishment of "banks of real wealth," with a rather indefinite method of transacting business. The new medium of exchange must have the power of expansion and contraction, as the value of material expanded or contracted.

4. A knowledge of the principles and practices by which to form the new combination of circumstances for training the infant to become the most rational being. The care of the infant has been intrusted to the inferior in mind, manner and knowledge, and its education has consisted of placing the child within four walls, to sit on a seat and ask no questions. Children should be treated with kindness and judgment.

5. A knowledge of how to govern man most effectively under these new principles. Government must be active to create, watchful and observing to maintain rational laws.

6. To unite these general principles into a rational state of society. Society has been a chaos. The instinct of man is to be happy, but he has learned to think that wealth and happiness are synonymous. There is no necessary connection. Utopian philosophers from Plato to Fourier have failed in their purposes because they taught

contradictory principles and practices. "From the contamination, through so many ages, of the errors of theoretical men without practice, and those of practical men without any accurate or extensive knowledge of principle, it will now be difficult, except by practical demonstration, to convince these two classes that by a union of principles derived from unchanging facts, with the experience emanating from extensive practice in accordance with these principles, an intelligent, united, wealthy, virtuous and happy society may be now formed and made permanent."

Happiness, "the instinct of the universe," Mr. Owen declared to be dependent upon the practice of the principles of "The New Moral World." To provide for this general happiness, schools were to be founded for the education of the children, as well as asylums for the afflicted, and to all should be given the opportunity for study, social enjoyment, travel, and the liberty of expressing opinions on all subjects. Women should be accorded the same rights and privileges as men.

A Supreme Power, Robert Owen declared, was the cause of all existence. The practice of religion includes charity, a knowledge of the laws of nature, and efforts to do good for our fellowmen. "The practice of the rational religion will consist in promoting, to the utmost of our power, the happiness and well being of every man, woman and child, without regard to their sect, class, party or color, and its worship, in those inexpressible feelings of wonder, admiration and delight, which, when man is surrounded by superior circumstances only, will naturally arise from the contemplation of the infinity of space, of the eternity of duration, of the order of the universe, and of that Incomprehensible Power, by which the atom is moved, and the aggregate of nature is governed." Formerly religions have divided man from man, and nation from nation; the new religion will bind all men into one great family, based on charity and love. All men should exert themselves to remove evil from society and create good.

Upon these beliefs as a basis, Robert Owen constructed a social scheme for which he seemed to expect universal and immediate acceptance. He declared the United States constitution to mark the greatest progress of mankind so

far made in the direction of liberty. He stated, however, that Adams, Jefferson, Madison and Monroe had expressed keen disappointment in the result of the constitution and the character of the American people as developed under it. Thomas Jefferson, Mr. Owen declared, had confessed to him a feeling that society should be re-organized, but had expressed an inability to undertake the work of reformation. The foundation laid by the framers of the constitution was one of sand, and would yet be dissolved.

Rational government, Mr. Owen declared, will attend solely to the happiness of the governed. There must be liberty of conscience and of speech. Private property must be abandoned as soon as the children of the present generation had been taught in the principles of the new social system. There should be no rewards or punishments except those awarded by nature.

From one to five years of age, the children in Mr. Owen's communities were to be well clothed and fed, and given ample opportunity for exercise; the next five years were to be given to light employment and the continuance of education, which was to be acquired largely by observation, directed by skilled teachers. From ten to twelve years of age they were to assist in the gardens and houses, and from twelve to fifteen, to be given technical training. From fifteen to twenty the education was to be continued, the pupil now assisting in the instruction of the younger children. From twenty to thirty the member was to act as a superintendent in the departments of production and education; from thirty to forty to govern the homes, and from forty to sixty, to assist in the management of the external relations of the communities, or travel abroad, "as suited the will."

The family, Mr. Owen declared, must give way to the scientific association of from five hundred to two thousand people. In these, men, women and children were to be gathered together "in usual proportions." The various communities were to be united in tens, hundreds, thousands, etc.; all assisting one another. Each of these communities was to possess adjacent land sufficient to support its maximum membership. Provisions for "swarming" from these establishments, when they became crowded, were to be made. The communities were to be

arranged so as to give each member, so far as practicable, equal advantages with all the rest. Easy communication from colony to colony was provided for by pleasant walks through groves, and other improved methods of travel.

Each community was to be governed in all its home departments by a general council, composed of all members between the ages of thirty and forty. Each department was to be placed under a committee formed of members of the general council chosen by the leader in an order to be determined upon. In its external, or foreign relations, each community was to be governed by its members between the ages of forty and sixty years. There was to be no election to office. All members must act as rational physical and mental beings, or be removed to an asylum.

This, in brief, (for "The New Moral World" fills nearly three hundred closely printed pages,) is the panacea presented by Mr. Owen for the cure of social ills. "With this view of society in prospect of easy attainment," said Mr. Owen, "shall the present system, based on falsehood, be longer supported; a system organized, classified and arranged in accordance with the fundamental errors on which society is based,—errors producing all manner of inequality, vices, crimes and misery, making man an inferior and irrational being, and the earth a pandemonium? Will the human race longer insanely maintain such a heterogeneous mass of folly and absurdity, and doom their offspring, through succeeding generations, to be inferior, irrational men and women, filled with every injurious notion, and governed by most ignorant and misery-producing institutions, while excellence, superior external circumstances and happiness lie directly before them and easy of attainment?"







NEW HARMONY DURING THE OWEN OCCUPATION.  
From an Old Print.





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# *The Founding of New Harmony*

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"In 1825 Robert Owen stirred the very life of the nation with his appeals to Kings and Congresses, and his vast experiments at New Harmony. Think of his family of nine hundred members on a farm of thirty thousand acres! A magnificent beginning that thrilled the world."—Jno. Humphrey Noyes.

On February twenty-fifth and March seventh, 1825, Robert Owen delivered addresses in the Hall of Representatives at Washington, before two of the most distinguished audiences ever gathered in the national capital, including almost the entire membership of both houses of Congress, the Judges of the Supreme court, the President and several members of his cabinet, besides many other men of distinction. To this assemblage Robert Owen explained his plans for the redemption of the human race from the evils of the existing state of society. In connection with these lectures, Mr. Owen exhibited a model of the buildings to be erected, first for the New Harmony community, and afterwards for each of the communities to be established. The buildings were to form a hollow square one thousand feet long, including a complete school, academy and university. Within the squares were the culinary, dining, washing and similar departments. In the larger buildings which marked the centers of the sides and the corners of the quadrangle, were to be lecture rooms, laboratories, chapel, ball, concert, committee and conversation rooms. Between these larger buildings were dwelling rooms occupying the first and second stories. On the third floor were to be departments for the unmarried and the children above two years of age. Each department was to be supplied with gas, water, and all the modern conveniences.

In concluding this memorable address, Mr. Owen declared that he meant to carry these purposes of amelioration into immediate execution, to the full extent of his means. The town of New Harmony, he said, did not present such a combination as his model, and therefore it would present only a temporary purpose for the objects which he had in view. "But it will enable us to form immediately," he declared, "a preliminary society in which

to receive the new population, to collect, prepare and arrange material for erecting several such combinations as the model represents, and of forming several independent, yet united associations, having common property and one common interest. This new establishment will be erected on the high lands of Harmony, from two to four miles from the river and its island, of which the inhabitants will have a beautiful and extensive view, there being several thousand of acres of cultivated land on the rich second bottom lying between the highlands and the river. And here it is, in the heart of the United States, and almost in the center of its unequaled internal navigation, that Power which governs and directs the universe and every action of man, has arranged circumstances which were far beyond my control, and permits me to commence a new empire of peace and good will to men, founded on other principles and leading to other practices than those of present or past, and which principles in due season, and in the allotted time, will lead to that state of virtue, intelligence, enjoyment and happiness which it has been foretold by the sages of the past, would at some time become the lot of the human race.

"I have, however, no wish to lead the way. I am desirous that governments should become masters of the subject, adopt the principles, encourage the practice, and thereby retain the direction of the public mind for their own benefit and the benefit of the people. But as I have not the control of circumstances to insure success in this public course, I must show what private exertions, guided by these new principles, can accomplish at New Harmony, and these new proceedings will begin in April."

Mr. Owen took occasion to deny the report which alleged the unhealthfulness of New Harmony. Many of the Rappites, he said, had died at first, "but year before last only five out of eight hundred, and last year only two died." The land, he declared, was well drained and cultivated. "I have been asked," said Mr. Owen, "what would be the effect upon the neighborhood and surrounding country where one or more of these societies of union, co-operation and common property should be established. My conviction is that every interest and inclination of the individual or old system of society would break up and soon terminate; every interest, because the com-

munities would undersell all individual producers, both of agricultural productions and manufactured commodities; every inclination, because it is scarcely to be supposed that any would continue to live under the miserable, anxious, individual system of opposition and counter-action, when they could with ease form themselves into or become members of one of these associations of union, intelligence, and kind feelings.

“If,” it has further been asked of me, “these societies spread by their commercial operations, and the increased advantages and comforts which they offer, to the whole population, what effect will they have upon the government and general prosperity of an extensive empire?” I again reply that a country, however extensive, divided into these arrangements of improved social buildings, garden and pleasure grounds, and these occupied and cultivated by people possessing superior dispositions, will be governed with more ease than it can be with the same number of people scattered over the country, living in common villages, towns and cities under the individual system. The expense of government will be diminished by as much as the trouble and anxiety, and it is not unlikely that these would be diminished to one tenth of the present amount. The effect which would be produced on the prosperity of the country would be equally beneficial and important. Any country will be prosperous in proportion to the number and physical and mental superiority of its people.”

With the publication of these addresses in 1825 was issued a manifesto announcing that “a new society is about to be formed at Harmony in Indiana.” The invitation to membership included all who were in sympathy with the founder in his desire for a new state of society.

The second community at Harmony was instituted under the most auspicious circumstances. The attention of the whole country had been drawn to the project by the addresses of Mr. Owen at Washington and in other American cities. Many of the most distinguished men of the time, both in Europe and America, were giving at least partial approval to the plans of the celebrated English philanthropist. The previous success of the Rappites on the very site of the proposed Utopia furnished an object lesson in communistic prosperity. There appeared to be no reason why a measure of success even greater should

not come to the new community, which seemed to be based on all the good in Harmonist doctrine, with the more disagreeable features eliminated, while it contemplated the practice of theories in local government and education which had proved highly successful at New Lanark. The grade of intelligence in the Harmonist society had been low, and ignorance and superstition had been the most marked characteristics of the membership. The members of the new community would be persons of liberal and progressive ideas, striving toward a high ideal of social life, with superior intelligence and skill. Mr. Owen had demonstrated his business ability as one of the leading cotton manufacturers of England, and was prepared to give substantial backing to his experiment. The hundreds who flocked to New Harmony from every state in the Union, and from every country in the north of Europe, found as the site of the new settlement a princely estate comprising several square miles of fertile land. The extensive industries established by the Rappites, seemed to await only the touch of American ingenuity, while the comfortable homes the German communists had built in "Harmonie, the home of love," insured the absence of the privation of early settlement which discouraged many similar communities in later years. The orchards which stood at the edge of the village, and the vineyards that covered the hillsides, were visible promises of plenty during the early spring days of the settlement. The quietly retreating Rappite thousand, too, it was said, had conveyed their golden hoard by bushels from Father Rapp's cellar to the boat which bore them to their new Pennsylvania home. Surely, this was the El Dorado of communistic hopes, surely, as Robert Owen had declared, this was a place providentially set apart for the first great victory of communism.

It was not the hope of even optimistic Robert Owen that a community of equality, based on lofty and liberal principles could spring full grown into being, as had the Rappite society of religious asceticism in 1805. There must be some years of educational training, of instruction in the principles of the new moral world; the members must be gradually weaned away from "the errors and prejudices which had existed since the time of Adam,"—from all the evil ideas and associations of the selfish in-

dividual system in which they had been born and reared, before they could, with safety, form themselves into a community such as Robert Owen contemplated. To this end, Mr. Owen enlisted the interest of William Maclure, of Philadelphia, a wealthy scientist who combined excellent ideas on education with peculiar notions in political economy, which, while they did not coincide with Robert Owen's methods of social reconstruction, agreed in the indictment of existing conditions. William Maclure was in many respects a remarkable man, of varied experience, broad views and a spirit truly philanthropic. In awakening his interest in New Harmony, Mr. Owen certainly procured a promise of educational excellence for his social experiment. Maclure was born in Ayre, Scotland, in 1763. When thirty-three years of age, he came to America with the ambitious intention of making a geological survey of the United States. This purpose he followed with indefatigable energy until the publication of the results of his labors in 1809. In the course of this work he crossed and recrossed the Alleghenies more than fifty times and tramped on foot through every state and territory then within the limits of the United States in the search for data. In 1817 he published a revised edition, incorporating the results of further observation. He became justly known, through this herculean pioneer work, as "The Father of American Geology."

Mr. Maclure was the principal founder of the Philadelphia academy of natural sciences, and for twenty-three years, beginning with 1817, he was the president of that organization. To this institution he contributed liberally, transferring to it in later years his library and collections. He was the patron of many American scientific organizations, including the American geological society, of which he was president.

Maclure's interest in education was second only to his scientific enthusiasm. He visited Pestalozzi's school in Switzerland, and was the first to introduce the system of the great Swiss educator into the United States. He was one of the earliest champions of the idea of industrial education. He founded an agricultural school near the city of Alicante, Spain, on an estate of ten thousand acres, purchased for this purpose, but an end was put to these plans by a political revolution which resulted in the

confiscation of the property. Maclure's friendship for Robert Owen began with a visit to New Lanark, where he was greatly attracted by the plans there in operation for the amelioration of the condition of the working classes.

Besides his scientific productions, Mr. Maclure wrote more prolifically than clearly on a wide range of educational and economic subjects. His essays on political economy are now to be classified as literary curiosities, though many of his doctrines have not been without their influence on American institutional development. In his essays on education, he draws a distinction between the "useful" and the "ornamental" branches of study. In the former classification he included the sciences, and in the latter, literature and belles-lettres. "The flowers of rhetoric and declamation," he declared, "only serve to disguise the truth and puzzle all who attempt to convert them into common sense. A plain, simple narrative of facts, got by evidence of the senses, is all the literature that ninety-nine one-hundredths of mankind have occasion for."

Mr. Maclure, according to Mr. Owen's subsequent statement, put about one hundred and fifty thousand dollars into the New Harmony experiment, his liability, however, being limited to ten thousand dollars. The avowed intention of Mr. Maclure was to make New Harmony the center of American education through the introduction of the Pestalozzian system of instruction, in which he and Mr. Owen had a common interest. To this end, with the assistance of Mr. Owen, he brought to New Harmony the most distinguished coterie of scientists and educators in America. Among these was Thomas Say, who has been called "The Father of American Zoölogy." Thomas Say, the son of a medical practitioner in Philadelphia, and a member of the Society of Friends, was born at Philadelphia on July twenty-seventh, 1787. He was destined by his father to a business life, but failed so signally that he was soon without means. He then became a scientist, having from early life displayed a strong predilection for the study of natural history. He served through the War of 1812 as a volunteer, afterwards resuming his scientific studies. Mr. Say was a charter member of the association which founded the Philadelphia Academy of

Natural Sciences. Under the auspices of this organization he began the work of cataloguing and describing the American fauna, contributing from time to time the results of his labors to the journal published by the association. In 1817 he was, with William Maclure, a member of a party engaged in investigating the natural history of the Florida peninsula, and in 1818 explored the islands off the coast of Georgia. He became chief zoologist with Long's expedition to the Rocky mountains in 1819, and in 1823 accompanied this party to the St. Peter's river. After coming to New Harmony, he devoted his time unremittingly to the study and teaching of natural history. He contributed many scientific articles to the New Harmony "Disseminator," and contributions from his pen are to be found in the "Journal of the Philadelphia Academy of Sciences," "Transactions of the American Philosophical Society," "Maclurean Lyceum," "Nicholson's Encyclopaedia," "American Journal of Science and Art," and the "Western Quarterly Reporter." His scientific papers in all number about one hundred. He edited and arranged almost all of the publications of Prince Charles Lucien Bonaparte written while in America. While at New Harmony his "American Entomology," projected in 1816, was completed in three parts. His "American Conchology" had been carried through six volumes at the time of his death. Copies of these works are to be found in the New Harmony library. They are ornamented by beautiful colored plates, drawn and painted by Mrs. Say, whom, as Miss Lucy Sistare, Mr. Say married at New Harmony. The exquisite engravings, many of them made at New Harmony, were by C. H. Lesueur, L. Lyon and James Walker. The "American Conchology" was printed at New Harmony. "He was one of the truest and noblest students of natural science," writes Dr. Schnack. "He was noted for his modesty and reticence,—only his intimate friends were aware of his true worth. He has left his impression on every department of natural science that he touched; and his fellow workers after him have given his name to one or more species in every branch of natural history. Thus he will forever remain immortalized through the objects he so much loved and studied." In a biography written by one of the younger generation of Owen, (Richard Dale), appears the follow-

ing characterization: "Mr. Say was of a persevering, amiable temperament, and modesty and generosity were his most prominent characteristics. He worked rather to extend the sphere of science in this country, than to extend his own fame. He was gifted with a strong intellect and extraordinary power of concentration, and his style of writing was of the utmost abridgement. His stature was tall, his frame muscular, his complexion dark and his hair black." J. S. Kingsley says of Thomas Say, in the "Popular Science Monthly:" "The number of new species which Say described has probably never been exceeded except in the case of those two exceedingly careless workers, Jno. Edw. Gray and Francis Walker, of the British Museum. There is this in Say's favor which cannot be said of the two just mentioned: that his descriptions are almost without exception easily recognized, and almost every form which he described is now well known. Working as he did almost without books, and without that traditional knowledge which obtains among the continental workers, it was unavoidable that he should redescribe forms which were known before, but owing to the clear insight he possessed, and the discrimination he exercised in selecting the important features of the form before him, his work has never caused that confusion in synonymy which many, in much more favorable circumstances, have produced."

Charles Alexander Lesueur came from the West Indies to New Harmony. "He had been engaged," writes Dr. Schnack, "by the Jardins des Plantes at Paris to make a collection of the various objects of natural history; he was attached to the unfortunate expedition of La Perouse and was left on the coast of Australia to examine and describe the remarkable animals of that continent, otherwise he would have been lost, as all the rest were, by shipwreck. He was the first to explore, and publish an account of the mounds found in Indiana." Lesueur was also the first to classify the fishes of the Great Lakes. He was an adept painter, and sketches from his pencil are to be found in the New Harmony library.

Constantine Samuel Rafinesque was a frequent visitor to New Harmony during community days, and associated himself as closely with the experiment there as his nomadic nature would permit. Dr. Jordan calls Rafinesque "the first student of our western fishes," and "the very first









CHARLES ALEXANDRE LESUEUR.



teacher of natural history in the West," and devotes to him an interesting chapter in his "Science Sketches." Rafinesque was born in Constantinople in 1784, and in him were blended French, Turkish, German and Grecian blood. His early boyhood was spent at Marseilles, where, he says in his "Autobiography," he became a zoölogist and a naturalist. At the age of twelve he published his first scientific paper. At the outbreak of the French revolution he was sent, with a brother, to Philadelphia, where he became a merchant's clerk, and devoted his spare time to the study of botany, traveling on foot, in pursuit of his studies, over Virginia and Pennsylvania. In 1805, he went to Sicily, where he spent ten years. There he discovered the medicinal squill, which was the beginning of a profitable business for the natives of the island. In 1810 he published two works on the fishes of Sicily. In 1815 he again sailed for America. Off the harbor of New London the vessel upon which he was a passenger went down, carrying with it Rafinesque's books and scientific collections. Rafinesque drifted westward, making pioneer explorations of the botany of the Ohio river country. After a short time spent at New Harmony, he became professor of natural history and the modern languages in Transylvania university, at Lexington, Kentucky. After a stormy experience there, he closed his career as a college professor, for which he was ill-fitted. During the course of his travels he visited Audubon, then keeping a small store and studying birds at Henderson, Kentucky. Audubon gives an entertaining description of his queer guest. "His attire," writes Audubon, "struck me as extremely remarkable. A long, loose coat of yellow nankeen, much the worse for the many rubs it had got in its time, hung about him loosely, like a sack. A waistcoat of the same, with enormous pockets and buttoned up to the chin, reached below, over a pair of tight pantaloons, the lower part of which was buttoned down over his ankles. His beard was long, and his long black hair hung loosely over his shoulders. His forehead was broad and prominent, indicating a mind of strong power. His words impressed an assurance of rigid truth; and, as he directed the conversation to the natural sciences, I listened to him with great delight." Returning to Philadelphia, Rafinesque began the publication of "The Atlantic Journal

and Friend of Knowledge, " "Annals of Nature," and other periodicals, of which, as Dr. Jordan remarks, he was not only editor, publisher and usually sole contributor, but finally sole subscriber, also. Says Dr. Jordan: "He became a monomaniac on the subject of new species. He was uncontrolled in this matter by the influence of other writers, that incredulous conservatism as to another's discoveries which furnishes a salutary balance to enthusiastic workers. Before his death so much had he seen, and so little had he compared, that he had described certainly twice as many fishes, and probably nearly twice as many plants and shells, as really existed in the regions over which he traveled. \* \* \* Thus it came about that the name and work of Rafinesque fell into utter neglect. \* \* \* Until lately, only Professor Agassiz has said a word in mitigation of the harsh verdict passed on Rafinesque by his fellow workers and the immediate successors. \* \* \* Long before the invention of railroads and steamboats, he had traveled over most of southern Europe and eastern North America. Without money except as he earned it, he had gathered shells and plants and fishes on every shore from the Hellespont to the Wabash." Rafinesque died in abject poverty in Philadelphia in 1840, entirely without the reputation as a scientist which attaches to his name now that zoölogists realize the value of his pioneer work.

Dr. Gerard Troost, a Holland geologist, was also one of the group of scientists brought to New Harmony by Mr. Maclure. Troost was a pioneer in the study of western geology, and became a professor in the Nashville university and state geologist of Tennessee after leaving New Harmony. John Chappelsmith, who accompanied Mr. Owen to New Harmony, was a wealthy English artist and engraver. Professor Joseph Neef, who came to take charge of the educational features of the New Harmony experiment, had come from Pestalozzi's reform school at Iverdun, at the solicitation of Mr. Maclure, to introduce the Pestalozzian system of education into this country. Madame Marie D. Frotaigeot and Phiquepal d'Arusmont, also Pestalozzian teachers, came with Mr. Maclure's party from Philadelphia, in which city they had been conducting private schools. Professor Neef had conducted two academies on the Pestalozzian system with indifferent suc-

cess, near Philadelphia. Frances Wright, who became the wife of Phikepal d'Arusmont, was at New Harmony during the Rappite removal, and accompanied the Harmonists to their new home in Pennsylvania, for the purpose of observation. She was an enthusiastic advocate of the "new principles," the first American advocate of women's rights, and one of the earliest, if not the pioneer, among abolition agitators. The four sons of Robert Owen, Robert Dale, William, David and Richard, were strong factors in the educational life of New Harmony. All had received their early educational training under private tutors, later entering the manual training and grammar schools founded at New Lanark by their father. All attended the educational institution of Emmanuel Fellenburg at Hoffwyl, Switzerland, David and Richard pursuing a special course in chemistry, and, with Robert, acquiring a knowledge of French and German. David and Richard entered the chemical and physical classes of Dr. Andrew Ure, in the Andersonian Institution at Glasgow, and in November, 1872, left Liverpool to join their father at New Harmony, where they engaged in teaching and conducting chemical experiments with apparatus brought from Glasgow.

Robert Dale Owen was in his earlier years, an enthusiastic believer in the social theories of his father, and thought with him that three or four hours work a day under a system of common property, would support a man. In September, 1825, at the age of twenty-four, he left Liverpool for New York. He landed at New York harbor in November, and set foot on what he called "the Canaan of his hopes." He was accompanied by a Capt. McDonald, a young English officer who was an enthusiastic Owenite. They remained at New York for several weeks, and were joined there by the Maclure party of scientists and educators, including besides those mentioned above, "several cultivated ladies, among them, Miss Sistare, afterwards the wife of Thomas Say, and her sisters." Robert Dale Owen is not sure whether William Maclure joined them at New York, or whether he arrived at New Harmony shortly after they reached the place. While in New York, Robert Dale Owen declared his intention to become an American citizen. The trip to New Harmony from Pittsburg was by

a keel boat, which has ever since been known as "The Boat Load of Knowledge." The party reached New Harmony in the middle of January, 1826, eight months after Robert Owen had formally launched his experiment.









**THOMAS SAY.**



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## *The Preliminary Society.*

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"Land of the West, we come to thee,  
Far o'er the desert of the sea;  
Under thy white-winged canopy,  
Land of the West, we fly to thee;  
Sick of the Old World's sophistry;  
Haste then across the dark, blue sea,  
Land of the West, we rush to thee!  
Home of the brave: soil of the free,—  
Huzza! She rises o'er the sea."

—Sung by the Owen party on ship-board, en route to New Harmony.

During the spring of 1825 the New Harmony experiment was a subject of general discussion all over the country. The "National Intelligencer" quoted the Philadelphia papers as saying that "nine hundred inhabitants of that city have expressed a desire to accompany Mr. Owen to New Harmony," although Owen was generally decried by the press as "an unbeliever." New Harmony became the rendezvous of enlightened and progressive people from all over the United States and northern Europe. On the other hand, there came to New Harmony scores of cranks with curious hobbies, many persons impelled by curiosity and many others attracted by the prospect of life without labor. The heterogeneous mass would have afforded Charles Dickens an unlimited supply of character studies, for eccentricity ran riot in a hundred directions. The large majority were free-thinkers, attracted by Robert Owen's unorthodox religious views. New Harmony was denominated by Alexander Campbell, "the focus of enlightened atheism." This fact accounted, in no small degree, for the exodus of scientific men to the place at a time when there was thought to be irreconcilable disagreement between science and religion. Macdonald says that Owen's proclamation was more successful than he had expected, and that he was deprived of an opportunity to select the members of his community by finding the place filled to overflowing on his arrival.

On April twenty-seventh, 1825, Robert Owen addressed the community membership, together with many others who had gathered from the surrounding country to wit-

ness the launching of this strange experiment. The meeting was held in the old Rappite church, which had been converted into the "Hall of New Harmony," and dedicated to free thought and free speech. Amid surroundings so favorable to the success of his project, Mr. Owen could not be blamed for speaking optimistically. "I am come to this country," he said, "to introduce an entire new state of society; to change it from the ignorant, selfish system to an enlightened social system, which shall gradually unite all interests into one, and remove all causes for contest between individuals." Reiterating his declaration that happiness, virtue and the rational being cannot be attained under the individual system, he said that former attempts at social regeneration had not been made with an accurate knowledge of human nature, but were based on an unnatural and artificial view of our own nature. Man claims not our praise and blame, but our compassion, care, attention and kindness. The change in system, however, Mr. Owen declared, could not be accomplished at once. New Harmony is "the half-way house between the old and the new." The people must for a time admit a certain degree of pecuniary inequality, partly, Mr. Owen explained, because scientists and educators would be brought to the settlement under inducements. But there would be no social inequalities. He would consider himself no better than the humblest member. The only distinction in the deference accorded individuals should be that commanded by age and experience. While his desire was that the community should be self governing, it would be necessary for him to take the direction of affairs for a time. "Ardently as I long for the arrival of that period when there shall be no artificial inequality among the whole human race, yet, as no other individual has had the same experience as myself in the practice of the system about to be introduced, I must, for some time, partially take the lead in its direction, but I shall rejoice when I can be relieved from this task by the population of this place becoming such proficient in the principles and practices of the social system, as to be enabled to carry it on successfully without my aid and assistance." "I now live," said Mr. Owen in closing, "but to see this system established in the world."

This first address of Robert Owen at New Harmony was

received with enthusiasm. The strong personality of Mr. Owen impressed itself vividly upon the inhabitants. "He is an extraordinary man," wrote W. Pelham to his son, W. C. Pelham, "a wonderful man,—such a one, indeed, as the world has never before seen. His wisdom, his comprehensive mind, his practical knowledge, but above all, his openness, candor and sincerity, have no parallel in ancient or modern history."

On May first, 1825, the "Preliminary Society of New Harmony" was formed and the constitution proposed by Robert Owen on April twenty-seventh was adopted. This constitution is so complete an exposition of the purposes of the Owenite communists, and so fully sets forth the scheme of government devised for "the half-way house between the old system and the new," that it is worth reproducing in its entirety. The constitution is preceded by the statement: "The society is instituted generally to promote the happiness of the world," and continues as follows:

"This Preliminary Society is particularly formed to improve the character and conditions of its own members, and to prepare them to become associates in independent communities, having common property.

"The sole objects of these communities will be to procure for all their members the greatest amount of happiness, to secure it to them, and to transmit it to their children to the latest posterity.

"Persons of all ages and descriptions, exclusive of persons of color, may become members of the preliminary society. Persons of color may be received as helpers to the society, if necessary; or it may be found useful to prepare and enable them to become associates in communities in Africa, or in some other country, or in some other part of this country.

"The members of the Preliminary Society are all of the same rank, no artificial inequality being acknowledged; precedence to be given only to age and experience, and to those who may be chosen to offices of trust and utility.

"The Committee—As the proprietor of the settlement, and founder of the system, has purchased the property, paid for it, and furnished the capital, and has consequently subjected himself to all the risk of the establishment, it is necessary for the formation of the system, and for its security, that he should have the appointment of the com-

mittee which is to direct and manage the affairs of the society.

"This committee will conduct all the affairs of the society. It will be, as much as possible, composed of men of experience and integrity, who are competent to carry the system into effect, and to apply impartial justice to all the members of the society.

"The number of the committee will be augmented from time to time, according as the proprietor may secure the assistance of other valuable members.

"At the termination of one year from the establishment of the settlement, which shall be dated from the first day of May, the members of the society shall elect, by ballot, from among themselves, three additional members of the committee. Their election is for the purpose of securing to all the members a full knowledge of the proceedings of the committee, and of the business of the society; but it is delayed for one year, in order to afford time for the formation of the society, and to enable the members to become acquainted with the characters and abilities of those who are proper to be elected.

"It is expected that at the termination of the second year, or between that period and the end of the third year, an association of members may be formed to constitute a community of equality and independence to be governed according to the rules and regulations contained in the printed paper entitled: 'Mr. Owen's Plan for the Permanent Relief of the Working Classes,' with such alterations as experience may suggest and the localities of the situation may require.

"The independent community will be established upon property purchased by the associated members.

"The Preliminary Society will continue to receive members, preparatory to their removal into other independent communities.

#### **ADMISSION OF MEMBERS.**

"Every individual, previous to admission as a member, must sign the constitution, which signature shall be regularly witnessed. The members must join the society at their own expense.

"The society shall not be answerable for the debts of



any of its members, nor in any manner for their conduct, no partnership whatsoever existing between the members of the Preliminary Society.

"The members shall occupy the dwellings which the committee may provide for them.

"The live stock possessed by members will be taken and placed to their credit, if wanted for the society, but if not required, it shall not be received.

"All members must provide their own household and kitchen furniture, and their small tools, such as spades, hoes, axes, rakes, etc., and they may bring such provisions as they have already provided.

#### **THE GENERAL DUTIES OF MEMBERS.**

"All the members shall willingly render their best services for the good of the society, according to their age, experience and capacity, and if inexperienced in that which is requisite for its welfare, they shall apply diligently to acquire the knowledge of some useful occupation or employment.

"They shall enter the society with a determination to promote its peace, prosperity and harmony, and, never, under any provocation whatever, act unkindly or unjustly towards, nor speak in an unfriendly manner of, any one either in or out of the society.

"Members shall be temperate, regular and orderly in their whole conduct, and they shall be diligent in their employments, in proportion to their age, capacity and constitution.

"They shall show a good example, it being a much better instructor than precept.

"They shall watch over, and endeavor to protect, the whole property from every kind of injury.

#### **GENERAL PRIVILEGES OF MEMBERS.**

"The members shall receive such advantages, living, comfort and education for their children as this society, and the present state of New Harmony affords.

"The living shall be upon equal terms for all, with the exceptions hereafter to be mentioned.

"In old age, in sickness, or when an accident occurs,

care shall be taken of all parties, medical aid shall be afforded, and every attention shown to them that kindness can suggest.

"Each member shall, within a fixed amount in value, have the free choice of food and clothing; to effect this, a credit (to be hereafter fixed by the committee), will be opened in the store for each family, in proportion to the number of its useful members, also for each single member, but beyond this amount, no one will be permitted to draw on credit. The exceptions to this rule are the following, to-wit:

"1. When the proprietor of the establishment shall deem it necessary for the promotion of the system, and the interest and improvement of the society, to engage scientific and experienced persons to superintend some of the most difficult, useful or responsible situations, at a fixed salary, then such individuals shall have a credit upon the store in proportion to their income.

"2. When any peculiar or unforeseen case may arise, a general meeting of all the members shall be called by the committee, who shall state the particulars of the case to the meeting; the members present shall deliberate upon the subject, and give their vote by ballot, and the question shall be decided by the majority.

"Each family and individual member shall have a credit and debit account, in which they will be charged with what they receive, at the prices the Harmonists usually received for the same articles and credits by the value of their services, to be estimated by the committee, assisted by the persons at the head of the departments in which the respective individuals may be employed; the value of their services over their expenditure, shall be placed at the end of each year to their credit in the books of the society, but no part of this credit shall be drawn out, except in the productions of the establishment, or in store goods, and with the consent of the committee.

"Members may visit their friends, or travel whenever they please, provided the committee can conveniently supply their places in the departments in which they may be respectively employed.

"To enable the members to travel, they will be supplied with funds to half the amount placed to their credit, not, however, exceeding one hundred dollars in any one

year, unless the distance they have to travel from home exceeds six hundred miles.

“Members may receive their friends to visit them, provided they be answerable that such visitors, during their stay, do not transgress the rules of the society.

“The children will be located in the best possible manner in day schools, and will board and sleep in their parents’ houses. Should any members, however, prefer placing their children in the boarding school, they must make a particular and individual engagement with the committee; but no members shall be permitted to bind themselves nor their children to the society for a longer period than one week.

“All the members shall enjoy complete liberty of conscience, and be afforded every facility for exercising those practices of religious worship and devotion which they may prefer.

“Should the arrangements formed for the happiness of the members, fail to effect their object, any of them by giving a week’s notice, can quit the society, taking with them, in the productions of the establishment, the value of what they brought, which value shall be ascertained and fixed by the committee. The members may also, in the same manner, take out the amount of what appears to their credit in the books of the society, at the end of the year immediately preceding their removal, provided that amount still remain to their credit.

#### **DISMISSION OF MEMBERS.**

“Any families or members contravening any of the articles of this constitution, or acting in any way improperly, shall be dismissed by the committee from the society and settlement, upon giving them the same notice by which they are at liberty to quit the society.

“Persons who possess capital, and who do not wish to be employed, may partake of the benefits of this society, by paying such sum annually as may be agreed upon between them and the committee, always paying a quarter in advance.

“Persons wishing to invest capital on interest in the funds of the society, may do so by making a particular agreement with the committee.”

After the adoption of this constitution, Robert Owen addressed the meeting. At the end of the second year, he declared, the members might choose one half of the committee of control. The next step, which might be taken in the following year, would be the establishment of the perfect community. He recommended that each family consume so far as possible, "those articles which are the productions of America," so that the society might speedily become independent. He urged that wherever it was possible vegetable gardens be attached to the household premises, and that the dwellings, inside and out, be kept neat and clean. All differences between the members should be settled by arbitration, and all disputes, quarrelling and drunkenness were to be strictly prohibited. It was his desire "to forbid the use of liquors altogether," but considered "such rigor impracticable for the present." The youth were to be organized into militia companies and drilled for healthful exercise and defense, but children were to be taught that war was contrary to the spirit of the social system.

Though many of the less competent desired to enter at once into communistic association, there were no immediate manifestations of dissatisfaction at the adoption of a temporary semi-individual system. While the power of naming the entire membership of the committee of control was vested in Robert Owen, he contented himself with designating four members, who, with the rest, were elected by the society. Little over a month after the formation of the Preliminary Society, Mr. Owen left New Harmony, en route for New Lanark, with the intention of bringing his family to Indiana. He embarked for Liverpool from New York on July seventeenth, 1825, and did not return to New Harmony until the following January. Before leaving, he recommended that the inhabitants meet together three evenings in each week,—one for the general discussion of subjects connected with the welfare of the community, another for a concert of vocal and instrumental music, and a third for a public ball. He left a school of one hundred and thirty children, who were educated, clothed and boarded at the public expense. Mr. Maclure did not remain at New Harmony, but, during the greater part of the life time of the experiment, was traveling for his health.

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## *“The Half-Way House.”*

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During the absence of Robert Owen in Europe, the *New Harmony Gazette*, the official organ of the community, was established. Its first issue is dated October first, 1825, and bears the motto: “If we cannot reconcile all opinions, let us endeavor to unite all hearts.” The prospectus stated: “In our Gazette, we purpose developing more fully the principles of the social system; that the world, with ourselves, may, by contrast, be convinced that individuality detracts largely from the sum of human happiness.” “Although our columns will ever be closed against personal invective,” stated the prospectus, “yet they will ever be open to the free expression of opinions, which, however erroneous, may become useful, where reason and truth are left free to combat them.” The publication continued through three volumes. Like all its contemporaries of that period, the Gazette devoted little space to what we now denominate local news. Its columns were filled with essays on such subjects as “Moral Responsibility” and “Human Happiness,” alternating with selections from Mr. Owen’s works, dissertations on agricultural topics, scientific articles and such general news as might come to the attention of the editor through the medium of exchanges which could not be called recent by the time the river boat or overland carrier had delivered them at New Harmony, which had only a weekly mail service. The more important events at New Harmony are, however, recorded, and from the pages of the Gazette we must draw the larger part of our information concerning the active community history.

In one of the first numbers of the Gazette appears an official “View of New Harmony” and a resumé of the work accomplished by the society during the first six months of settlement. “The village,” says the Gazette, “is regularly laid out in squares, forming four streets running north and south, and six running east and west: the whole included in six wards, containing thirty-five brick, forty-five frame, and one hundred log buildings, occupied for various purposes. Some of the buildings are spacious and costly.

the principal of which are the town hall, the mansion house, formerly occupied by Mr. Rapp, the public store and manufactories, the boarding school and several large boarding houses for the accommodation of the members of the society. Great uniformity of structures is observed in the dwelling houses, which have an air of neatness, although small, and inconvenient for families accustomed to a city life." Of the town hall, heretofore described as the Rappite church, the Gazette said: "The whole building has a grand and imposing appearance. The second stories of two of the wings are laid off into small rooms, which serve for music, reading, debating and other social meetings. The large lower room is appropriated to deliberative assemblages of the citizens, to balls and concerts, and is lighted up every evening for the convenience of those who may choose to pass the time together. The church is a neat frame building, painted white, the spire of which is furnished with two heavy bells, and is set apart for religious meetings, and for day and evening schools, to which every member desirous of elementary instruction has access. The boarding school is a convenient, airy, three-story brick building, ninety feet by sixty-five, and contains accommodations for one hundred and sixty children. The institution is, at present, under a favorable organization, and the number of pupils amounts to upwards of one hundred."

"Manufactures and trades," continued the Gazette, "are among the leading objects to which associations formed on the coöperative plan should turn their attention, for in no other way can a desirable state of independence be secured. The experience of our predecessors convinced them of this fact, and they have left behind them respectable evidences of their devotion to these two branches of industry. Their principal manufacturing establishment consisted of two spacious buildings, one occupied as a merchandise mill, and the other filled with machinery for manufacturing cotton and wool, all driven by a steam engine of sixty horse power. The weaving, dressing and dye houses are built on an extensive and convenient plan, calculated for operations far exceeding the wants of the society. The cloths and flannels hitherto produced at this place have been in high reputation throughout the country. The present society has a no less cheering prospect before them in their capacity of growing to any extent the raw materials of

cotton and wool than in their means of prosecuting the manufacture of those articles, equal to the consumption of themselves and their neighbors.

“The mechanical branches possess the requisite facilities for carrying on their respective trades, in workshops and tools, and include an extensive brewery, tan-yard, soap and candle factory, etc., but an accession of skillful hands in nearly all these branches of industry, as well as in some other departments, is still desirable. No fears, however, are entertained that these wants will long remain unsupplied, if an opinion can be formed from the daily applications for admission to membership, which the society is and has been under the necessity of rejecting, through want of suitable accommodations. In future, or until such accommodations can be provided, no applications can meet with success, except from those who possess a knowledge of the most useful and indispensable arts.

“Our manufacturing and mechanical branches may be considered in a state of infancy. Notwithstanding the purchase included most things necessary for prosecuting them on a pretty extensive scale, yet we have had no good cause to calculate even on the limited degree of success which has attended them. The commencement of this society may be dated on the first of May last, two months previous to which time our Mr. Owen, with a few exceptions, was an entire stranger to the persons now composing his new association. The transatlantic concerns of our founder left him but little time for completing his arrangements here, and a population of eight hundred persons was, in the short space of three weeks, drawn together, necessarily without much deliberation, or any reference to their professional skill or immediate usefulness. This state of things left us but little to expect from their ability to carry on successfully the multifarious operations necessary for the continuance and comfort of so large a population. Under these and many other unfavorable circumstances, our manufactories have been at work since the middle of June. With the machinery now on hand, our operations in the wool business should turn out one hundred and sixty pounds of yarn per day, but the want of spinners reduces the business. The frilling and dressing departments have, at present, neither regular superintendents nor workmen, consequently they are not prosecuted with effect. The

cotton spinning establishment is equal to producing between three and four hundred pounds of yarn per week, and is under very good direction: but skilful and ready hands are much wanting, which time will furnish from our present population. The dye house is a spacious brick building, furnished with copper vessels, capable of containing between fifteen hundred and two thousand gallons, and will probably compare in convenience with any in the United States. At present this valuable establishment is doing nothing, for want of a skilful person to undertake the direction of it. The manufacture of soap, candles and glue has hitherto rather exceeded our consumption. A convenient and moderately extensive rope walk has furnished the store with articles of that trade. The hat manufactory is under good organization, and has attached to it eight efficient workmen. The boot and shoe department is doing well, seventeen workmen being constantly employed. Besides these, in the employed professions, are thirty-six farmers and field laborers, four tanners, two gardeners, two butchers, two bakers, two distillers, one brewer, one tinner, two watchmakers, four black and white-smiths, two turners, one machinemaker, four coopers, three printers, one stocking weaver, three sawyers, seven tailors, twelve seamstresses and mantua makers, nine carpenters, four bricklayers, two stonecutters, four wheelwrights, one cabinetmaker and three cloth weavers. Of the unemployed professions we have three tobacconists and two paper-makers. The pottery is doing nothing for want of hands, and we have at present neither saddlers, harnessmakers, leather dressers, coppersmiths, brushmakers, combmakers, glaziers, painters nor bookbinders."

"The merchant mill, driven by water, at the cut-off (beside the one in the village operated by steam), is a large establishment, having three sets of stones, and complete fixtures for the manufacture of flour, and is capable of turning out sixty barrels in twenty-four hours. One mile from the town is a sawmill capable of furnishing an unlimited quantity of lumber." Evidently both these establishments were still lying idle, as their operation is not mentioned. "A cotton gin of sixty saws is at this time in active operation, doing a good business for the society as well as for the surrounding country. We have a well supplied apothecary shop, under the direction of a highly respectable



physician, who gives his attendance and dispenses medicine without charge to the citizens.

“The mercantile store is doing an extensive business with the country, while it supplies all the inhabitants with all their necessaries. The tavern, which is large, commodious and well regulated, is much frequented by strangers, who are attracted to visit us either through curiosity or from a desire to partake of our social amusements.”

“In taking a survey of New Harmony,” said the Gazette of October twenty-second, “the mind is struck with a degree of admiration at the appearance which designates the progress of its late industrious inhabitants, both in the arts of life and in their progress towards a more perfect state of society. Here, the rude log cabin marks their first humble efforts, there the neat frame house bespeaks their improvement in taste and skill; again, their spacious, substantial community houses tell us of their ability to supply an increase of comforts, and the public buildings exhibit a great amount of surplus labor and skill. The two spacious granaries, calculated to lay up stores for the consumption of years, are among the most prominent objects of the place. One is a four-storied frame, one hundred feet by eighty: the other is a vast building of brick and stone, with a tiled roof, and having five floors laid with tile brick. From its strength and appearance, it might have been taken for a fortress rather than a storehouse for grain. The public buildings are calculated to attract the attention of strangers who visit the place, as much from the novelty of design as from the amount of labor and materials consumed in their construction.”

The Gazette also stated that the river abounded in fish, “of the description usually found in the western waters. We think our neighborhood is not infected with mischievous animals. Of the panther, the bear and the fox we have heard nothing. Wolves are said to depredate on our pigs and calves when running in retired forests. Deer are often seen bounding over our fields, and browsing on our corn. Numbers of fawns are offered for sale on our streets during the spring months.”

Under date of October tenth, a member of the society wrote to a friend in Boston: “The society has not been long enough together to acquire any particular character: you can judge yourself that a collection of individuals from

all parts of the earth, of all kinds, sects and denominations, who have hastily rushed together, can have no character as yet, except indeed the absence of one. If this is not strictly true, the exceptions to it are that the people generally show a disposition to do as well as they know how, and to learn to do as much better as they can, which is all that appears to be expected by those who have the burdens to bear." Another letter from a member to an eastern friend, under date of October thirtieth, stated that "so far, domestic quarrels, disputes between individual members, and religious and political controversies are unknown, at least they are so very infrequent as to be unknown to the writer, probably because we have no opposing interests to generate quarrels; and also because there is no such thing, under the new system, as an insult; every man speaks according to the impression which dictates his words, and all impressions are made upon him by the exercise of faculties over which he has no control."

The Gazette of October twenty-ninth contains the following resumé of the condition of community affairs:

"Every state in the union, with the exception of the two most southern, and almost every country in the north of Europe, has contributed to make up our population. We may readily conceive that a population collected from so many different countries, and of different habits and opinions, possessing no common ties of interest or sympathy, could not immediately coalesce nor present to the observer any marked prevailing character.

"In comparing the moral condition of our citizens with the state of the old society, we are struck with the degree of advantage which the former has over the latter; and the mind, accounting for the difference, is involuntarily directed in search of some new principle. Here, social intercourse is not disturbed by conflicting interests, nor the long catalogue of bad feelings generated by them, but every man meets his neighbor with honest confidence.

"This society regards education as public property, \*  
\* \* \* and holds that the educating and training of youth should be among the first objects of its solicitude and care. \* \* \* Well regulated amusements should be no less a part of the business of life than other occupations, but this important object has hitherto been

mostly directed by chance: in consequence, immorality and disorder have to a great extent prevailed. \* \* \* \* This society has made it its especial care to blend amusements with industry and study. Tuesday evenings are appropriated to balls, at which we have an able band of music, and a general attendance of the youthful population: Friday evenings to concerts, at which, in addition to the regular band, such of the children as have musical talent are introduced. On Wednesday evening, public meetings are held, when all subjects relating to the well-being of the society are freely and fully discussed.

"The military of this place consists of one company of infantry, one of artillery and a corps of riflemen, which together with a company of veterans, and one of riflemen just forming, will amount to two hundred and fifty soldiers: thus, while the people provide for their own protection against the social ills of life, they do not neglect the means of national defense.

"From a review of the circumstances existing at this place, our readers will now perceive that if we have not yet been able to accomplish all the objects contemplated in the formation of this association, so much has, however, been completed, as to convince us of the practicability and assure us of the ultimate success of Mr. Owen's plans for the amelioration of the condition of mankind."

On November seventh occurred the installation of officers of the first secret society in the community,—*"The New Harmony Philanthropic Lodge"* of Masons, showing that Mr. Owen's plans did not contemplate the abolition of secret societies. In the *Gazette* of that date, this announcement is made: *"The Regular meeting of the Female Social Society is postponed until Monday evening."* There is no earlier record of a woman's club in the west. The first marriage in the community recorded by the *Gazette* was that of *"Mr. Alfred Salmon to Miss Elizabeth S. Palmer,"* which took place on October twenty-seventh, the ceremony being performed by a Rev. Meek. In spite of the inauguration of the social system, the New Harmony store was advertising magistrates' blanks.

In an early October issue of the *Gazette* appeared a communication signed *"An Illinois Farmer,"* in which he declared, *"in the most unequivocal manner,"* that *"the principles of Robert Owen, or any society founded upon*

them, will not and cannot succeed. They will at the outset commit suicide on themselves, if steadily adhered to." The editor remonstrated with the correspondent, and assured him of the present and future success of the community. In reply to a further communication the Gazette said editorially: "We would inform the Illinois Farmer, in answer to his second communication on dancing, that we suffer not our amusements to interfere with our regular employments; but, after the fatigue of the day, when we cannot see to handle a plough, we consider ourselves at perfect liberty to devote our evenings to intellectual improvement or to any rational recreation."

In an editorial advocating increased rights for women, the Gazette declared: "It is, we believe, contemplated in Mr. Owen's system, by giving our female population as good an education as our males, to qualify them for every situation in life in which, consistently with their organization, they may be placed."

As early as September nineteenth, 1825, the first society formed on Robert Owen's principles, other than that at New Harmony, was in process of organization in Green county, Ohio. This society was called the Yellow Springs community, and a correspondent writes the Gazette hopefully of its progress.

While New Harmony was generally looked upon as a center of infidelity, there were frequent religious services there. The only reservation made with regard to the use of the church was that two hours on Sunday morning were occupied by a lecture on the social system, "the lecturer confining his remarks to subjects calculated to suppress discord and vice, and studiously avoiding anything that might arouse ill feeling or wound the religious prejudices of his hearers." There was a widespread prejudice against the New Harmony schools on account of a belief that atheistic principles were taught. Religious matters, however, were not discussed in the schools, "that being left to the parents or religious instructors." Permission to speak at the church was given to any minister who asked it, "his creed not being asked." Sunday in the community was a day of rest, and to most of the members of the society a day of recreation.

By Christmas of 1825, the population of New Harmony numbered about one thousand. The Gazette published a

review of the operations of the Society, in which it congratulated the members on their advancement in the direction of unity and harmony, which it declared had been effected by reducing Mr. Owen's principles to practice. “Popular opinion being now decidedly opposed to indolence and vice, the idle member must become industrious, and the vicious become more virtuous, or they cannot rest contentedly in the bosom of our community.”

Robert Owen had arrived with his party at New York on November seventh, but remained for some time in the East pushing the new propaganda. A Washington paper of December fifth stated: “On Saturday last, Capt. McDonald and Stedman Whitwell, friends of Mr. Owen, and deputed by him, waited by appointment upon the President, and presented to him for the use of the general government a model of one of the cities for two thousand people, which Mr. Owen proposes to execute himself, and which he recommends to be universally adopted in society. The model is almost six feet square, and is, therefore, upon a scale sufficiently large to exhibit satisfactorily the various descriptions of buildings and their relative dimensions.”

On December twenty-eighth, the Gazette said: “From the numerous applications which we have received for membership; from the rapidity with which the liberal principles of the social system are embraced by intelligent and reflecting minds, and from the general disposition, wherever they have been received, toward reducing them to practice; and from the number of social communities springing up in this state, independent of every advantage offered to individual settlers, we have reason to believe that the increase in population will be greater than at any former period; and were it possible to accommodate the applicants with houses, this little town, before the next sitting of the legislature, would have an increase of many times its present population.”



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## *The "Permanent Community."*

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The devil at length scrambled out of the hole  
Discovered by Symmes at the freezing North Pole:  
He mounted an iceberg, spread his wings for a sail,  
And started for earth with his long, barbed tail.

He heard that a number of people were going  
To live on the Wabash with great Mr. Owen:  
He said to himself, "I must now have a care,  
Circumstances require that myself should be there.

"I know that these persons think they are impelled,  
And by power of circumstance all men are held,  
And owe no allegiance to heaven or me:  
What a place this for work for the devil will be.

"Since Adam first fell by my powerful hand,  
I have wandered for victims through every known land,  
But in all my migrations ne'er hit on a plan  
That would give me the rule so completely o'er man.

"I have set sects to fighting and shedding of blood,  
And have whispered to bigots they're all doing good,  
Inquisitions I've founded, made kings my lies swallow,  
But this plan of free living beats all my schemes hollow.

"I have tempted poor Job, and have smote him with sores:  
I have tried all good men and caught preachers by scores,  
But never on earth, through my whole course of evil,  
Until now could I say, 'Here's a plan beats the devil.'

"I am satisfied now this will make the coast clear,  
For men to all preaching will turn a deaf ear:  
Since it's plain that religion is changed to opinions,  
I must hasten back home, and enlarge my dominions."

The devil then mounted again on the ice,  
And dashed through the waves, and got home in a trice,  
And told his fell imps whom he kept at the pole  
Circumstances required they should widen the hole!

—Poem in opposition to the Owen community in Philadelphia  
Gazette, January, 1826.

On January eighteenth, 1826, Robert Owen, with his "boat-load of knowledge," arrived at New Harmony. He was greeted with great rejoicing by the inhabitants, the children from the boarding school escorting him from the limits of the village to the tavern. Robert Owen was delighted with the apparent success of the Society, and declared that the people had progressed far toward the conditions necessary for the formation of a perfect community. The people generally believed that the arrival of their leader, with his party of "wise men from the East," would rally all retreat and lead on to victory. Under Mr.

Owen's practiced hand the idle factories would soon be in full operation and all the projected plans of the founder, including the building of his new village of unity and coöperation, would soon be undertaken. The educational feature of the experiment was certain to receive a great impetus from the accession of such a corps of scholars as that which had accompanied Mr. Owen from New York. Mr. Owen was enthusiastic and optimistic, as well as anxious for the immediate trial of his ultimate plans. One week after his arrival, he announced that in consideration of the progress which had been made, the Preliminary Society would be cut off two years before its time, and a community of perfect equality inaugurated. "I think my father must have been as well pleased with the condition of things at New Harmony as I myself was," writes Robert Dale Owen. "At all events \* \* \* \* he disclosed to me his intention to propose to the Harmonites that they should form themselves into a community of equality, based on the principle of common property. This took me by surprise."

On the twenty-fifth of January, 1826, it was resolved in a meeting of the Preliminary Society to organize a community of equality from among the members of the society. The meeting resolved itself into a constitutional convention, which was organized by the election of Dr. Philip M. Price as president and Thomas Pears as secretary. A committee of seven was chosen by ballot to frame a draft of the constitution to be submitted at a future meeting of the convention.

The following named persons were chosen: Warner W. Lewis, James O. Wattles, John Whitby, William Owen, Donald McDonald, R. L. Jennings and Robert Dale Owen. On February first, this committee made its report, which was vigorously debated through several sessions, several substitute plans being submitted by members of the convention. At the sixth session, the whole subject was submitted to the committee for revision. "The committee again reported at the seventh session," says the Gazette, "and the constitution proposed, after having undergone several alterations and amendments, was at the ninth session of the convention, held on Sunday evening, February fifth, formally adopted."

The constitution was preceded by an interesting and



comprehensive declaration of principles. "When a number of the human family associate in principles which do not yet influence the rest of the world," stated the preamble, "a due regard to the opinions of others requires a public declaration of the object of their association, of their principles and of their intentions." The "Declaration" continued:

Our object is that of all sentient being, happiness.

Our principles are:

Equality of rights, uninfluenced by sex or condition, in all adults.

Equality of duties, modified by physical and mental conformation.

Coöperative union, in the business and amusements of life.

Community of property.

Freedom of speech and action.

Sincerity in all our proceedings.

Kindness in all our actions.

Courtesy in all our intercourse.

Order in all our arrangements.

Preservation of health.

Acquisition of knowledge.

The practice of economy, or of producing and using the best of everything in the most beneficial manner.

Obedience to the laws of the country in which we live.

We hold it to be self-evident:

That man is uniformly actuated by a desire of happiness.

That no member of the human family is born with rights either of possession or exemption superior to those of his fellows.

That freedom in the sincere expression of every sentiment and opinion, and in the direction of every action, is the inalienable right of each human being, and cannot justly be limited except by his own consent.

That the preservation of life, in its most perfect state, is the first of all practical considerations.

And that, as we live in the State of Indiana, submission to its laws and to those of the general government is necessary.

Experience has taught us:

That man's character, mental, moral and physical, is the

result of his formation, his location, and of the circumstances within which he exists.

And that man, at birth, is formed unconsciously to himself, is located without his consent, and circumstanced without his control.

Therefore, man's character is not of his own formation, and reason teaches us that to a being of such nature, artificial rewards and punishments are equally inapplicable; kindness is the only consistent mode of treatment, and courtesy the only rational species of deportment.

We have observed, in the affairs of the world, that man is powerful in action, efficient in production, and happy in social life, only as he acts coöperatively and unitedly.

Coöperative union, therefore, we consider indispensable to the attainment of our object.

We have remarked that where the greatest results have been produced by coöperative union, order and economy were the principal means of their attainment.

Experience, therefore, places order and economy among our principles.

The departure from the principle of man's equal rights, which is exhibited in the arrangement of individual property, we have seen succeeded by competition and opposition, by jealousy and dissension, by extravagance and poverty, by tyranny and slavery.

Therefore we revert to the principle of community of property.

Where the will and the power exist, the result produced is proportioned to the knowledge of the agent; and in practice we have found that an increase of intelligence is equally an increase of happiness.

We seek intelligence, therefore, as we seek happiness itself.

As the first and most important knowledge, we desire to know ourselves.

But we search for this knowledge in vain, if our fellow creatures do not express to us openly and unreservedly what they feel and think.

Our knowledge remains imperfect, therefore, without sincerity.

We have seen misery produced by the great leading principles which prevail over the world: therefore we have not adopted them.

We have always found truth productive of happiness and error of misery: truth, therefore, leads to our object, and we agree to follow truth only.

Truth is consistent, and in unison with all facts: error is inconsistent, and opposed to facts.

Our reason has convinced us of the theoretical truth of our principles,—our experience, of their practical utility.

For these reasons,—with this object,—and on these principles, we, the undersigned, form ourselves and our children into a society and community of equality, for the benefit of ourselves and our children and of the human race, and do agree to the following articles of union and coöperation.

The official name of the community was to be: "The New Harmony Community of Equality." "All members of the community shall be considered as one family, and no one shall be held in higher or lower estimation on account of occupation. There shall be similar food, clothing and education, as near as can be furnished, for all, according to their ages: and, as soon as practicable, all shall live in similar houses, and in all respects be accommodated alike. Every member shall render his or her best services for the good of the whole, according to the rules and regulations that may be hereafter adopted by the community. It shall always remain a primary object of the community to give the best physical, moral and intellectual education to all its members.

"The power of making laws shall be vested in the assembly," consisting of "all the resident members of the Community above the age of twenty-one years, one-sixth of whom shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. The executive power of the community shall be vested in a council, to consist of the secretary, treasurer and commissary of the community, and four superintendents of departments to be chosen as hereinafter provided. The secretary, treasurer and commissary shall be elected by the assembly."

"The community shall be divided into six departments: Of agriculture; of manufactures and mechanics; of literature, science and education; of domestic economy; of general economy; of commerce. These departments shall be divided into occupations. The individuals of each occupation, above sixteen years of age, shall nominate to the

assembly for confirmation, their intendent, and the intendents of each occupation, which shall consist of three or more persons, shall nominate the superintendent of their own department: provided, that the commissary shall be superintendent of the department of domestic economy, and the treasurer of the department of commerce: and for the purpose of nominating superintendents the department of commerce shall be united to the department of literature, science and education and the department of domestic economy to that of general economy." Where nominations fail of confirmation by the assembly, new nominations must be made. "The secretary, superintendents and intendents shall hold their offices during the pleasure of the assembly."

"It shall be the duty of the executive council to make all contracts, to carry into effect all general regulations, and generally to conduct and superintend all the concerns of the community, subject at all times to directions expressed by a majority in the assembly, and communicated in writing by the clerk of the assembly to the secretary.

"The executive council shall also report weekly to the assembly all the proceedings, accounts, receipts and expenditures of each department and occupation, and their opinion of the character of each intendent, and the intendent's opinion of the daily character of each person attached to their occupation. All the accounts of the community shall be balanced at least once in each week, and the results communicated to the assembly. All the reports of the superintendents and of the secretary, and all the transactions of the assembly, shall be registered and carefully kept for perpetual reference. The assembly shall also register weekly its opinion of the executive council, and the council in like manner its opinions of the proceedings of the assembly.

"No person shall hereafter be admitted a member of this community without the consent of a majority of all the members of the assembly; and no person shall be dismissed from the community but by a vote of two-thirds of all the members of the assembly: and, in neither instance, until the subject shall have been discussed at two successive weekly meetings.

"The real estate of the community shall be held in perpetual trust forever for the use of the community and all

its members, for the time being; and every person leaving the community shall forfeit all claim thereto or interest therein: but shall be entitled to receive his or her just proportion of the value of such real estate acquired during the time of his membership, to be estimated and determined as is provided in cases of settlement for the services of members so leaving the community.

"Each member shall have the right of resignation of membership on giving the community one week's notice of his or her intention; and when any member shall so leave the community, or shall be dismissed therefrom, he shall be entitled to receive, in proper products of the community, such compensation for previous services as justice shall require, to be determined by the council, subject to an appeal to the assembly, respect being had to the gains or losses of the community during the time of his membership, as well as to the expenses of the individual and of his or her family for education or otherwise."

The community shall not be responsible for individual debts contracted by members. "No credit shall, on any account, be given or received by the community or its agent or agents except for such property or money as may be advanced by Robert Owen, or William Maclure, or members of the community." Money brought into the community by members shall be returned to them on withdrawal from the society. "Every member shall enjoy the most perfect freedom on all subjects of knowledge and opinion, especially on the subject of religion. Children of deceased members shall continue to enjoy all the privileges of membership. All misunderstandings that may arise between members of the community shall be adjusted within the community."

"As this system is directly opposed to secrecy and exclusion of any kind, every practical facility shall be given to strangers to enable them to become acquainted with the regulations of the Community, and to examine the results which these have produced in practice: and an unreserved explanation of the views and proceedings of the community shall be communicated to the government of the country.

"The constitution may be altered or amended by a vote of three-fourths of all the members of the assembly, but

not until the subject has been discussed at four successive public meetings to be held in four successive weeks."

This was "liberty, equality and fraternity in downright earnest," wrote Robert Dale Owen. "It found favor with that heterogeneous collection of radicals, enthusiastic devotees to principle, honest latitudinarians and lazy theorists, with a sprinkling of unprincipled sharpers thrown in." Services to the community were no longer to be rewarded in proportion to their worth, as under the Preliminary Society, but equal privileges and advantages were assured to every member of the community. "I made no opposition to all this," says Robert Dale Owen. "I had too much of my father's all-believing disposition to anticipate results which any shrewd, cool-headed business man might have predicted. How rapidly they came upon us!"

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## *The Social System on Trial.*

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After the adoption of the constitution of the community of equality, it was resolved that all members of the Preliminary Society signing the constitution within three days could, with their families, become members. Most of the members of the society signed the document, but a few refused to do so. The Gazette failed to state the exact cause of the defection, simply announcing that "a new community in friendly connection with the first is about to be formed on the estate of New Harmony, within a few miles of the town by some respectable families who were members of the Preliminary Society, but from conscientious motives have declined signing the new constitution." Among the members leaving at this time was Capt. Donald McDonald, a disciple of Robert Owen, who had sufficient faith in the new principles to follow their author from Scotland to New Harmony. McDonald was one of the founders of the Edinburg "Practical Society" of six hundred families which formed the nucleus of the famous Orbiston community. He accompanied Robert Owen to Ireland on one occasion when Mr. Owen was investigating the condition of the poor in that country. Evidently Macdonald's self-esteem had been wounded in the discussions over the constitution, for he stated in a card published in the Gazette that he had not been accorded "the confidence he had looked for in the community." A further objection of his was that he "did not believe in a written constitution." The defection seems to have occurred, however, almost entirely on religious grounds. The new community, which was called Macluria, included some of the best members of the Preliminary Society, many of whom were not in sympathy with the religious latitudinarianism of Robert Owen. Its constitution was largely modelled after that of the parent community. A unanimous vote was required for admission of a member, but any person voted on could remain one month on trial for each black-ball, if the number of these did not exceed twenty-five: a larger number being cast against the applicant, he

might remain one month for every two black-balls. The legislative body, under the final direction of the assembly, was called "The Council of the Fathers," which consisted of the five oldest male members under the age of sixty-five years. Women were denied the privilege of voting in the assembly, though accorded in all other matters equal privileges with men. The system of intendents and superintendents contemplated in the constitution of the parent community was perpetuated in the constitution of Macluria.

About the fifteenth of February, superintendents were elected by the parent community as follows:

Agriculture: Dr. William Price.

Manufactures and Mechanics: J. K. Coolidge.

Literature, Science and Education: Thomas Say.

General Economy: Stedman Whitwell.

Commerce: William Owen.

Secretary: W. W. Lewis.

On February seventeenth six new families were admitted, but matters were already in a state of anarchy. The constitution had failed to work effectively, and the disorder was so general and so disastrous that on February nineteenth, two weeks after the inauguration of the "perfect community," the executive committee unanimously requested Mr. Owen to assume the directorship of the community for one year. Practically a dictatorship was established, although the constitution remained in effect. Mr. Owen accepted the trust, and a brief period of comparative tranquility and contentment ensued.

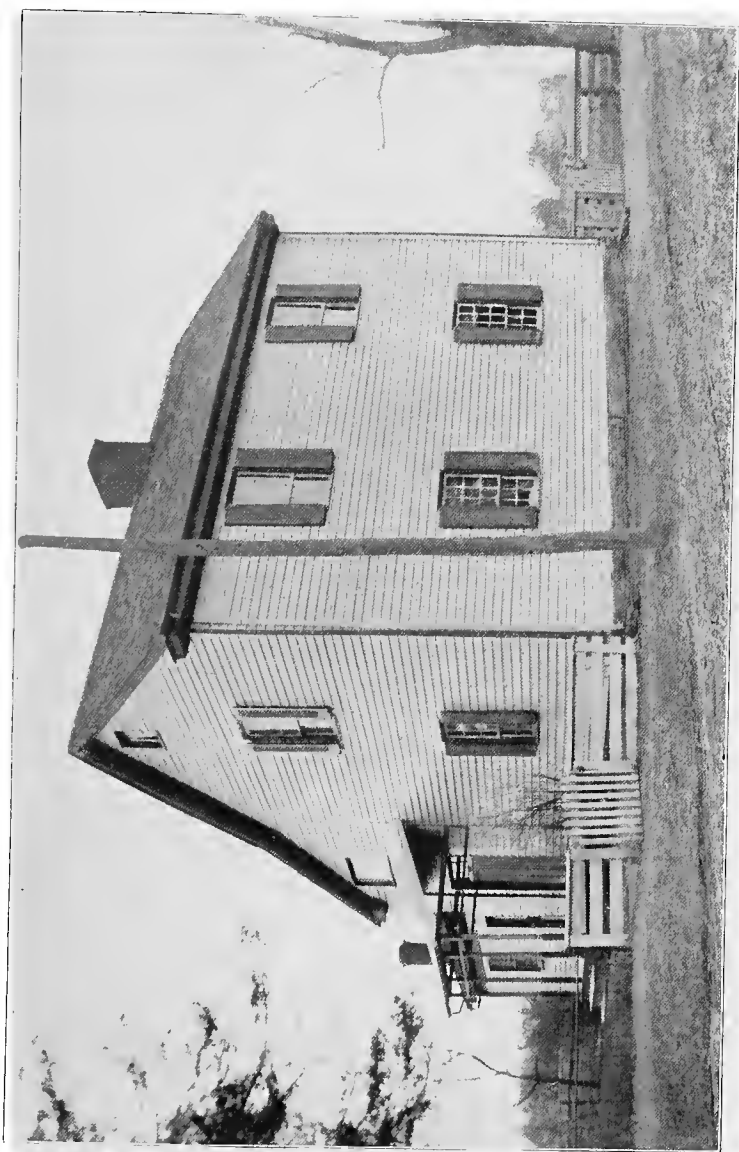
On February twenty-second, the Gazette stated that since the adoption of the constitution the community had been engaged in organizing the several departments and making such arrangements as were deemed necessary to effect the purposes of association. "Numerous meetings have been held, and various plans suggested to carry into practice the community principles. In a work of such magnitude, combining so many interests and such a variety of feeling, the progress already made affords a sure presage of the harmonious and efficient coöperation of all the members. Most of the community officers have now been elected."

Early in March the second off-shooting society was formed, under the name of Feiba-Peveli. The name of









**TYPICAL RAPPITE HOUSE.**  
Residence of Thomas Say, "The Father of American Zoology "



this community is an evidence that some of the philosophers who came to New Harmony did little else than to evolve fantastic schemes. As a sample of the imaginative productions of one of these oddities,—Stedman Whitwell, a London architect and social reformer given to writing verses and planning community palaces on paper,—the process by which the name of this community was secured is interesting. Whitwell noted some of the incongruities in American nomenclature, and deplored the repetition which was producing “Washingtons” and “Springfields” in every state in the Union. He proposed to give each locality a distinctive name by expressing in a compound word the latitude and longitude of the place, thus enabling one to locate any community geographically when the name was once known. Letters were proposed as substitutes for the numerals used in expressing latitude and longitude, as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0
Latitude . . . . .	a	e	i	o	u	y	ee	ei	ie	ou
Longitude . . . . .	b	d	f	k	l	m	n	p	r	t

The first part of the town name expressed the latitude, the second the longitude, by a substitution of letters for figures according to the above table. The letter “S” inserted in the latitude name denoted that it was south latitude, its absence that it was north, while “V” indicated west longitude, its absence east longitude. Extensive rules for pronunciation and for overcoming various difficulties were given. According to this system, Feiba Peveli indicated 38.11 N., 81.53 W. Macluria, 38.12 N., 87.52 W., was to be called Ipad Evenle; New Harmony, 38.11 N., 87.55 W., Ipba Veinul; New Yellow Springs, Green county, Ohio, the location of an Owenite community, 39.48 N., 83.52 W., Irap Evifle; Valley Forge, near Philadelphia, where there was another branch community, 40.7 N., 75.24 W., Outeon Eveldo; Orbiston, 55.34 N., 4.3 W., Uhi Ovouti; New York, Otke Notive; Pittsburg, Otfu Veitoup; Washington, Feili Neivul; London, Lafa Vovutu. The principal argument in favor of the new system presented by the author was that the name of a neighboring Indian chief, “Occoneocoglecocacachecodungo,” was even worse than some of the effects produced by this “rational system” of nomenclature.

The constitution of Feiba Peveli contained a declaration

of principles almost identical with that set forth in the parent constitution, while the plan of government coincided with that adopted by Macluria. The legislative power of the community was vested in its "male members over the age of twenty-one years." The executive duties were vested in the five eldest male members under the age of fifty-five years, "provided three of them shall be good, practical agriculturists." Managers, intendants and clerks were to be appointed by this council, which in turn was responsible to the assembly. Any person applying for membership receiving no more than five black-balls might reside in the society as a probationary member one month for each black-ball received. Arbitration was provided for not only between members of the community, but between Feiba Peveli and any other similar community. "No debt shall be contracted," the constitution declared, "but with Robert Owen and William Maclure, or some society based on similar principles with our own: and no credit shall be given but to some society instituted on similar principles."

"Since our last notice of the proceedings of the community," said the Gazette of March eighth, 1826, "circumstances have occurred which have produced much animated and interesting debate. All minds seem now to comprehend the true grounds of future coöperation, and all hearts have united in claiming the benefit of Mr. Owen's experience and knowledge in reducing to practice the principles which form the basis of our association. General satisfaction and individual contentment have taken the place of suspense and uncertainty. Under the sole direction of Mr. Owen the most gratifying anticipations of the future may be indulged in, for knowledge and experience are the only safe guides through the intricacies of the untried system."

Considerable difficulty had arisen from a crowded population, but the formation of new communities began to relieve the congestion. Some inconvenience, the administration declared, must be endured until suitable accommodation could be procured for the members. On March twenty-second, the Gazette said: "The friends of the new social system will learn with pleasure that we are steadily advancing toward the firm final establishment of the principles of our association. It has been seen and sensibly felt that while we have been discussing the abstract ideas,

while we have been in vain trying to reconcile contrary and clashing opinions, we have neglected the practical means within our reach which alone can bind man to his fellowmen. In short, we have discovered that our energies have been wasted in fruitless efforts, each one endeavoring to convince others that he alone possessed the power of unlocking the pleasures of social life. This error is happily dispelled. By the indefatigable attention of Mr. Owen, a degree of order, of regularity, of system, has been introduced into every department of business which promises increase and permanency. The town now presents a scene of active and steady industry, the effects of which are visible and palpable. The society is gradually becoming really as well as ostensibly a community of equality based on equal rights and equal duties of all. Our streets no longer present groups of idle talkers, and each one is busily engaged in the occupation he has chosen for his employment. Our public meetings, instead of being the arena of contending orators, have assumed a different character, and are now places of business, where familiar consultations are held, and the most efficient measures are adopted for the comforts of life for all the members. No vain disputes grate upon the ear of patient industry, and all seem strongly impressed with the importance of applying their powers to realize the object of coöperative association. During the past week there has been much done in this way, and there is every reason to believe that progress will not be impeded by idleness, listlessness and erroneous views of our situation. It would indeed be strange if the experience gained by the greater part of the population during eleven months' schooling, with the aid of Mr. Owen's practical knowledge for the past eight weeks, should be lost upon us." On April twelfth, the Gazette declared that "the formation of communities is now pretty generally understood among us, and is entered upon like a matter of ordinary business. The same thing will probably occur throughout the country."

Evidently the administration had begun to realize the impossibility of unifying the interests of any great number of persons associated in a community. The administration organ stated early in April that no more than twenty to thirty persons should form the basis of a community, for if the number be greater, the greater the chance of the

members being uncongenial. As far as possible the operations of the society should be very simple and upon an agricultural basis. From this the communities could proceed to mechanical operations at a later date. The community should first make itself useful, and then proceed to the higher development of community life, such as education, etc. "No attempt to combine an unintelligible mass of discordant interests can result favorably unless it be under the direction of a mind, disposition and talent long exerted in similar combinations."

The pages of the Gazette from this time on continue to reveal the difficulties encountered by the projectors of the social experiment at New Harmony. The numerous suggestions of new plans made by correspondents through the Gazette are evidence of considerable dissatisfaction among the community membership. "A Friendly Spectator" in the Gazette of April nineteenth, 1826, expressed a belief that "the chief good of the community system is that it destroys the love of show and luxury. It also economizes time and enables a man to pay attention to his higher nature." "But," continued the writer, "it appears doubtful to me whether human nature can be brought to such moral perfection as to execute the social system entirely. There must be a controlling motive to urge men to physical exertion. He now has that in the possession of all that his work can give him. In the social system you must make his disposition so virtuous as to make him feel his responsibility. Can you do this?" While a man gains in moral freedom and independence under the new system, this correspondent remarked, he loses in personal liberty. He suggested that extra compensation be given for extra work, but that no one be allowed to spend his money to the loss of society; each person to do a fixed amount of work for his subsistence, and that no one be allowed at table until that assignment of labor had been performed. "You have indolence or the love of ease among you at New Harmony." There should be a uniformity of dress and diet, he declared, but each person should be allowed to choose his occupation; all children under eleven years of age should be busied alone with their education; at eleven the child should perform one-seventh of a day's work; at twelve, two-sevenths, and so on until at seventeen the full amount should be demanded from all.



The administration about this time published some "considerations" for those who desired to unite under the new system, as follows:

(1) It will be necessary to sink individual interests, and (2) to discard all useless and vexatious regulations; (3) persuasion, instead of force, must be employed; (4) there must be no abuse, growling, or loud talking, and (5) no grumbling, carping or murmuring against the work of other individuals; those who shirk their work are deserving of pity; (6) distinctions in eating and drinking among the members must be discarded; (7) children must be excluded from the dining room during meals; adult members should not stalk about the dining hall during meals; (8) the intemperate must never be abused; (9) when individual members are "affected with the disease of laziness" the utmost forbearance will be necessary; (10) criticism should not be resented; (11) cleanliness and regularity must be enforced; (12) "no anger ought to be felt against the female members upon their aversion to the work of coöperation; or when they brawl, quarrel, or indulge in loud talk." The children, however, should be taught better. There is a strong undercurrent of suggestion in all this as to evils evidently existing in the community.

In April the community was disturbed by negotiations said to be going on for the purchase of the estate as private property. An attempt was made to divide the town into several communities. This Mr. Owen resisted, but selected twenty-five men as a nucleus, this body to elect new members, subject to veto by Mr. Owen. Three grades of membership were proposed: full members, probationary members, and persons on trial. "The community was to be under the direction of Mr. Owen, until two-thirds of the members should think fit to govern themselves, provided the time was not less than one year."

In the Gazette of May seventeenth, 1826, appeared a contribution signed "M.," complaining that "industrious members have been compelled to experience the unpleasant sensation of working for others who are either unwilling or unable to do their share of the labor." "An effort has been made to bring about a change in this," stated the contributor, "by individual reports of production and making public the number of hours each was occupied in the day, the practice of which was rather invidious, and diffi-

cult to be executed impartially; but even if it were possible to get correct returns, it was liable to work injustice, as one workman might do as much in one hour as another might in four." The correspondent suggested that it would be better to divide the members of the community into occupations, or departments, fixing the amount of work to be done by each occupation, and allowing the managers to distribute this amount of work among the individuals of each community. The quality and quantity of the work would be inspected by impartial judges. If it were impossible for the occupations to work together, they might be divided into separate communities, and they might federate into a joint community. "The population must be some time accustomed to the social system to be convinced that those who work with their heads are as productive as those who work with their hands, and it is equally difficult to reconcile a mechanic at one dollar and fifty cents or two dollars a day to putting himself in an equality with the agriculturist at a quarter of a dollar a day." The success of community No. 2, the members of which had been unable to work harmoniously with the original community, but who had progressed admirably since the separation, was pointed to as an indication that the change suggested would be advisable. A division into twenty or thirty societies was therefore suggested "as the best, and perhaps the only way to apportion the labor either justly or accurately, and to reduce the responsibility of payments within the sphere of the previous habits of calculation; education and amusements to remain upon the same footing as before."

In the spring of 1826 the "Constitution of the Coöperative Association of Wainborough, Ill.," modeled after the New Harmony plan, was printed in the Gazette. This community was agricultural, and "based upon the principles of union of labor and capital." Food and clothing would be supplied to members of the society. An equal division of the proceeds of the labor and capital of the society should be made annually, after interest charges had been met, including a payment of four per cent. on the advances of members contributing capital; ten per cent. of the profit to be set apart for the purpose of paying the indebtedness of the society. After fourteen years members of the society should have a claim upon it for the

full value of property or money contributed. The direction of the business affairs of the community was placed in the hands of a committee of three.

A correspondent of the Gazette, writing under date of May twenty-fourth, 1826, suggested names for prospective societies, "as the sanguine friends of the coöperative system believe that in a few years hundreds, and even thousands, may be, founded." Among the names offered for consideration were Lovedale, Peace Glen, Everblest, New Duty, Philosophy, Glee, Lovely, Voltaire, Elysium, Olympus, Platonea, Socrates, Utopia, Confucia and Powhatan.

C. S. Rafinesque writing from Lexington in April, 1826, to William Maclure, outlined "a plan for coöperative association," and the letter was published in the Gazette. "Money," he said, "is no longer to be a medium of exchange, but stocks, rendered divisible at pleasure *ad libitum* according to the principle of my patent divitival invention.

\* \* \* Any number of persons, from five to five thousand, may associate themselves into an organization; they to select trustees of the desposited stocks or sums invested. They shall place a value upon the property merged into the association. The product of material labor will also be received in store and in kind, while mental service done will be estimated according to their need, purposes or utility to the association. The other forms of income will be received, appraisers to be appointed to determine the exchange value of everything. As soon as any value is deposited, there shall be given to the depositor, not by name, a certificate or certificates of the same upon the principle of the patent divitival invention, divisible into any required amount, and exchangeable into any other required amount, transferable and available by the bearer for their nominal value in dollars and cents. When any profitable value is deposited the certificates will bear four or five per cent. interest. \* \* \* These certificates shall be accepted in payment of accounts at the store, for rent or any other purpose. Everything will be exchanged at cost, but a commission of from two to five per cent. shall be deducted to meet the general expenses of the society. The profits will be used for the benefit of the sick, the infirm and other members unable to labor. Instruction and amusement will be provided, to be paid for in deposit tickets. General meetings and mutual intercourse will

be provided, and the members shall consider themselves a great family. All books shall be deposited and considered as a public library. Although the mainspring of this scheme is my divitial invention, which I have patented in order to give to it a higher legal claim, it is my intention to allow these societies to use it at such a trifling rate as benevolent institutions, that I hope no selfish views will be ascribed to me on that score."

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## *The Duke of Saxe-Weimar at New Harmony.*

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New Harmony became an important point on the itinerary of European travelers, as well as the rendezvous of American scientists, early in 1826. Count Bernhard of Weimar, Saxony and Eisenach, better known as the Duke of Saxe-Weimar, who made a tour of this country in 1825 and 1826, and recorded his impressions in a published volume, gives a detailed account of what he saw in New Harmony, where he arrived on April thirteenth, 1826. Count Bernhard states that he found Robert Owen and his ideas unpopular in the eastern states, where he had created an unfavorable impression by publishing a proclamation to the Americans on his arrival at New York, in which he told them that "among many virtues they possessed great faults," among which he alluded to ill-directed propensity to religious feelings, and proposed himself as their reformer in this respect. One public man had told Mr. Owen that he considered his intellect deranged. He had heard favorable opinions of Mr. Owen expressed by those who knew him well, and with these conflicting estimates of the man, he came to New Harmony "with the utmost expectation and curiosity to become acquainted with a man of such extraordinary sentiments. In the tavern," wrote the duke, "I accosted a man, very plainly dressed, about fifty years of age, of rather low stature, who entered into a conversation with me concerning the situation of the place, and the disordered state in which I would find everything where all was newly established. When I asked the man how long before Mr. Owen would be there, he announced himself to me, to my surprise, as Mr. Owen. He expressed pleasure at my visit, and offered to show me everything and explain whatever remained without explanation." Mr. Owen outlined his plans for improving the place, which included the removal of the cabins and the fences, "so that the whole would present the appearance of a public park, in

which the houses should be scattered about." Mr. Owen first took his royal guest to the old Rappite church, "the wooden building provided with a steeple and a clock. This church was at present occupied by joiners and shoemaker's shops in which the boys were instructed in these mechanical arts." Count Bernhard then visited the old Rapp mansion, "now occupied by Mr. Maclure as a residence and office." \* \* \* "Mr. Owen, on the contrary, contented himself with a small apartment in the same tavern where I lodged."

The duke was introduced to Mr. Owen's two eldest sons (William and Robert) "pupils of Fellenberg, who is greatly respected here." \* \* \* "Afterwards Mr. Owen made me acquainted with Mr. Lewis, secretary of the society, from Virginia, and a relative of the great Washington. He was already pretty well advanced in years, and appeared to have united himself with the society from liberal principles. Another acquaintance I made was with Mr. Jennings, of Philadelphia, a young man who was educated as a clergyman, and had left the profession to follow this course of life. He intended, nevertheless, to leave this place and go back to Philadelphia; many other members have the same design, and I can hardly believe the society will have a long duration. Enthusiasm, which soon abandons its subjects, as well as the itch for novelty, had contributed much to the formation of this society. In spite of the principles of equality which they recognized, it taxes the feelings to live on the same footing with others indiscriminately, and eat with them at the same table. The society consisted, as I was informed, of about one thousand members; at a distance of about two miles are founded two new communities. Until the common table shall be established, according to the fundamental constitution of the society, the members are placed in four boarding houses, where they must live very frugally. Some of the most turbulent, with an Irishman who wore a long beard, wished to leave the society immediately to go to Mexico, there to settle themselves, but where their subsistence will be procured with much difficulty.

"In the evening Mr. Owen took me to a concert in a sort of nondescript building. Most of the members of the society were present." The duke describes a concert by a "surprisingly good" orchestra, and male and female

soloists, with several recitations. "Mr. Jennings recited Lord Byron's stanzas on his wife, very good." \* \* \* "Between the two parts of the concert, the orchestra played a march; each gentleman gave a lady his arm and a promenade took place, resembling a polonaise, with pretty figures, sometimes in two couples, sometimes in four; two ladies in the middle, the gentlemen separated from the ladies, then again all together. The concert closed with a lively cotillion. I was, on the whole, amused. \* \* \* This general evening amusement takes place several times a week, besides which there is on Tuesday evening a general ball. There is a particular costume adopted for the society. That for the man consists of white pantaloons, buttoned over a boy's jacket, made of light material, without a collar; that of the women of a coat reaching to the knee, and pantaloons such as little girls wear among us. These dresses are not universally adopted, but they have a good appearance. All the men did not participate in the dance, i. e., the lower classes, but read newspapers which were scattered over the side tables."

"We went to Rapp's distillery. It will be removed altogether. Mr. Owen has forbidden distilling, as well as the use of ardent spirits. Notwithstanding this, the Irishmen here find opportunities of getting whisky and fuddling themselves, from the flat-boats that stop here."

"The greater number of the young girls whom we chanced to meet at home, were found employed in plaiting straw hats. I became acquainted with Madame F., a native of St. Petersburg. She married an American merchant, but had the misfortune to lose her husband three days after marriage, and as she was somewhat eccentric and sentimental, quickly became attached to Mr. Owen's system. She told me, however, in German, that she found herself egregiously deceived, that the highly vaunted equality was not altogether to her taste; that some of the society were too low, and that the table was below all criticism. The good lady appeared to be about to run from one extreme to the other, for she added that in the summer she would go to a Shaker establishment near Vincennes.

"I renewed acquaintance here with Mr. Say, a distinguished naturalist from Philadelphia, to whom I had been introduced there, but unfortunately he had found him-

self embarrassed in his fortune, and was obliged to come here as a friend of Mr. Maclure. The gentleman appeared quite comical in the costume of the society, with his hands covered with hard lumps and blisters, occasioned by the unusual labor he was obliged to undertake in the garden.

"In the evening I went for a walk in the streets, and met several ladies of the society, who rested from the labors of the day. Madame F. was among them, to whose complaints I had listened. I accompanied the ladies to a dancing assembly which was held in the kitchen of one of the boarding houses. I observed that this was only an hour of instruction for the unpracticed in dancing, and that there was some restraint on account of my presence; from politeness I went away and remained at home the rest of the evening. \* \* \*

"Mr. Owen took me into one of the newly built houses, in which the married members of the society are to live. It consisted of two stories, in each two chambers and two alcoves, with the requisite ventilators. The cellar of the house is to contain a heating apparatus to heat the whole with warm air. Each family will have a chamber and an alcove, which will be sufficient, as the little children will be in the nursery and the larger at school. They will not require kitchens, as all are to eat in common. Unmarried women will live together, as will also unmarried men, in the manner of the Moravian brothers.

"I had a long conversation with Mr. Owen relative to his system and his expectations. He looks forward to nothing else than to remodel the world entirely; to root out all crime; to abolish punishment; to create similar views and similar wants, and in this manner to abolish all dissension and warfare. When his system of education shall be brought into connection with the great progress made in mechanics, which is daily increasing, every man can then, as he thinks, provide his simpler necessities for himself, and trade will cease entirely. I expressed a doubt of the practicability of this system in Europe, and even in the United States. He was too unalterably convinced of the result to admit the slightest room for doubt. It grieved me to see that Mr. Owen should be so infatuated by his passion for universal improvement as to believe and assert that he is about to reform the whole world, and



yet that almost every member of his society with whom I talked, acknowledged that he was deceived in his expectations, and expressed their opinion that Mr. Owen had commenced on too grand a scale, and had admitted too many members without the requisite selection.

"I went with Dr. McNamee to the newly established communities, Number 2, Macluria; the other lately founded, Number 3. Number 2 lies two miles distant from New Harmony, at the entrance to the forest, which will be cleared to make the land fit for cultivation. The settlement, which was established about four weeks ago, consists of nine log houses. The inhabitants number about eighty. They are mostly backwoodsmen with their families, who have separated from community Number 1 in New Harmony because no religion is allowed there, and these people desire to hold their prayer meetings undisputed. The fields in the neighborhood of this community were, of course, very new. Community Number 3 consisted of English country people, who formed a new association, as the cosmopolitanism of New Harmony did not suit them; they left the colony planted by Mr. Birkbeck at English Prairie, about twenty miles hence on the right bank of the Wabash, after the unfortunate death of that gentleman, and came here. This is a proof that there are two evils that strike at the root of the young societies: one is a sectarian or intolerant spirit; the other natural prejudice. \* \* \* I afterwards visited Mr. Neef, who is still full of the maxims and principles of the French revolution and captivated with the system of equality; he talks of the emancipation of the negroes and openly proclaims himself an atheist."

"In the evening there was a general meeting in the large hall. It opened with music; then one of the members, an English architect of talent, who came to the United States with Mr. Owen, whose confidence he appeared to possess, and was here at the head of the architectural department, read some extracts from the newspapers, upon which Mr. Owen made a very good commentary; for example, upon the extension and improvement of the steam engine, upon its adaptation to navigation and the advantages resulting therefrom. He lost himself in his theories, however, when he expatiated on an article which related to the experiments which have been

made with the Perkins steam gun. During these lectures I made my observation on the much vaunted equality, as some tatterdemalions stretched themselves on the platform close by Mr. Owen. The better educated members kept themselves together, and took no notice of the others. I remarked also that members belonging to the higher classes of society had put on the new costume, and made a party by themselves. After the lecture the band played, each gentleman took a lady and marched with her around the room. Lastly, a cotillion was danced; the ladies were then escorted home, and each retired to his own quarters.

"I went early on the following morning (Sunday) to the assembly room. The meeting was opened by music. After this, Mr. Owen stated a proposition, in the discussion of which he spoke of the advance made by the society; of the location of another community at Valley Forge, in Pennsylvania, and another in the state of New York. A classification of the members was spoken of afterwards. They were to be separated into three classes: first, of such as undertook to be security for the sums due Mr. Owen and Mr. Maclure (that is for the amount paid to Rapp and so expended as a pledge to be redeemed by the society), and who, if desirous to leave the society, must give six months previous notice; secondly, such as after a notice of fourteen days, can depart; lastly, those who are received only on trial.

"Afterwards I visited Mr. Maclure, and received from him the French papers. Mr. Maclure is old and childless, was never married, and intends, it is reported, to leave his property to the society. Afterwards I went with Mr. Owen and some of the ladies of the society for a walk to the cut-off, as it is called, of the Wabash, where this river has formed a new channel and an island, which contains about thirty-five hundred acres of the best land, at present, however, inundated. There is here a substantial grist mill erected by Mr. Rapp, which is said to contain a very good set of machinery, but we could not reach it on account of the water. \* \* \* In the evening I paid visits to some ladies, and saw the philosophy of a life of equality put to a severe test with one of them. She is named Virginia, from Philadelphia; is very young and pretty; was delicately brought up, and appears to have taken refuge here on account of an unhappy attachment. While

she was singing, and playing very well on the piano, she was told that the milking of the cows was her duty, and that they were waiting. Almost in tears, she betook herself to this servile employment, execrating the social system and its so much prized equality. After the cows were milked, in doing which the young girl was trod on by one and kicked by another, I joined an aquatic party with the young ladies and some young philosophers in a very good boat upon the inundated meadows along the Wabash. The evening was beautiful, it was moonlight, and the air was very mild; the beautiful Miss Virginia forgot her stable experiences and regaled us with her sweet voice. Somewhat later we collected at house Number 2, appointed for the school-house, where all the young ladies and gentlemen of quality assembled. We amused ourselves during the whole remainder of the evening dancing cotillions and waltzes, and with such animation as rendered it quite lively. New figures had been introduced among the cotillions, among which was one called the New Social System. Several of the ladies made objections to dancing on Sunday; we thought, however, that in this sanctuary of philosophy, such prejudice should be entirely discarded, and our arguments, as well as the inclinations of the ladies, gained the victory. \* \* \*

"I was invited to dinner in house Number 4. Some gentlemen had been out hunting and brought home a wild turkey, which must be consumed. The turkey formed the whole dinner. Upon the whole, I cannot complain either of an overloaded stomach, or a headache from the wine. The living was frugal in the strictest sense. In the evening I visited Mr. Maclure, and Madame Fretageot, living in the same house. She is a Frenchwoman, and formerly kept a boarding school in Philadelphia, and is called "Mother" by all the young girls here. The hand-somest and most polished of the female world here, Miss Lucy Sistare and Miss Virginia, were under her care. The cows were milked this evening when I came in, and therefore we could hear their performance on the piano-forte, and their charming voices, in peace and quiet. Later in the evening we went to the kitchen of Number 3, where there was a ball. The young ladies of the better class kept themselves in a corner under Madame Fretageot's protection, and formed a little aristocratic clique. To prevent

all possible partialities, the gentlemen, as well as the ladies, drew numbers for the cotillions, and thus apportioned them equitably. Our young ladies turned up their noses at the democratic dancers who often in this way fell to their lot. Although everyone was pleased upon the whole, they separated at ten o'clock, as it is necessary to arise early here. Madame Fretageot and her two pupils I accompanied home, and spent some time in conversation with Mr. Maclure on his travels in Europe, which were taken with mineralogical views. The architect, Mr. Whitwell, showed me the plan of this establishment. I admired the judicious and economical arrangement for warming and ventilating the buildings, as well as the kitchens and laundries.

"On the following day I received a visit from one of the German patriots of the name of Schmidt, who had entered the Society. He had been a first lieutenant in the Prussian artillery at Erfurt. He appeared to have engaged in one of the political conspiracies there, and to have deserted. Mr. Owen brought him from England last autumn as a servant. He was now a member of the society, and had charge of the cattle. His fine visions of freedom seemed to be very much lower, for he presented himself to me, and his father to Mr. Huygens, as servants. Toward evening Mr. Applegarth arrived. He had presided over the school in New Lanark, and was to organize one here when practicable. \* \* \* In the evening there was a ball in the large assembly room. \* \* \* There was a particular place marked off for the children to dance in, in the center of the hall, where they could gambol about without running between the legs of the grown persons. \* \* \* We took a walk to community Number 3. The work on the houses had made little progress; we found but one workman there, and he was sleeping quite at his ease. \* \* \*

"After we returned to Madame Fretageot's, Mr. Owen showed me some interesting objects of his invention. One of them consisted of cubes of different size, representing the different classes of the British population in the year 1811, and showed what a powerful burden rested on the laboring classes, and how desirable an equal division of property would be in that kingdom. The other was a plate, according to which, as Mr. Owen asserted, each child

could be shown his own capabilities, and upon which, after a mature self-examination, he can discover what progress he had made. The plate has this superscription: "Scale of Human Faculties and Qualities at Birth." It has ten scales with the following titles, from the left to the right: Self Attachment; Affections; Judgment; Imagination; Memory; Reflection; Perception; Excitability; Courage; Strength. Each scale is divided into one hundred parts, which are marked from five to five. A slide that can be moved up and down shows the measure of the qualities, therein specified, which each one possesses, or believes himself to possess.

"Mr. Owen considers it an absurdity to promise never-ending love on marriage. For this reason he has introduced the civil contract of marriage, after the manner of the Quakers, and declares that the bond of matrimony is in no way indissoluble. The children, indeed, cause no impediment in case of a separation, for they belong to the community from their second year, and are all brought up together.

\* \* \* "I passed the evening with the amiable Mr. Maclure and Madame Fretageot, and became acquainted through them with a French artist, Mr. Lesueur, who calls himself an uncle of Miss Virginia; also a Dutch physician from Herzogenbusch, Dr. Troost, a naturalist. Both are members of the community, and had just arrived from a pedestrian tour to Illinois and the southern part of Missouri, where they have examined the iron and particularly the lead mine works. Mr. Lesueur has besides discovered several species of fish, as yet undescribed. Mr. LeSueur accompanied the naturalist Perouse as draftsman in his tour to New South Wales under Capt. Baudin, and possessed all the illuminated designs of the animals which were discovered for the first time upon this voyage, upon vellum. I count myself fortunate to have seen them. He showed me also the sketches he made while on his last pedestrian tour, as well as those during the voyage of several of the members to Mount Vernon, down the Ohio from Pittsburg. On this voyage the members of the society had many difficulties to contend with, and were often compelled to cut a path for the boat through the ice. He had come to Philadelphia from France in 1815, and had since devoted himself to the arts and sciences."











**ROBERT DALE OWEN.**



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## *Two Views of New Harmony.*

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No American autobiography surpasses in intrinsic charm Robert Dale Owen's "Threading My Way,"—a collection of reminiscent sketches written in Mr. Owen's characteristically clear, strong style. As Mr. John Holliday remarks: "In their frankness of statement and fulness of detail about personal matters they remind one of Rousseau's Confessions, though lacking the apparent vanity of the Frenchman." The younger Owen's account of life at New Harmony during the community period is interesting, though disappointingly brief, for the subject was always distasteful to him. "When I reached Harmony early in 1826," he says, "these general ideas (of the possibility of the amelioration of the condition of mankind) prevailed in my mind uninterrupted by the sober second-thought which an after life brought with it. I looked at everything with eyes of enthusiasm; and, for a time, the life there was wonderfully pleasant and hopeful to me. This, I think, is the common experience of intelligent and well disposed persons who have joined the Brook Farm or other reputable community. There is a great charm in the good fellowship, and in the absence of conventionalism which characterizes such association.

"There was something especially taking, to me at least, in the absolute freedom from all trammels, alike in the expression of opinion, in dress and in social intercourse, which I found there. The evening gatherings, too, delighted me; the weekly meetings for the discussion of our principles, in which I took part at once. The weekly concert, with an excellent leader, Josiah Warren, and a performance of music, instrumental and vocal, much beyond what I had expected in the back woods; last, not least, the weekly ball, where I found crowds of young people, bright and genial, if not especially cultivated, and as passionately fond of dancing as in those days I myself was.

"The accommodations seemed to me indeed of the rudest, and the fare of the simplest; but I cared no more

for that than young folks usually care who desert pleasant homes to spend a summer month or two under canvas,—their tents on the beach, perhaps, with boats and fishing tackle at command, or pitched in some sylvan retreat, where youth and maiden roam the forest all day, returning at nightfall to merry talk, improvised music or an impromptu dance on the greensward.

“I shrank from no work that was assigned to me, and sometimes, to the surprise of my associates, volunteered when a hard or disagreeable job came up, as the pulling down of the dilapidated cabins throughout the village. But after a time, finding that others could manage as much at common labor in one day as I could in two or three, and being invited to take general charge of the school and to aid in editing the weekly paper, I settled down to what I confess were more congenial pursuits than wielding the axe or holding the plow handles.

“I had previously tried one day sowing wheat by hand, and held out until evening, but my right arm was comparatively useless for forty-eight hours thereafter. Another day, when certain of the young girls, who were baking bread for one of the large boarding houses, lacked an additional hand, I offered to help them; and when the results of my labors came to the table, it was suggested that one of the loaves be voted to me as a gift for my diligence, the rather as by a little manipulation, such as apothecaries use in making pills, it might save me the trouble of making bullets the next time I went out rifle shooting. \* \* \*

“On the whole, my life at Harmony for many months was happy and satisfying. To this the simple relation existing between youth and maiden there much contributed. We called each other by our Christian names only; spoke and acted as brothers and sisters might; often strolled out by moonlight in groups, sometimes in pairs; yet withal, no scandal or other harm came of it, either then or later, unless we are to reckon as such a few unsuited and improvident matches that turned out poorly, as hasty love matches will. What might have happened to myself amid such favorable surroundings, if my heart had not been pre-occupied, I cannot tell. I met almost daily, handsome and interesting and warm-hearted girls; bright, merry and unsophisticated; charming partners at ball or picnic; one especially, who afterwards married a son of

Oliver Evans, the celebrated inventor and machinist, to whom, I believe, we owe the high-pressure engine.

"Naturally enough, under the circumstances, I was not haunted by doubts as to the success of the social experiment in which we were engaged. The inhabitants seemed to me friendly and well disposed. There was much originality of character.

"One example occurs to me,—an old man named Greenwood, father of Miles Greenwood, known afterwards to the citizens of Cincinnati as chief of their fire department, and still later as proprietor of the largest foundry and machine shops then in the West. We had, during the summer of 1826, several terrific thunderstorms, such as I had never before witnessed. The steeple of our hall was shattered, and it was during one of these storms, when the whole heavens seemed illuminated and the rain was falling in torrents, that I saw old Greenwood, thoroughly drenched and carrying straight upright as a soldier carries a musket, a slender iron rod, ten or twelve feet long. He was walking in the middle of the street, passing with slow step the house in which I was, and, as I afterwards learned, paraded every street in the village in the same deliberate manner. Next day I met him and asked him for an explanation. 'Ah, well, my young friend,' said he, 'I am very old; I am not well; I suffer much, and I thought it might be a good chance to slip off, and be laid quietly away in the corner of the orchard.'

"'You hoped to be struck by lightning?'

"'You see, I don't like to kill myself; it seems like taking matters out of God's hands; but I thought He might send me a spare bolt when I put myself in the way. If He had only seen fit to do it, I'd have been at rest this very minute, all my pains gone, no more trouble to anyone, and no more burden to myself.'"

Early in the spring of 1826 there came to New Harmony a curious character named Paul Brown. In 1827 he published a pamphlet entitled "Twelve Months in New Harmony," in which he recounted his experiences as a member of the community. Brown states that when he came from his home in one of the eastern states to visit relatives in Tennessee, he found the New Harmony experiment a common topic of conversation among people there, and he determined to visit the place at once. Paving the way

by forwarding a huge letter to Mr. Owen, he proceeded to the settlement, arriving there on April second. He learned on his journey, he says, that the original constitution had been set aside, and that the people were being compelled to sign contracts to pay for property at an appraised valuation.

"It was anything but a tranquil neighborhood," writes Brown. "The impression I took from what I could gather was that this stipulation about appraisal not having been made to the people until after they had signed the constitution, the disturbance first arose from some of them being backward about taking such a yoke upon themselves, which generally had not been expected; whereupon an advantage was immediately taken hereof by some aspiring, aristocratical spirits to make a division of the town into several societies, as, one of the school, one of the tavern, etc., another of the mechanics, and another of the farmers; the school and tavern societies offering to take upon themselves the greater part of the debt; exchanges to exist between these different bodies-politic by what they called 'labor for labor.' This was overruled by Mr. Owen, who refused to contract with them upon such a plan, and declared he knew no parties in New Harmony and would countenance but one homogeneous union in that place. He afterward shifted his ground, and said that in one society they could not exist, and suggested the formation of three. In this he could not prevail."

"Owen," Paul Brown declares, "then selected a nucleus of twenty-five men as the beginning of a new association. All agreed to sign contracts with Owen and Maclure for the real and personal property 'as appraised by somebody.' Three grades of membership were established: conditional, probationary and members on trial. All the affairs of the society were submitted to the direction of Owen, unless within twelve months two-thirds of the members should decide to rule themselves. By this very act of requiring money for the estate purchased by the community, Owen proved himself to be a trading man, and not a philanthropist; proved himself incapacitated to found a real commonwealth; proved that it could not have been the sole object and pursuit of his life to bring such a thing into existence; proved himself to be lacking of integrity, magnanimity, and all those sublime principles es-

mentally requisite to form a character competent to introduce into life an example of the state of society in the true order of human perfection, of a sort which he had recommended."

This carping critic grants that freedom of speech and of the press were accorded by the New Harmony administration, but he took great offense at "the keeping of books." "The dancing and the instrumental music," he added, "engrossed more of energy than the more important considerations of community welfare. There must be a regular ball and a regular concert once a week." He says that there were restless spirits constantly urging some new experiment. Owen, he states, recommended a motion, to be made before all the people, to decide whether they should be divided into four societies, each signing its own contract for such a part of the property as it should purchase, trading to be carried on among them by means of representative paper money. Robert Owen submitted two propositions, one to have one community divided into occupations, and one to institute four distinct communities. The last proposition was adopted.

Linked with Brown's cynical atheism was a puritanical spirit which railed against the social diversions of which the Harmonists were so fond. "The instituting of such amusements as public balls, promenades and music," he says, "seemed to be propitious to interest the young and enamour them of the place. But the constant succession of this sort of thing clearly induced volatility and aversion to serious duties." Brown also objected to the industrial school founded by William Maclure, on the ground that young persons thus taught trades or parts of trades "became dependent on others for their support thereby." He also claimed that Mr. Owen, according to the new plan of contract with four societies, would receive for half of the estate twenty thousand dollars more than he paid for the whole, a statement that had no foundation in fact, as Mr. Owen gave exceedingly favorable terms to the societies proposing settlement on the estate.

"Mr. Owen," says Brown, "seems to have constantly inculcated upon these people, from the beginning, lessons of thrift and knacks of gaining and saving money; yet profusions of musical instruments were provided, and great quantities of candles burned at their balls." A great

part of the time, he declared, the people were stinted in their allowances of tea, butter, milk, etc. "Mr. Owen constantly boarded at the tavern, where luxurious regale was copiously provided to sell to traveling men of the world and loungers. Here he drank coffee and tea while a multitude of laboring people who were quartered in the large boarding houses, being circumscribed in their rations, were very much in the habit of drinking rye coffee, or rye mixed with store coffee." Other visitors to the community during this period agree that Mr. Owen was content with the simplest fare, and Mr. Owen, in a lecture at Philadelphia stated that he lived on an expenditure of six cents a day while the experiment was in progress,—eating but two meals each day, one at 7 a. m., and one at 5 p. m.

Brown speaks of the neglect and confusion which characterized the conduct of community enterprises. "The gardens were neglected, and though several skilled gardeners lived in the community, much ground lay fallow which might have made handsome gardens. The people, instead of employing their thoughts to execute their work well, were musing on plans of new arrangements in the system of government of the society." The reporting of the number of hours of labor, "and the keeping of debit and credit, was a constant weight upon those who would work from principle. Some of the ground was called private ground. Everything was at sixes and sevens. The place was full of clamor, disaffection and calumny. Complaints were often made that some houses got a greater supply of provisions than others."

So Brown continues with his catalogue of grievances. He was not the only member of the community who was ready to discredit the motives of the unselfish Robert Owen, and to contribute to the growth of "clamor, disaffection and calumny."



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## *Community Progress.*

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Ah, soon will come the glorious day,  
Inscribed on Mercy's brow,  
When truth shall rend the veil away  
That blinds the nations now.

When earth no more in anxious fear  
And misery shall sigh;  
And pain shall cease, and every tear  
Be wiped from every eye.

The race of man shall wisdom learn,  
And error cease to reign:  
The charms of innocence return,  
And all be new again.

The fount of life shall then be quaffed  
In peace by all that come:  
And every wind that blows shall waft  
Some wandering mortal home.

—Owenite Poem, 1826.

Robert Owen's retrospect of the first year's proceedings of the "permanent community," delivered at New Harmony Hall on May ninth, 1826, is another evidence of hopefulness which continued in him after doubt and despair had seized many of his followers. The happiest side of everything was turned to the world. His expectations, he declared, had been far surpassed. He had not hoped that the town would be full in less than two or three years, but it had been crowded in half that time. "Leaving home in the fall of 1824, I made arrangements to return in the spring of 1825. After completing the purchase of this property in April, and founding the Preliminary Society in May, I was compelled to set out on my journey to Europe in June. I left the new settlement in the charge of a committee chosen by a majority of the adult population, and I did not suppose that during my absence they could do more than receive the people as they came in.

"As soon, however, as the formation of the Preliminary Society was announced, people came flocking from all quarters into the colony to offer themselves for membership in such numbers that the dwelling houses were filled in two months, and the press for admission was such that it became necessary to insert advertisements in the news-

papers of the surrounding states to prevent others coming who could not be accepted for want of accommodations. On my arrival in January last, I found every room occupied."

The affairs of the society, he declared, had been managed much better than he had expected they would be. "About a thousand individuals of all characters and dispositions had come together from far and near. Their manners and tastes were as various as the varying circumstances under which their character had been formed. Many of the children were extremely wild, rude and uncultivated, and strangers who came to see what was going forward could perceive only a babel-like confusion. They came and wondered and went away disappointed."

"In one short year," Mr. Owen stated, "this mass of confusion, and in many cases of bad and irregular habits, has been formed into a community of mutual coöperation and equality, now proceeding rapidly toward a state of regular organization. Out of it two communities have been formed and located in this neighborhood." The members of the first community, Macluria, "have built themselves temporary comfortable cabins, and they have cultivated more land than will be necessary to supply their wants, and the young persons are spinning and weaving more cloth than will be necessary to clothe them. With the exception of two refractory members, the community seems to comprehend the new principles." These refractory members, Mr. Owen declared, would probably withdraw.

Feiba Peveli had a large and well cultivated garden, said Mr. Owen, and an extensive and well kept farm. This community had good prospects of paying off a part of the debt on their property this year. Macluria had about one hundred and twenty members, Feiba Peveli sixty or seventy. Applications had been made for the formation of other communities, and as soon as houses could be located for them, they would be admitted.

There was hardly a state in the Union, Mr. Owen declared, where this subject did not attract considerable attention, "and in many of them we have communities proceeding under these principles, notably in New York, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois. Some we know, are in operation in each of those states. In

England and Scotland also, the cause has made great progress, the Orbiston community having had notable success."

"Perhaps," said the hopeful philosopher in closing, "no system of equal magnitude, involving such extensive changes in the conduct of human affairs, ever made progress in any degree approaching to it in so short a time. Hereafter, no one who comes and visits Macluria or Feiba Peveli will doubt the practicability of this scheme." "But," said Mr. Owen, "the great experiment in New Harmony is still going on to ascertain whether a large, heterogeneous mass of persons, collected by chance, can be amalgamated into one community and induced to acquire the genuine feelings of kindness and benevolence which belong solely to the principles on which the new social system is founded, and which no other principles can produce. The friends of the new social system may rejoice and be exceeding glad, for they may be assured that deliverance from poverty, ignorance and the oppression of riches is at hand."

The conditions under which Feiba Peveli and Macluria secured their land, conditions which were later accepted by other communities, comprehended the following provisions:

1. That they should always remain communities of equality and coöperation in rights and property, and should not be divided into individual shares or separate interests.
2. That any surplus property their industry might acquire must not be divided, but used to found similar communities.
3. That there should be no whisky, or other distilled liquors, made in the communities.

This was advanced ground on the liquor question, at a time when it was not so seriously considered as at present, and Robert Owen was already enforcing strict prohibition at New Harmony. Mr. Owen, about this time, suggested the formation of occupational communities, that is associations of mechanics engaged in similar trades, farmers, etc. There was evidently some friction between those who labored in the fields and factories, and those who desired to derive a living from their professional training or knowledge of trade.

On May seventeenth, the Gazette said that there were already ten communities, and several societies in operation on the New Harmony plan. In this issue of the community organ is also found an account of the formation of a coöperative association on the Owen plan at Wainborough, Illinois, and of the "Franklin community," located on the Hudson, sixty miles above New York City, this society adopting *in toto* one of the numerous New Harmony constitutions. In the latter part of May advertisements of mercantile business in the town began to appear in the Gazette. We also learn from the Gazette that on May twenty-sixth, Paul Brown delivered a lecture in opposition to the management of the Community. He spoke vehemently against card-playing, and also complained of the "horse-laughing" of the children, which disturbed his thoughts and "rendered life unendurable."

The dissenters at New Harmony were by this time becoming bold enough to attack Mr. Owen's philosophy. A complainant deluged the Gazette with questions which called for an answer from Mr. Owen. He wished to know what is to be the stimulus to superior industry? how money is to be rendered useless in the new moral world? why the people of the community cannot see the model of the proposed community building, as shown at Washington? in Mr. Owen's plan for such a building what is the superiority of the hollow square over parallel sides at a convenient distance apart, or over a hollow triangle, pentagon or hexagon? how in the erection of the new building, will the unevenness of the ground be avoided? etc., etc. Such questions dealt rather roughly with Mr. Owen's fanciful details, and his answer was that these minor arrangements were not an essential part of the great plan. On May twenty-eighth, Mr. Owen reminded the people that a community cannot exist without a true community spirit. Two weeks later a member of the Society complained through the Gazette that the thousand members of the society had come to New Harmony at an expense of twenty thousand dollars to find that communism was not being practiced. Emulation, declared another correspondent, must be admitted into the community in order to make it a success, and lawyers and capitalists ought not be spoken of as outlaws, but their friendship should

be cultivated. Members who steal or destroy the property of others, this correspondent insisted, ought to be expelled, as well as those who drink intoxicating liquors. "This of course has never happened at New Harmony," declared the cautious contributor. The Gazette had declared on May twenty-fourth, that "the system of prevention destroys drunkenness in New Harmony."

On July fourth, 1826, the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Robert Owen made the effort which he seemed to consider the chief event in history since the signing of the American Declaration, in delivering what he called: "The Declaration of Mental Independence." "I now declare to you and to the world," he began, "that man up to this hour has been in all parts of the earth a slave to a trinity of the most monstrous evils that could be combined to inflict mental and physical evil upon the whole race. I refer to private or individual property, absurd and irrational systems of religion, and marriage founded upon individual property, combined with some of these irrational systems of religion." Then followed a reiteration of principles as set forth in "The New Moral World." With undaunted optimism he declared, in closing: "Our principles will spread from community to community, from state to state, from continent to continent, until this system and these principles shall overshadow the whole earth, shedding fragrance and abundance, intelligence and happiness upon all the sons of men." This declaration, Mr. Owen said upon this occasion, he considered the most important event in his life. The Gazette was thereafter dated in the "first" and "second" years of "mental independence."

Early in July Sunday meetings for instruction in the new principles were instituted. At these sessions Robert Owen presided, and led in the discussions. Accounts of these meetings are given in the community paper, and we learn that Mr. Owen's addresses were often followed by spirited debates among the members. Although many of the members, Mr. Owen declared on July thirtieth, had not seen their way clear and had fainted by the way, still he had witnessed a uniform progress from the old system to the new. "From present appearances, in twelve months we will be able to contend against the world." Six months ago he would not have imagined that

the progress since made could have been effected in years.

"Suppose," said an interrogator at one meeting, "one third of the population should pledge themselves to go the whole way with you (into communistic association), would you be willing to go the whole way? Would you be willing to make common stock of your property?" "Yes," Mr. Owen answered, "I am ready and will join you whenever there shall be a sufficient number who follow and understand the principles, and who will honestly carry them into effect."

On July thirtieth, 1826, the New Harmony Agricultural and Pastoral Society adopted a constitution modeled after those previously adopted by New Harmony communistic associations. The membership, limited to thirty families, was less exclusive than that of former societies, a two-thirds vote being sufficient to admit an applicant. Members leaving the society previous to the payment of the debt to Robert Owen, must relinquish all share in the property. The last clause of the constitution pledged the society to "furnish its quota of soldiers, statesmen and politicians."

The fact that the administration organ gave few particulars of the progress of the communities during the summer of 1826 is evidence that there was little to report that was favorable to the prospects of the New Harmony experiment. We only know that numerous expedients were tried to better the condition of the communities, and that all ultimately failed. The summer was full of projects, auspiciously begun, and disastrously ended.

For lack of a better authority, we must fall back on Paul Brown. The mechanics, he states, entered into indenture with Owen for lands and houses aggregating in value twenty-three thousand dollars, agreeing to pay five per cent. interest on this amount, and the property not to be deeded to them until the last installment on the principal had been paid. The "School Society" made a contract for nine hundred acres of land, and the best of the buildings, leasing these for ten thousand years, and agreeing to pay forty-nine thousand dollars therefor. The "Pastoral Society" had a similar contract for a large tract of land. There was great jealousy against the educational society, the commoners deeming it an aristocracy. There were many changes from society to society, and

the communities devoted much time and energy to wrangling with one another. Brown says: "The claim to some crops being unsettled between two societies, a large patch of cabbages went to ruin from neglect." "Everything was at sixes and sevens at the very time when everything ought to have been in complete order and the people tending busily to saving the products."

Brown found no attraction even in the social diversions which enlivened the place. "The people of the town," he says, "continued strangers to each other, in spite of all their meetings, their balls, their frequent occasions of congregating in the hall, and all their pretense of coöperation. From the first time I set my foot within this little town of one-half mile square, I think there is not one within the range of my observations during my traveling in other towns of the United States, where the same number of persons, living together within such a compass for so many months, and daily and hourly passing and repassing each other, were so perfectly strangers, and void of all personal intimacy with each other's feelings, views, situations, and, very generally, names."

At a meeting held on August twentieth, Robert Owen said: "Believe me, that if you and your children will only regularly meet here three evenings in the week, and give your attention to the subject, one year will not have passed before the minds of all will have become generally well informed. We ought to at once lay the foundation of this general knowledge." On motion it was agreed that Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings should be given to this purpose. These meetings were continued, with decreasing attendance, for only a few weeks. On August twenty-seventh Mr. Owen stated "that the last week had been well employed in commencing the education of the children belonging to the manufacturing, mechanic and pastoral societies." While Mr. Owen was delivering an excellent course of lectures on early education, Paul Brown does not think that the children were progressing far in the straight and narrow way. The mechanics became confused in the intricate machinery created by their constitution, and relieved themselves by abolishing their numerous offices, and creating in their stead a trinity of dictators, which they blasphemously called God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Ghost. The farmers became

offended by some proceeding of the educational society, and decided to remove their children from school, paying their tuition up to that time. The mechanics, who seemed to be greater revolutionists than the farmers, became involved in another quarrel, and also withdrew their children, but refused to pay anything for the instruction they had already received.

Brown says that gardens and fields were almost entirely neglected. Large holes were made in the fences "by brutes and boys." These openings into cultivated enclosures grew wider and wider until "swine ranged at pleasure throughout, then cows, and next horses." A pilfering spirit, he says, pervaded the place. "Two dames of House No. 4, where abode the pastorals and shepherds, had a battle with their fists." The children, Brown declares, ran morally mad. To crown it all, the Gazette refused to publish some essays written by Paul Brown himself. The Gazette does not agree with Brown in its accounts of community conditions, but stated about this time that "from a neglect of the principles of the system, some very well meaning individuals are committing mistakes which deprive them of the enjoyment of a happy state of mind. They blame individuals upon conjecture; they become angry at these individuals, and do and say things which they afterwards deeply regret."

At length the refractory farmers and mechanics agreed to allow Mr. Owen to have charge of the schooling of their children, and a school was set up in the shoe factory, with Mr. Owen as principal. Following this there seems to have ensued a period of temporary hopefulness and community convalescence.

At the Sunday meeting for instruction on August twenty-third, Robert Owen quoted from a book entitled "The Three Wise Men of Gotham," which held the Owenites up to ridicule. He stated that the book was embellished with a picture of three wise men sailing in a bowl, with the motto accompanying it:

"Three wise men of Gotham put out to sea in a bowl:  
If the bowl had been stronger, my tale had been longer."

The book, Mr. Owen stated, was divided into three parts, the first intended to give a ludicrous history of a pupil of the new system; the second to show the absurdities, uncertainties and consequent evils of law under the



individual system; the third was a satire on frivolity. The first chapter treated of a man machine who was supposed to tell his own story. Mr. Owen read some pages which treated of the employment of young children in the factories of Great Britain, and accused Mr. Owen of cupidity and a desire to make money by the labor of his followers.

On September seventeenth, 1826, a general meeting of the societies and the population of New Harmony was held at the hall. A message from Robert Owen was submitted, proposing a plan for "the amelioration of the society, to improve the condition of the people, and make them more contented." Mr. Owen offered to join any number of persons, the present existing communities being abolished, in the formation of a new general community, to be called "The New Harmony Community Number 1." The agreement stipulated that the real and personal property held by members and located in the United States, should be made common stock, except what might be sufficient to pay the just debts of members, and their wearing apparel, household furniture and whatever they might feel disposed to set apart for the support of absent relatives who were not members of the community. The government of this new community, Mr. Owen proposed, should be invested in himself and four directors to be appointed by him. This administration should continue for five years, at the end of which time the majority might decide as to the future government of the community. The members were to obligate themselves to "use their best endeavors by temperate, economical and prudent habits to contribute to the interest of all and the happiness of each."

The existing communities did not at once concur in this plan. The members of the educational society denounced it as a despotism. On October twenty-fourth Macluria had removed three of its directors and its agent. Soon after it split in two, on account, it is said, of a religious controversy, and returned the community property to Mr. Owen, who merged it into the estate of the new community No. 1. Ninety-six members were secured for this association in a few days. The educational society opposed the plan so vigorously that, according to Paul Brown, its supplies were cut off for a few days.

The formation of the new community seems to have

created a better state of affairs for a time, while Mr. Owens's instruction of the children was accomplishing much good. The Gazette of October eleventh, declared: "For several weeks past the steady progress in good habits and substantial improvement among the younger part of the population has been obvious to everyone. They have commenced a system of instruction which at once fixed their attention, and changed their whole conduct. They are most punctual in their attendance upon the lectures, and take an extraordinary interest in them: and in the same proportion that these good feelings and higher views have arisen, they have abandoned their wild and irrational mode of conduct: they are now seldom heard to swear or seen engaged in quarrels, as was their common conduct at their first coming. Their industry keeps pace with their other improvements, and their parents generally express the greatest satisfaction in the change effected in their children. The parents also have made a considerable advance in temperance and industry. There are but two or three among the whole population who are seen occasionally to trespass against the former virtue, and such is the general feeling of disapprobation in consequence that it is evident to everyone that they must speedily change this deplorable habit, or leave the society. And what will the more surprise the public, after the reports which have been generally circulated, there has not been one instance yet known of illegitimacy among the whole population, and what is more remarkable, suspicion on the subject does not, so far as we know, attach itself to a single individual.

"The most eccentric and violent characters, who were unprepared to give up their eccentricities, having left the society, all have agreed to commence the social system upon its true foundation of common property, good feeling and true conduct. The community unanimously agreed that Mr. Owen should take the direction of its formation until it was so far advanced that the members should be instructed in the practice of the whole as well as in the principles. The declaration of mental independence having cleared away the greater part of the errors which previously prevailed in the minds of many, and removed all doubts from the strong minded in regard to Mr. Owen's real views and ultimate objects, mutual

confidence has been established. The town is so full that several await the completion of some houses which are yet in progress. The applications for membership have also largely increased lately. There can be little doubt, therefore, that as soon as the public mind shall be calmed after the first surprise of such an attack as was the Declaration of Mental Independence, as soon as the productive classes shall have time and opportunity to discover how grievously they are injured by the old system in every part of the world, and more especially when they reflect upon the fate of the producers of all wealth in Great Britain, they will bestir themselves everywhere, and adopt principles and arrangements by which they will securely enjoy the full benefit of their mental and physical exertions."

On November eighth, the Gazette declared that at the beginning of the experiment some intemperate, thievish, aristocratic, violent, eccentric, ill-tempered, vain and scheming persons came to the community. "Some of the most defective characters have left the community, however, as well as some who would have made good members had they persevered. It would be an act of very great injustice to the community and the public, to say that the community character has yet been attained by us; all parties as yet have scarcely become known to each other, and we are but partially acquainted with the materials around us. Some progress has, however, been made. Drunkenness has been diminished until it is now scarcely known. Industry has become steady and regular among all classes, with a few exceptions. The children are gradually losing the wild and thoughtless habits which they once possessed, and are beginning to acquire those of attention and refinement.

"The principal thing to be contended with is the character formed by a new country. Families have been here collected without any relation to each others' views and peculiarities. Many of these persons, after their arrival, have been deprived of more or less of their property, and a general system of trading speculation exists among them, each one trying to get the best of the other. Confidence cannot, therefore, exist among them, and there is an unreasonable spirit of suspicion prevalent. Inexperience in

community enterprises is another great obstacle, and education alone can overcome these difficulties."

On November twenty-ninth the Gazette announced that arrangements had been perfected for educating all the children of the community in one family. It says, further: "Some of the population entertain the opinion that a few of the members are not so careful and industrious as they ought to be, and it is probable that there may be some truth in these surmises. Nothing, however, is so damaging as a suspicious spirit.

"Another cause of dissatisfaction among the members of the educational society arose from a misconception among them as to the best line of separation between their lands and those of the other societies. They thought some other line, giving them more land in a particular direction inconvenient to their neighbors, was necessary for them; a little reflection, however, will convince them of their error, there being more land than is requisite for ten other communities, and whenever they are prepared to require more for cultivation, it can be obtained without difficulty. It deserves not a moment's reflection whether one society has a little more or a little less for the present, providing a line shall be adopted which will prevent them from interfering with each other's principles, objects and arrangements. Shortly each member of all these societies will discover that they have but one and the same interest. These little matters, creating some temporary difference of feeling, being once adjusted, the rapidity of our progress will be much accelerated."

At a meeting of the society on November eleventh, 1826, Robert Owen said: "We meet particularly for the purpose of taking a survey of the last half year's proceedings, and the progress the community has made toward the attainment of the great object which has brought me across the Atlantic, and which has induced you to collect yourselves together at this place. Many are ridiculing the project, but the members should not heed in the slightest what the world has said or may say relative to our discussions here. It knows no more of this subject, which is new in the annals of the human race, than a man born blind knows of colors." Mr. Owen proceeded to state, after reading the first chapter of a new work on the "social system," what had been done preparatory to the

introduction of the new state of society. He commenced with the purchase of the estate, and the collection of persons desirous of trying the experiment. He mentioned the establishment of the Gazette "for the promulgation of true principles." These results, he said, were accomplished during the first year. During the succeeding six months the declaration of mental independence had been made, the publication of which he regarded as laying the foundations of the new Social system "on a rock immovable through future ages." Then the association was formed into a community of common property. "In the next place an experiment has been made which proves how easily the whole community may be re-educated into one family, or true community. The community has discovered by experience the utility of delegating the direction of this organization to some of the members until the majority of them acquire the knowledge of the best mode of acting in general measures, or upon an extensive combination. It had further ascertained the qualities, character, or virtues which are necessary to be acquired by all members of a community of common property, equality and justice, and without which no community can be successful." "A long discussion followed," states the Gazette.











**FRANCES WRIGHT.**



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## *Woman at New Harmony.*

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"Woman: May the experiment being tried in New Harmony of the same intellectual cultivation of the sexes, prove that woman's capabilities are equal to those of men."—Toast responded to at the Semi-Centennial celebration at Marietta, Ohio, July 4th, 1826.

The philosophy of Robert Owen contemplated equal privileges for the sexes. It has been noted that in the original Community, women were given an equal voice with men in legislation. In several of the later communities, women were given a vote in legislative assemblages, in others the right of participating in debate, and in all the widows of deceased members succeeded to the rights and privileges their husbands had previously enjoyed. The original community afforded the first example of woman's suffrage in this country. Robert Owen's system contemplated the abolition of all special property rights heretofore vested in men. The educational institutions at New Harmony were co-educational from the beginning—a pioneer venture which attracted wide attention and comment.

Mr. Owen chiefly looked to the emancipation of woman from what he looked upon as a crushing burden—"marriage founded upon individual property." "It is almost impossible," Mr. Owen said at one of the Sunday meetings for instruction at New Harmony, "that there should be a natural marriage in the present state of society, in my acceptation of the phrase. What I mean by a natural marriage is where a union is formed under those institutions which provide for all parties an equal education, under which they are enabled to acquire an accurate knowledge of themselves and of human nature: wherein no other motive shall influence the affections but intimate sympathy and unaffected congeniality, founded on a real knowledge of each other by both parties; where the imagination has been carefully excluded, and where the judgment has been the guide and director." Mr. Owen further declared that there was never the slightest foundation for the report that he stood sponsor for free love. This charge had been widely made and believed; it still

lingers as a popular impression which never had foundation in fact. The private character of Robert Owen was exceptionally pure; his family life was happy, and it is certain that he looked upon his attack on the existing form of marriage, as a step in the direction of a higher morality.

The Gazette gives an interesting account of a double marriage ceremony performed under the auspices of the community on the first Sunday in April, 1826. At a regular meeting of the society in New Harmony Hall, Rev. John Burkitt joined in marriage "Philip M. Price, late of Philadelphia, to Matilda Greenbree, late of Washington City, and Robert Robson, late of Washington City, to Eliza E. Parvin, late of Princeton, Indiana."

"In compliance with a resolution passed at a previous meeting of the community," says the Gazette, "the four parties previous to the performance of the marriage ceremony, entered a protest against the usual form of marriage in the following manner: Each couple standing up in the meeting, and taking each other by the hand, severally repeated: 'I, A. B., do agree to take this man (woman) to be my husband (wife), and I declare that I submit to any other ceremony upon this occasion only in conformity with the laws of the state.' They then went through with the marriage ceremony in usual form."

"The point is," the administration declared, "that the society believes that man is not the creature of his own will, that his character is formed for him, and therefore he does not dare to promise to love always, since they are conscious that their affections do not depend upon themselves.

"The society thus advises all who are in the community to adopt the above form of marriage. The old form is irrational, because it obligates us to do what we may not be able to perform, and because it marks a disposition to enslave one-half of our fellow creatures."

When, at one of the Sunday meetings during the summer of 1826, it was agreed that the society should meet on three evenings each week for instruction, the point was raised that "the females would hardly have time to get done with supper to meet there so early and so often." "Mr. Owen said," an account of the meeting states, "that he had been endeavoring to ascertain the cause why so

much difficulty is experienced by the females of this community in the performance of their domestic duties." Female labor, he declared, ought to be lighter under the community that under the individual system. Perhaps the women spent too much time talking, he suggested. "By coming to these meetings for instruction they might perhaps get rid of the desire and the occasion for so much useless talk."

The further suggestion was made at this meeting that "there existed great jealousy among the females of this place; that some were afraid of doing more than their shares of the work, and some were afraid of doing anything at all." Mr. Owen responded that "education begun at the age of three years would eradicate these evil passions from the coming generation."

Robert Owen's advanced views regarding the equality of the sexes did not receive immediate acceptance, but in after years they deeply influenced American legislation through the labors of his distinguished son, Robert Dale Owen. The younger Owen wrote into the Indiana statutes a conception of the legal rights of women far in advance of that generally held throughout the Union. Through his influence more liberal divorce legislation was enacted in Indiana, and though the provisions of that law now seem moderate, Horace Greely denominated Indiana "the paradise of free lovers." Robert Dale Owen replied vigorously to this unfounded charge, and the debate which ensued in the columns of the New York Tribune constitutes one of the most notable contributions to literature bearing on the problem of marriage and divorce. In that discussion the younger Owen more than held his own with the great presiding genius of the Tribune, whose word was law at that time with thousands of readers throughout the country.

In the New Harmony library is still to be seen the desk over which Frances Wright delivered lectures in which woman suffrage was first advocated, and some of the first arguments in favor of the abolition of slavery and the granting of suffrage to the negroes were advanced. Frances Wright was one of the most interesting figures in the brilliant coterie of eccentric reformers which gathered about Robert Owen at the announcement of his New Harmony plans. With her sister Camilla she was left an

orphan at an early age, and these girls of large fortune and gentle birth were confined to the care of Jeremy Bentham, who at one time had a business connection with Robert Owen. "He had them educated according to his own peculiar crotchets," says one writer, "and very eccentric women he made of them; they fitted into no social map, no domestic form. Frances had a strong masculine mind and character, and took to the manly rearing Bentham gave her." "She was thoroughly versed in the literature of the day," says Robert Dale Owen, "was well informed on general topics, and spoke French and Italian fluently. She had traveled and resided for years in Europe, was an intimate friend of General LaFayette, had made the acquaintance of many leading reformers, Hungarian, Polish and others, and was a thorough republican; indeed, an advocate of universal suffrage without regard to color or sex. \* \* \* Refined in her manner and language, she was a radical alike in politics, morals and religion. She had a strong, logical mind, a courageous independence of thought, and a zealous wish to benefit her fellow creatures; but the mind had not been submitted to early discipline, the courage was not tempered with prudence, the philanthropy had too little of common sense to give it practical form and efficiency. Her enthusiasm, eager but fitful, lacked the guiding check of sound judgment. Her abilities as an author and lecturer were of a high order, but an inordinate estimate of her own mental powers, and obstinate adherence to opinions once adopted, detracted seriously from the influence which her talents and eloquence might have exerted. A redeeming point was, that to carry out her convictions she was ready to make great sacrifices, personal and pecuniary. She and a younger sister, a lady alike amiable and estimable, had always lived and journeyed together, were independent in their circumstances, and were devotedly attached to each other. She had various personal advantages—a tall, commanding figure, somewhat slender and graceful, though the shoulders were a little bit too high: a face the outline of which in profile, though delicately chiselled, was masculine rather than feminine, like that of an Antinous, or perhaps more nearly typifying a Mercury; the forehead broad, but not high; the short, chestnut hair curling naturally all over a classic head; the

large blue eyes not soft, but clear and earnest. When I first met her, at Harmony, in the summer of 1826, some of the peculiarities of character above set forth had not developed themselves. She was then known in England and here, only as the author of a small book entitled 'A Few Days in Athens,' published and favorably received in London, and of a volume of travels in the United States, in which she spoke in laudatory tone of our institutions and of our people."

John Humphrey Noyes, in his "History of American Socialisms," says: "This woman, little known to the present generation, was really the spiritual help-mate and better-half of the Owens, in the socialistic revival of 1826. Our impression is, not only that she was the leading woman in the communistic movement of that period, but that she had a very important agency in starting two other movements that had far greater success and are at this moment in popular favor, viz.: anti-slavery and woman's rights. If justice were done, we are confident her name would figure high with those of Lundy, Garrison and John Brown on the one hand, and those of Abby Kelly, Lucy Stone and Anna Dickinson on the other. She was indeed the pioneer of strong-minded women."

Frances Wright first appeared at New Harmony after the purchase of the estate by Mr. Owen, but before the removal of the Rappites, whom she accompanied to Pennsylvania, and there studied their methods of settlement. She spent some time at New Harmony after the founding of the Preliminary Society, and in the summer of 1825 issued a prospectus announcing plans for founding a community in which not only the industrial problem, but the slave question was to be solved. She purchased two thousand acres of woodland situated on both sides of Wolf river thirteen miles above Memphis. With fifteen negroes purchased of neighboring slave holders, she began her experiment in the autumn of 1825, giving the name "Nashoba" to her colony. Her idea was to elevate the negro by education, and to found a community system which, by spreading, would eventually result in the abolition of slavery; but there was to be in each community a coterie of "good and great men and women of all countries," as Noyes says, "who might there sympathize with each other in their love and labor for humanity.

She invited congenial minds from every quarter of the globe to unite with her in the search for truth and the pursuit of rational happiness." Half of the earnings of each negro was to be set apart to purchase his emancipation, if necessary. Each community was to be managed by the whites. "The theory was benevolent," says Noyes, "but practically the institution must have been a two-story commonwealth, something like the old Grecian states, which founded liberty on Helotism. It might be defined as a Brook Farm plus a negro basis, thus obviating the difficulty encountered in that experiment which Hawthorne designates, namely, that the amateurs who took part in that picnic, 'did not like to serve as chambermaids to the cows.'"

Early in the history of this experiment, failing health compelled Frances Wright to make a trip to Europe. During her absence matters became sadly tangled, and on her return in December she made over the estate to a board of trustees composed of General LaFayette, William Maclure, Robert Owen, Cadwallader Colden, Richeson Whitby, Robert Jennings, Robert Dale Owen, George Flower, Camilla Wright and James Richardson, "to be held by them, their associates and their successors in perpetual trust for the benefit of the negro race." By two other deeds she gave to these trustees the negro slaves on the estate, and all her personal property. In an appeal to the public issued at this time she declared that no difference in education or other advantages would be made between white and colored children. Conditions did not greatly improve under the management of the trustees, and in March, 1828, they published a communication in the Nashoba Gazette in which the failure of the coöperative feature of the scheme was practically admitted, and it was proposed that each white member of the Community pay into the treasury one hundred dollars annually for board; "each one must also build himself a small brick house with a piazza according to a regular plan, and upon a spot of ground selected for the purpose near the center of the lands." Frances Wright, Richeson Whitby, Camilla Wright Whitby and Robert Dale Owen signed this communication as resident trustees. Soon after this the community was abandoned, and in the following June Frances Wright moved to New Harmony, where in con-



junction with William Owen, she edited the New Harmony Gazette, which became the New Harmony and Nashoba Gazette, or Free Enquirer. The Nashoba property was left in the hands of an agent who was to conduct the negroes to Hayti early the next year. Says Noyes: "The communistic experiment and failure was nearly simultaneous with that of New Harmony, and was the immediate antecedent of Frances Wright's famous lecturing tour. In December, 1828, she raised a whirlwind of excitement by her eloquence in Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. Soon after the New Harmony Gazette, with the title of Free Enquirer, was removed to the latter city, where it was for several years ably edited by Frances Wright and Robert Dale Owen."

During the community period Frances Wright gathered about her at New Harmony a coterie of kindred spirits, and founded what is considered the first woman's literary club in the United States. This organization succeeded what was known as the Woman's Social society, established during the continuance of the Preliminary Society in 1826. In turn the society founded by Frances Wright, after it had lapsed for over twenty-five years, was succeeded by the Minerva society, a woman's literary club founded in 1859, which in itself is the pioneer woman's club of the West.









WILLIAM MACLURE.



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# *The Educational Experiment.*

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"Awake! ye sons of light and joy,  
And scout the Demon of the schools:  
The fiend that scowls but to decoy,  
To pamper zealots: frighten fools:  
To blind the judgment: crib the soul.  
Wake up! And let your actions tell  
That you with Peace and Virtue dwell.

"Away with studied form and phrase,  
Away with cant, and bigot zeal,  
Let Truth's unclouded beacon blaze,  
From Nature's kindness learn to feel:  
From Nature's kindness learn to give  
Your hands, your hearts, to all that live.  
Wake up! 'Tis deeds alone can tell  
That you with Peace and Virtue dwell."

—Poem dedicated to the children of the New Harmony Boarding School, New Harmony Gazette, October 8, 1825.

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"An age of hatred, strife and woe  
Has long in terror reigned,  
Its numerous victims are laid low,  
The world in blood is stained,  
But now the time is coming fast  
When strife shall be forever past.

## CHORUS.

"The day of peace begins to dawn,  
Huzza! Huzza! Huzza!  
Dark Error's might will soon be gone,  
Huzza! Huzza! Huzza!  
Poor mortals long have been astray,  
But Knowledge now will lead the way  
Huzza! Huzza! Huzza!

"Now Vice and Crime no more shall stalk  
Unseen in open day,  
To cross our silent, peaceful walk  
Through life's enchanting way:  
Old Ignorance with hoary head  
Must seek his everlasting bed.

"Each warrior now may sheath his blade  
And toil in vain no more,  
To seek fair Virtue's genial shade,  
For now all wars are o'er,  
The battle's done, the day is won,  
The victory's gained by Truth alone."

—Song written for the children of New Harmony.

When the New Harmony Gazette, in October, 1825, declared that "this Society regards education as public property," and "that the education of youth should be among the first objects of its solicitude and care," it

sounded the keynote of Robert Owen's philosophy of education. By Robert Owen the educational experiments were considered only second in importance to the trial of the social system itself, while William Maclure evidently put the social system in second place. How well they succeeded is shown by the fact that in 1826 Albert Gallatin, United States Minister to Great Britain, declared that "the New Harmony system of education is the best in the world."

In Silliman's Journal, early in 1826, William Maclure, who had general charge of educational interests at New Harmony, outlined the system, stating that Phiquepal d'Arusmont and Madame Fretageot, with Messrs. Say, Maclure and other educators, "are now prepared to organize at New Harmony a boarding school on these principles, which have for some time been in operation at New Lanark, Scotland. The great or fundamental principle is, never to attempt to teach children what they cannot comprehend, and to teach them in the exact ratio of their understanding, without omitting one line in the chain of ratiocination; proceeding always from the known to the unknown; from the most easy to the most difficult; practicing the most extensive and accurate use of all the senses; exercising, improving and perfecting all the mental and corporeal faculties by quickening combination; accelerating and carefully arranging comparison; judiciously and impartially making deductions; summing up the results free from prejudice, and cautiously avoiding the delusions of the imagination—a constant source of ignorance and error." The children are to learn mechanism by machines or exact models of them; arithmetic by an instrument called the arithmometer, geometry "by an instrument called the trigonometron, by which the most useful propositions of Euclid are reduced to the comprehension of a child five or six years old; mathematics by the help of the above mentioned instruments. \* \* \* Natural history in all its branches is learned by examining the objects in substance, or accurate representations of them in designs or prints; anatomy by skeletons and wax figures; geography by globes and maps,—most of the last of their own construction; hygiene, or the preservation of health, by their own experience and observation of the consequences of all natural functions; they are taught the elements of writing



and designing by the freedom of hand acquired by constant practice in forming all kinds of figures with a slate and pencil put into their hands when they first enter the school, on which they draw lines, dividing them into equal parts, thereby obtaining an accuracy of the eye, which, joined to the constant exercise of judging of the distance of objects and their height, gives them a perfect idea of space. \* \* \* They learn music \* \* \* through the medium of an organ constructed for the purpose, and a sonometer, first learning the sounds and then being taught the notes, or signs of those sounds. Gymnastics, or the exercise of all muscular motions, they acquire by the practice of all kinds of movements, always, preferably, those that may lead to utility, such as marching, climbing, the manual exercise, etc. They are taught the greatest part of these branches at the same time, never fatiguing the mind with more than an hour's attention to the same thing, changing the subject and rendering it a play by variety. The pupils learn as many languages as there are languages spoken by the boys of different nations in the school, each instructing the other in the vocabulary of his language. The boys learn at least one mechanical art,—for instance, setting type and printing, and for this purpose there are printing presses in each school, by aid of which are published all their elementary books. \* \* \* They learn natural philosophy by the most improved and simple instruments, \* \* \* never departing from the golden rule of proceeding from the most simple to the most complex, from the easiest to the most difficult, from the known to the unknown, preferring the useful to the ornamental, making at the same time the application of all the necessary arts and occupations, that their utility may not be lost sight of for a moment.”

“Lithographing and engraving, as well as printing,” Mr. Maclure announced, “are to be carried on in the school building, as well as other mechanic arts, that the children may receive manual training.” There was at this time but one other manual training school in this country—the Rensselaer Institute, founded the year before. The infant school transplanted direct from New Lanark by Robert Owen, the founder and organizer of infant instruction, was the first of its kind in the United States, and the second in the world. The Pestalozzian principles de-

tailed by Mr. Maclure in the article just quoted were first applied to public instruction at New Harmony; in the various educational establishments there; in fact, at New Harmony the Pestalozzian system of education was first successfully tested on American soil, and began to attract a general attention which led to its universal adoption.

Joseph Neef—Francis Joseph Nicholas Neef—though not mentioned in Mr. Maclure's prospectus, was the most notable figure in the New Harmony group of educators. He was born in Soultz, Alsace, December sixth, 1770. He was educated for the Roman Catholic priesthood, but at the age of twenty-one years he renounced the Church and entered the French army under Napoleon. He was wounded at the battle of Arcola by a spent bullet, which remained at the base of his brain during the remainder of his lifetime. He became a pupil of Pestalozzi, and then a teacher in that great educator's reform school at Iverdun. During one of his European tours, William Maclure visited this school, and asked Pestalozzi to recommend a teacher to introduce the system into this country. Pestalozzi named Neef, who accompanied Mr. Maclure to Philadelphia and in 1808 established a school on Pestalozzian principles on the Falls of the Schuylkill, five miles from Philadelphia. The same year he published the first American work on pedagogy. This was followed in 1813 by "Neef's Methods of Teaching." Both these books attained a wide circulation. In 1813 he removed his school to Delaware county, Pennsylvania. Neither of his schools was attended by more than indifferent success, though the future Admiral Farragut was a pupil in the Schuylkill institution, and became a warm admirer of the teacher and his system. A prejudice based largely on atheistic principles which he bluntly promulgated, at length made Professor Neef so unpopular that he moved to Louisville, bought a small farm near that city, and renounced teaching altogether. From this retreat he was brought to New Harmony by Messrs. Owen and Maclure in 1826. Mrs. Neef was a native of Würtemberg. Her brother became a professor in Pestalozzi's institute, and she was educated under the supervision of Mrs. Pestalozzi. Professor Neef was her French teacher, and just before his departure for America, they were married. Madame Marie D. Fretageot was a woman of unusual executive ability, and upon her

largely devolved the business management of the Educational society. She was an adept in mental arithmetic, and had a class, conducted on the Pestalozzian system, which could rapidly and accurately multiply four figures by four others without writing out the process. She also employed the arithmometer and trigonometrical in her teaching.

Robert Dale Owen gives us a picture of the New Harmony schools in operation. "In the educational department," he writes, "we had considerable talent, mixed with a good deal of eccentricity. We had a Frenchman, patronized by Mr. Maclure, a Phiquepal d'Arusmont, who became afterwards the husband of Frances Wright, a man well informed on many points, but withal, a wrong headed genius, whose extravagance, wilfulness and inordinate self-conceit destroyed his usefulness. He had a small school, but it was a failure—he gained neither the good will nor the respect of his pupils.

"Another, of a very different stamp, was Professor Joseph Neef, from Pestalozzi's school in Switzerland. Simple, straightforward, and cordial, a proficient in modern languages, a good musician, he had brought with him from Pestalozzi's institution at Iverdun an excellent mode of teaching. To his earlier life, as an officer under Napoleon, was due a blunt, off-hand manner and an abrupt style of speech, enforced, now and then, with an oath—an awkward habit for a teacher, which I think he tried ineffectually to get rid of. One day, when I was within hearing, a boy in his class used profane language. 'Youngster,' said Neef to him, 'you mustn't swear. It's silly, and it's vulgar, and it means nothing. Don't let me hear you do so again.'

"'But, Mr. Neef,' said the boy, hesitating and looking half frightened, 'if—if it's vulgar and wrong to swear, why—'

"'Well, out with it. Never stop when you want to say anything; that's another bad habit. You wished to know why—'

"'Why you swear yourself, Mr. Neef.'

"'Because I'm a damned fool! Don't you be one, too!'

"With all his roughness, the good old man was a general favorite, alike with children and adults. Those whose recollections of Harmony extend back to the forties, pre-

serve a genial remembrance of him, walking about in the sun of July or August, in linen trousers and shirt, always bareheaded, with a grandchild in his arms, and humming to his infant charge some martial air in a wonderful bass voice, which, it is said, enabled him in his younger days, when giving command to a body of troops, to be distinctly heard by ten thousand men."

Robert Dale Owen thus relates an experience of his own in teaching one of the community schools: "When I first took charge of the school, finding that the teachers occasionally employed corporeal punishment, I strictly forbade it. After a time the master of the eldest boys' class said to me one day: 'I find it impossible to control these unruly rascals. They know I am not allowed to flog them, and when I seek to enforce rules of order, they defy me.'

"I sought to show him how he might manage them without the rod, but he persisted. 'If you'd try it yourself for a few days, Mr. Owen, you'd find out that I'm right.'

"'Good,' I said, 'I'll take them in hand for a week or two.'

"They *were* a rough, boisterous, lawless set; bright enough, quick of observation; capable of learning when they applied themselves, but accustomed to a free swing, and impatient of discipline to which they had never been subjected. I said to them at the start: 'Boys, I want you to learn; you'll be very sorry when you come to be men if you don't. But you can't learn anything worth knowing, without rules to go by. I must have you orderly and obedient. I won't require from you anything unreasonable, and I don't intend to be severe with you. But whatever I tell you to do has to be done, and shall be done, sooner or later.' Here I observed on one or two bold faces a smile that looked like incredulity, but all I added was: 'You'll save time if you do it at once.'

"My lessons, often oral, interested them, and things went on quietly for a few days. I knew the crisis would come. It did in this wise. It was May, the thermometer was ranging toward ninety degrees, and I resolved to take the class to bathe in the Wabash, much to their delight. I told them that by the doctor's advice they were to remain in the water fifteen minutes only; that was the rule. When I called 'Time up,' they all came out, somewhat reluct-

antly, however, except one tall fellow, named Ben, a good swimmer, who detained us ten minutes, notwithstanding my order, several times repeated, to come on shore.

"I said nothing about it until we returned to the school room, then I asked the class: 'Do you remember my saying to you that whatever I told you to do had to be done sooner or later?' They looked at Ben, and said 'Yes.' Then I went on: 'I am determined that if I take you to bathe again, you shall stay in fifteen minutes only. How do you think I can best manage that?' They looked at Ben again, and seemed puzzled, never, very surely, having been asked such a question before. 'Has no one any plan?' I asked.

"At length a youngster suggested, 'I guess you'd better thrash him, Mr. Owen.' 'I don't wish to do that,' I replied. 'I think it does boys harm. Besides, I never was whipped myself, I never whipped anybody, and I know it must be a very unpleasant thing to do. Can't somebody think of a better plan?'

"One of the class suggested: 'There's a closet in the garret, with a stout bolt to it, you might shut him up in there till we get back.'

"'That's better than flogging, but is the closet dark?'

"'It's dark as hell.'

"'You mustn't talk so, my child. You can't tell whether there is such a place at all. You mean that the closet is very dark, don't you?'

"'Yes.'

"'Then you ought to say so. But I think Ben would not like to be shut up in the dark for nearly an hour.'

"'No, but then we don't like to be kept from bathing just for him.'

"Then one little fellow, with some hesitation, put in his word: 'Please, Mr. Owen, wouldn't it do to leave him in the play-ground?'

"'If I could be sure that he would stay there, but he might get out and go bathing, and remain in half an hour perhaps.'

"At this point Ben, no longer able to restrain himself—he had been getting more and more restless, turning first to one speaker, then to another, as we coolly discussed the case,—burst forth: 'Mr. Owen, if you leave me in the

play-ground, when they go to bathe next time, I'll never stir from it. I won't. You'll see I won't.'

"'Well, Ben,' said I, 'I have never known you to tell a falsehood, and I'll take your word for it this time. But, remember, if you lie to me once, I shall never be able to trust you again. We couldn't believe known liars if we were to try.'

"So the next time we went in bathing I left Ben in the play-ground. When we returned, he met me, with eager face, at the gate. 'I never left, even for a minute. Ask them if I have,' pointing to some boys at play.

"'Your word is enough. I believe you.'

"Thereafter Ben came out of the water promptly, as soon as time was called; and when any of his comrades lingered, he was the first to chide them for disobeying orders.

"Once or twice afterwards I had to take a somewhat similar stand (never against Ben), persisting each time until I was obeyed. Then bethinking myself of my Hofwyl experience, I called in the aid of military drill, which the boys took to very kindly, and when three weeks had passed, I found that my pupils prided themselves in being what, indeed, they were—the best disciplined and most orderly and law-abiding class in school.

"So I carried my point against a degrading relic of barbarism, then countenanced in England, alike in army, navy and some of the most accredited seminaries."

In community house Number 2, Madame Neef conducted an infant school modelled after the one founded by Robert Owen at New Lanark, where Mr. Owen had conducted the first experiments in the training of children below the accepted school age. The laws of the social system provided that children should become the property of the community at the age of two years, and it was in this infant school that they were first received. The chief work of the teacher was to direct the amusements of the children, who were taught various games, some of them instructive, similar to those employed in the present day kindergarten, the principle being, as stated in Mr. Maclure's prospectus, "never to attempt to teach children what they cannot comprehend, and to teach them in the exact ratio of their understanding." Madame Fretageot

was associated with Madame Neef in the instruction of these younger children.

The Duke of Saxe-Weimar writes of his visit to the community schools in April, 1826: "I found Professor Neef in the act of leading the boys of his school out to labor. Military exercise formed a part of the instruction of the children. I saw the boys divided into two ranks and parted into detachments, marching to labor. On the way they performed various wheelings and evolutions. All the boys and girls have a very healthy look, are cheerful and lively and by no means bashful. The boys labor in the field and garden and were now occupied with new fencing. The girls learned female employments: they were as little oppressed as the boys with labor and teaching; these happy and interesting little children were much more employed in making their youth pass as happily as possible. Madame Neef showed me their school-house, in which she dwelt, and in which places for sleeping were arranged for the boys. Each slept upon a cot frame, on a straw bed. \* \* \* I went to the quondam church, or workshop for the boys who are intended for joiners and shoemakers. These boys sleep upon the floor above the church in cribs, three in a row, and thus have their sleeping place and place of instruction close together. \* \* \* Mr. Jennings was a coöperate with Mr. Neef in the schools. His reserved and haughty character was ill-fitted for such a situation, and Messrs. Owen and Maclure willingly consented to his withdrawing. An Englishman by birth, he was brought up for a military life; this he had forsaken to devote himself to clerical pursuits; had arrived in the United States as a Universalist preacher and had been received with much attention in that capacity at Cincinnati, until he abandoned himself with enthusiasm to the new social system, and made himself openly and publicly known as an atheist."

The schools were open, on payment of tuition, to children from outside the community, and pupils came from as far east as Philadelphia and New York. In October, 1825, the committee which had charge of the New Harmony Boarding School issued an announcement stating that "a limited number of children, whose parents are not members of the society, will be received into this institution on application to the committee. Terms: For board-

ing, lodging, washing, clothing, medical attendance, medicine and instruction in the various branches taught in this institution one hundred dollars *per annum*." For a time there was a system of day and night schools, separate from the boarding school, but conducted on the same principles.

As before stated, girls were received on the same terms as boys, and the course of instruction prescribed for them was the same as that laid down for the other sex. The doctrine of the social system as officially promulgated, was: "It is contemplated in Mr. Owen's system, by giving our female population as good an education as our males, to qualify them for every situation in life in which, consistently with their organization, they may be placed."

Mrs. Sarah Cox Thrall, who died in New Harmony a few years ago, was a pupil in the community schools. She stated that in summer the girls wore dresses of coarse linen, with a coarse plaid costume for Sunday or for special occasions. In winter they wore heavy woolen dresses. At rising a detail of the girls was sent out to do the milking, and this milk, with mush cooked in large kettles, constituted the essential part of the morning meal, which the children were expected to finish in fifteen minutes. "We had bread but once a week—on Saturdays. I thought if I ever got out, I would kill myself eating sugar and cake. We marched in military order, after breakfast, to community house No. 2. I remember that there were blackboards covering one side of the school room, and that we had wires, with balls on them, by which we learned to count. We also had singing exercises by which we familiarized ourselves with lessons in various branches. At dinner we generally had soup, at supper mush and milk again. We went to bed at sundown in little bunks suspended in rows by cords from the ceiling. Sometimes one of the children at the end of the row would swing back her cradle, and when it collided on the return bound with the next bunk, it set the whole row bumping together. This was a favorite diversion, and caused the teachers much distress. At regular intervals we used to be marched to the community apothecary shop, where a dose that tasted like sulphur was impartially dealt out to each pupil, just as in Squeer's Dotheboy's School. Children regularly in the boarding school were not allowed to see their



parents, except at rare intervals. I saw my father and mother twice in two years. We had a little song we used to sing:

“Number 2 pigs locked up in a pen,  
When they get out, it's now and then,  
When they get out, they sneak about,  
For fear old Neef will find them out.”

An account of the formation of the educational society has already been given. With this Mr. Maclure and his associates allied themselves, and the educational interests of the various communities were under its care. In December, 1826, William Maclure forwarded to the state legislature a petition for the incorporation of the New Harmony Educational Society, and a bill was introduced stating that William Maclure “had bought, in and adjoining New Harmony, one thousand acres of land with suitable buildings erected thereupon, devoted to the establishment of schools, and had furnished a liberal endowment, embracing many thousands of volumes of books, with such mathematical, chemical and physical apparatus as are necessary to facilitate education, and is desirous to obtain an act of incorporation to enable him more fully to carry out his benevolent designs.” This bill was rejected in the state senate by a vote of fifteen to four, on account of the popular impression that atheism was promulgated in the New Harmony schools. The Gazette, in commenting on the action of the legislature, says: “We presume, from their conduct, that they have no confidence in our society or its intentions.”



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## *Community Disintegration.*

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"In my own behalf I rejoice that I could once think better of the world probably than it deserved. It is a mistake into which men seldom fall twice in a lifetime, or, if so, the rarer and higher the nature that can thus magnanimously press onward. \* \* \* Whatever else I may repent of, therefore, let it be reckoned neither among my sins nor follies that I once had faith and force enough to form generous hopes of the world's destiny."—Nathaniel Hawthorne in *Blythedale Romance*.

"Besides those who came to New Harmony with good intentions," said the late Colonel Richard Owen, in a letter to John H. Holliday, "there were a good many who came thinking to make money by getting lands and houses into their hands on pretense of being strong advocates of socialism. Some of them were very unscrupulous in the means employed, notably William Taylor, who afterwards was in the Ohio penitentiary, I think, for forgery; Amos Clark, who moved to Texas, and some others whose relatives are still living—hence I do not mention their names."

Chief among these dishonest speculators was the William Taylor referred to in this letter. Gaining the confidence of Mr. Owen, he induced him to sell him fifteen hundred acres of land. It is said that the contract read "with all thereon," and that Taylor moved all the agricultural implements and live stock he could find on other parts of the estate, upon his tract, the night before the day upon which the contract went into effect. Taylor established a distillery, contrary to the wishes of Mr. Owen, and in every way possible made trouble for the management of the community enterprise.

Near the close of the year 1826, many of the members of the community were being expelled for incapacity. Paul Brown says of the sale of land to Taylor: "This maneuver swept away the last cobweb of fairy dreams of a common stock and community." A funeral of the social system was projected by some of the New Harmonites. A coffin was procured and properly labeled, and arrangements were made for an imposing procession; but the night before the day set for the funeral the building in

which the coffin was concealed was broken into, and all the paraphernalia destroyed, so that the project was abandoned, and the system was allowed to die in its own way. "Owen's practices about this time," says Brown, "tended to inspire cupidity, and his preaching tended to inspire apathy and licentiousness." Without doubt Mr. Owen was now attempting to extricate himself from the financial embarrassment which overhung the experiment, for he doubtless realized that the end of the scheme was near.

"Moreover," complains Brown, "the individual sufferings from the privations and embarrassments arising out of the continual shifting of arrangements, as well as by the circumscription of subsistence, deadened the wonted sympathy of many ingenuous souls. Money was in higher repute than in any other town, and became almost an object of worship. The sexes fought like cats and dogs about individual marriages; there was no politeness between the single persons of the two sexes, but a dark, sullen, cold, suspicious temper, and a most intolerable, miserly allusion to individual property as the standard of worth. The single men of the town were generally obliged to make their own beds, carry their clothes to wash and recover them when they could, as much as if they had belonged to an army. Everyone was for himself, as the saying is."

The pretense of communism was kept up by the administration, perhaps with the hope that something would turn up to change the trend of affairs. The Sunday meetings for instruction, which had for some time been discontinued on account of a lack of heating accommodations at the hall, were resumed. About this time two more communities were formed on the New Harmony estate—Number 3, within a half mile of New Harmony, and Number 4. Delegates arrived during the latter part of January, bringing tidings of the Blue Springs community, near Bloomington, Indiana. They reported it to be in a prosperous condition.

About this time the Gazette declared in an editorial: "We have not ourselves for some weeks expressed an opinion as to the progress of the community, both on account of the difficulty of getting a correct statement, and then again because the state of the public mind in a young and

heterogeneous society like this varies easily and rapidly, producing a corresponding impulse and revulsion. If a community is to grow together and harmoniously, its members must meet frequently, a thing that has not been done here lately on account of the heating of the hall. Ninetenths of the advantages of community life are lost in the absence of meetings for social intercourse."

"In March," Brown says, "a plan was made by some to ascend the Ohio river, and form a community near Cincinnati." The granary, public eating house, cook house, meeting house and sitting rooms were deserted and the remaining members of the society took their meals at the boarding school. On March twenty-first, eighty persons left New Harmony by boat. A greater part of the town was now resolved into town lots, and sign boards began to go up everywhere. "A sort of wax figure and puppet show was opened up at one end of the boarding house, and everything was getting into the old style."

The New Harmony Gazette of March twenty-eighth, 1827, in an editorial written by Robert Dale Owen and William Owen, acknowledged the defeat of the experiment in the town itself, although faith was still affirmed in the principles involved in the general plan, and confidence in the future success of other communities located on the estate. "Robert Owen, in his first address, did not designate New Harmony even as the site of the future community, but only as a half-way house. We think that this was the wisest plan, and it was well that the Preliminary Society should have continued two years.

"Robert Owen, after his return from England, nine months after the formation of the Preliminary Society, thought that further delay would be inadvisable, and, unfitted as the town was by its variety of people and unique occupations for the purposes of community life, heterogeneous as was the character of its numerous inhabitants, and little as they knew of each other, he thought they might be formed, with a few exceptions, into a self-governing community. A vote of the society determined that no exceptions should be made, and the members of the Preliminary Society resolved themselves into a community.

"We have yet to learn that the character of a person educated among the surroundings of the old world, can

be entirely changed. The experiment to ascertain at once whether a mixed and unassorted population could successfully govern their own affairs as a community, was a bold and hazardous attempt, and, we think, a premature one.

"Our own opinion is that Robert Owen ascribed too little influence to the early anti-social circumstances that had surrounded many of the quickly collected inhabitants of New Harmony before their arrival here, and too much to the circumstances which experience might enable them to create around themselves in future. He sought to abridge the period of human suffering by an immediate and decisive step, and the plan was boldly conceived; the failure would only afford proof that the conception in this particular case was not as practical as it was benevolent, in as much as the mass of the individuals at New Harmony were not prepared for so advanced a measure.

"Whether the project was executed in the best and most prudent manner, it is not for us to judge. We are too inexperienced in its practice to hazard a judgment on the prudence of the various individuals who directed its execution, and the one opinion we can express with confidence is of the perseverance with which Robert Owen prosecuted it at great pecuniary loss to himself. One form of government was first adopted, and when that appeared unsuited to the actual state of the members, another was tried in its place, until it appeared that the whole population, numerous as they were, were too various in their feelings, too dissimilar in their habits, to unite and govern themselves harmoniously as one community, and they separated, therefore, into three, each remaining perfectly independent of Robert Owen. But these societies were again incautious in their admission of members, and it soon became evident that their size was too unwieldy for their practical knowledge. Two of them abandoned their separate independence, and requested Robert Owen, with the assistance of four trustees, to take the general superintendence of affairs, which were getting into some confusion. Only the third society, called the educational, continued, under the auspices of William Maclure, and still continues its original and separate form.

"Thus was another attempt made to unite into a community of common property and equal rights, but it soon became too apparent to the trustees in whom the man-

agement was vested, that the establishment did not pay its own expenses. Therefore, some decisive changes became necessary to arrest this continued loss of property, thus, by rendering the society successful in a pecuniary way, to secure its independence of foreign assistance.

"The deficiency in production appeared immediately attributable in part to carelessness of many members as regarded the community property; in part to their want of interest in the experiment itself, the only true incitement to community industry, and the discordant variety of habits among them. The circle was so large, and the operations it embraced so various and extensive, that the confidence of minds untrained in the correct principles, and able to see but a small part of the whole, who had witnessed, too, the various previous changes, was shaken. Their care and their exertions diminished with their confidence in themselves, and the natural consequences ensued.

"A remedy presented itself in the voluntary association out of the population of New Harmony, of those individuals together who had confidence in one another's intentions, and mutual enjoyment in one another's society. Land and assistance for the first year were offered to those who chose to unite in this plan, and the consequence was the formation of another community on the New Harmony lands.

"And we regret that for those who remained in town, the only effectual and immediate remedy appeared to be in circumscribing each other's interests and responsibility. As the circle was too large for their present habits and experiences, smaller circles were described within it. The community was subdivided into occupations, each of which became responsible for its operations alone.

"And this is the present situation in New Harmony. Each occupation supports itself, paying weekly a small percentage toward the general expenses of the town. Each regulates its own affairs, determining its own internal regulations and distributing its produce.

"New Harmony, therefore, is not now a community; but, as was originally intended, a central village, out of and around which communities have formed, and may continue to form themselves, and with the inhabitants of which these communities may exchange their products

thus obtained for those manufactured articles which the limited operations incidental to the incipient colonies do not enable them to produce themselves.

"Let us not, then, be misunderstood, for it is important that our friends should know the exact position on which we stand, more particularly those who may wish to join us here. It is not in the town itself, but on the lands of Harmony, that the community system is in progressive operation.

"About a year ago, and soon after the formation of the community in this town, a number of families, separating from the principal body, located themselves on the lands at about a mile eastwards from the town, and founded the community of Feiba Peveli, or Number 3. It has progressed successfully, and we believe that its members are now convinced by present experience of the benefits of the social system.

"In addition to community No. 4, whose lands lie south of the town, we have now to notice the commencement of another community, whose formation preceded the separation into occupations. The land of this community is situated about two miles distant from the town, on both sides of the Princeton road.

"The communities commenced on a small scale, intending to increase their membership gradually. They will afford an example of how easy it is to begin a co-operative community in a simple manner, with little capital, provided industry and good feeling exist among the members. Their progress will not probably be sudden and astonishing, but it will be constant.

"Another society, Macluria, or Number 2, which separated from the principal community about the same time that Number 3 was formed, and continued its operations for about a year, succeeded perfectly from an economical point of view. Their original motive for secession was, in part, we believe, a religious one, and we have been told that their subsequent dissolution was attributable to a similar cause. Their lands have been taken by a party of German settlers, to the number of about fifteen families, who have already disposed of their property and will arrive here probably next month to commence a community of mutual labor and common property."

While Robert Owen was making his preparations to



depart for Europe, the trouble which had long been brewing between him and Mr. Maclure—a natural result of the association of two leaders of such marked individuality—developed into an open quarrel, and the closing year of the communistic experiments witnessed a dispute over individual property between the joint projectors of the new social and educational system. Under date of April thirtieth the following was posted in public places:

## NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given to all whom it may concern, forewarning them not to trust Robert Owen on my account, as I am determined not to pay any debts of his, or in any way be responsible for any transaction he may have done or may attempt to do in my name.

WILLIAM MACLURE.

Within a few hours the town store contained the following retaliatory

## NOTICE.

Having just now seen the very extraordinary advertisement put upon some of the houses in this place, and signed by William Maclure, it becomes necessary in my own defense to inform the public that the partnership between William Maclure and myself is in full force, and that I shall pay any contract made either by Wm. Maclure or myself on the partnership account.

ROBERT OWEN.

Next day, Paul Brown declares, Maclure prosecuted Owen for the recovery of forty thousand dollars, with a view of making him give a deed in fee simple for the property Maclure had bought, or refunding such amount of money. Owen retaliated by getting out a writ against Maclure for ninety thousand dollars. A compromise, Brown says, was finally effected, and Owen gave to Maclure a deed in fee simple for his share of the property.

Robert Owen made the following statement in regard to the trouble: The friends of Mr. Maclure proposed that Mr. Owen and Mr. Maclure each put one hundred and fifty thousand dollars into the experiment just to be tried at New Harmony, and Mr. Owen consented. Mr. Maclure's liability, at his request, was limited to ten thousand dollars. Mr. Maclure went on to New Harmony to establish the Pestalozzian system. He failed to do it with any degree of swiftness, and Mr. Owen and the population itself, became impatient. Mr. Maclure thought he could do better with part of the property under his control, and

requested that a portion be set apart for him. Mr. Owen did not want such a division, not wishing the town hall to be separated from the community population, and so would not consent. Rapp had been paid one hundred thousand dollars by Owen, and notes had been made for forty thousand more. Rapp came after twenty thousand dollars when it was due, and wanted twenty thousand dollars that was due a year later. Owen paid the first twenty thousand dollars. Maclure refused to pay a cent toward this, unless Owen would give him an unrestricted deed to the property which he had sold under restrictions. Maclure finally paid Rapp, and after getting the bonds in his possession, he had Owen arrested and posted a notice disclaiming any intention to pay any of Owen's obligations. A board of arbitration decided Maclure to be five thousand dollars in Owen's debt. Mr. Owen had, he supposed, irritated Mr. Maclure, for he had inaugurated a separate system of education in New Harmony, independent of Mr. Maclure's.

A. J. Macdonald, who spent some time at New Harmony, long enough after the trouble had subsided to make possible an impartial judgment of the controversy, says that the trouble "was most likely attributable to the fact that Owen commenced a system of education under the direction of Mr. Dorsey, differing from that of Maclure. Mr. Maclure had advanced only a small portion of the purchase money for the Rappite property, and after the formation of Macluria refused to pay any more without receiving from Mr. Owen a deed for the property he held. This Mr. Owen refused, unless the restriction relative to the property being used forever for community purposes, was allowed to remain. The difficulty was, however, made up, and Mr. Maclure afterwards paid forty thousand dollars and a balance of five thousand."

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## *Robert Owen's Farewell Addresses.*

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"Mr. Owen's generosity and sincerity will survive all the sneers which have been cast upon them. His reward for his losses has been the consciousness of spending his time and means in doing good! Those who have shared his bounties or caught some of the sympathy elicited through his influence and diffused among those who desired to practice his benevolence, will look back as long as they live to the brief space when, amidst surrounding confusions, they tasted a particle of true happiness on earth!—Macdonald.

On Sunday, May twenty-sixth, 1827, Robert Owen delivered at New Harmony hall, a "farewell address to the citizens of New Harmony and the members of the neighboring communities."

"A second year," he said, "has just expired since the experiment was commenced in this place to supersede the individual by the coöperative system of union and equality, under the form of a preliminary Society.

"It is known to you that the persons who composed this society were entire strangers to each other; that some had come from every state in the Union, and some from almost every kingdom in Europe; that the Society was instituted to enable these persons to become acquainted with each other, so that those who were capable of acting faithfully and cordially together might afterwards form a community upon the social system; that after the Preliminary Society was constituted and the members had elected a committee to govern themselves, I went to Europe and returned again in about nine months; that soon after my return it was proposed that a community of common property and equality should be formed from among the members of the Preliminary Society, and many of you know that it was my intention that the society should at first consist of those only who had acquired confidence in each other's qualifications for such a state of society, and it is also known to many who are present that this intention was frustrated by a motion being made at one of the public meetings, that all the members of the Preliminary Society should be admitted members of the

community. This motion was too popular to be resisted by those who did not otherwise expect to become members. From that period the most intelligent among the population foresaw that this measure would retard the formation of one large, united community in this town of Harmony; there were too many opposing habits and feelings to permit such a mass, without more instruction in the system, to act as one cordially together.

"This singularly constituted mass, however, contained materials out of which, by patience and perseverance, several communities might be ultimately formed; and all my subsequent measures were directed to accomplish this object.

"Although many here at that time were unprepared to be members of the community of common property and equality, yet there was much good feeling among the population generally. And if the schools had been in operation upon the very superior plan upon which I had been led to expect they would be, so as to convince parents by ocular demonstration, of the benefits which their children would immediately derive from the system, it would have been, I think, practicable, even with such materials, with the patience and perseverance which would have been applied to the subject, to have succeeded in amalgamating the whole into a community.

"You also know that the chief difficulty at this time arose from the differences of opinion among the professors and teachers brought here by Mr. Maclure, relative to the education of the children, and to the consequent delay in putting any of their system into operation.

"Having been led to entertain very high expectations of the abilities of these individuals, I looked to them to establish superior arrangements for the instruction of all ages, and I was induced to suppose that the population would be compensated by the unequaled excellence of the system when put into operation, and in consequence of the unlimited confidence which I placed in these individuals to execute this most important part of my plan, you all know how much I have been disappointed. Instead of forming one well-digested arrangement, in which all the children of the community should have the benefit of the superior qualifications possessed by each professor and instructor, each principal teacher undertook the en-

tire instruction of a certain number of pupils, by which arrangement they were prevented from associating with other pupils.

"By this error in the practice, the object which I had most at heart could not be attained; the children were educated in different habits, dispositions and feelings, when it was my most earnest desire that all the children should be educated in similar habits, dispositions and feelings, and should be brought up truly as members of one large family, without a single discordant feeling.

"It is true that each of the professors and principal teachers possessed considerable abilities, and acquirements in particular branches of education, but the union of the best qualities and qualifications of several of even the best modern teachers is required to form the character of the rising generation as it ought to be formed, and enable children, when they attain maturity, to become sufficiently rational and intelligent to become good, useful members of the social system.

"As these difficulties regarding the education of our children were to be overcome, as well as many others to which this gave rise, I waited patiently for such change of circumstances as would enable me to make progress toward my object. With deep interest I attended to the various changes which the different parties desired to make, and I always met their wishes as far as circumstances would permit. I did so because I had not yet attained sufficient knowledge of the persons or of the country to act with my customary decision.

"These changes gave me a more speedy insight into the character of the population, and enabled me to obtain a better knowledge of those who were in some degree prepared for the social system. They also elicited knowledge of the means by which future communities might be most easily and safely formed; and to me this was invaluable experience to be hereafter applied for the benefit of the inhabitants of this country and of Great Britain.

"Among those who first came here, were many with whom none could be found to unite in communities. These persons became a great obstacle in the progress of our proceedings. It was necessary for the safety, comfort and happiness of those who remained, and for the success of the system itself, that they should remove. Difficulty

arose from the expense of their removal, and from the necessity of informing them that they were not such members as would be admitted into the communities. If I paid for the removal of one family, all would expect to be assisted in a like manner, an expenditure my funds would not admit of, after the large sums which had been previously expended in the experiment; and no one would like to be informed that none could be found who would admit them to become members of their community. This, however, was a difficulty which it was absolutely necessary, for the sake of all, should be overcome.

"That everyone might have a fair and equal chance, I proposed to supply land in proportion to numbers, on the estate of Harmony, to all who would associate, even in small numbers, to commence a community, and that they should be aided in food and implements of husbandry to the extent that our means would afford, and this was a public offer, made equally to all, and those who came here with a view of forming communities accepted it, and are now industriously occupied in preparing crops for this season.

"Those persons who would not, or could not, so connect themselves, were informed that they must leave Harmony or support themselves by their own industry, or until they could find persons of a good character who would join them in forming a community.

"This measure, unpleasant as it was to my feelings, became unavoidable to prevent the entire loss of the property which had been appropriated to carry on the experiment; and by this course of proceedings, those persons who were in a condition to promote the social system, were relieved from the permanent support of those individuals who were daily diminishing the fund which had been devoted for the more general beneficial purposes.

"Under these circumstances, many families, as you know, left New Harmony, with their feelings more or less hurt, and in proportion to the knowledge and love of the principles really possessed by each of them, are no doubt active in their statements for or against my proceedings and for or against the social system.

"This period, the most unpleasant and trying of any which I have had to pass through,—for my object in coming here was to benefit all, and if possible, to injure none,

—has, happily, passed. The social system is now firmly established; the natural and easy means of forming communities have been developed by your past experience. Already eight independent communities have been formed upon the New Harmony estate, exclusive of Mr. Maclure's educational society and of the town of New Harmony, which has naturally become the place for the reception of strangers who have the desire to join some of the existing communities, or of forming others.

"New Harmony is now, therefore, literally surrounded by independent communities, and applications are made almost daily by persons who come from far and near to be permitted to establish themselves in a similar manner. The essential difference between our first and the present proceedings is this: at the commencement, strangers to each others' characters, principles, habits, views and sentiments were associated together to acquire a knowledge of each other and to learn the practice of the social system; now, those only associate in communities who were previously well acquainted with each other, and possess similar habits, sentiments and feelings, and who have made some advance in obtaining a knowledge of the principles and practices prerequisite to be known by those who become members of communities of equality and common property. Experience has proved that between these two modes of proceeding the difference is great indeed.

"Since those persons have removed from New Harmony who, from one cause or another were disposed to leave us, the remainder of the population are, you perceive, gradually taking those situations best suited to their inclinations and former habits, and in some instances the occupations have formed among themselves a kind of preparatory society and are doing well. The lands of the communities around us have been put into a good state of cultivation, and are well fenced; there is, as you see, at this time, every appearance of abundance of fruit, all kinds of food and materials for clothing and no want of industry to preserve the former and to manufacture the latter. Upwards of thirty cabins have lately been erected upon the lands of communities Number 2, 3 and 4, and yet not a spare room can be obtained for any who come to us.

"The town and immediate vicinity of New Harmony

have been, as you perceive, greatly improved lately, and other important improvements are in progress. No site for a number of communities in close union together can be found finer than that which surrounds us; its natural situation and the variety of its productions exceeds anything I have ever seen in Europe or America, the rich land intermixed with islands, woods, rivers and hills in a beautiful proportion to each other, presents, from our high ground, a prospect which highly gratifies every intelligent stranger. It is true, misconceptions of our proceedings and of our present state have gone forth to the great grief of those who were looking forward with an intense interest to an amelioration of the classes from the measures which were to commence here; but these reports have been beneficial. They have prevented us from being overwhelmed with numbers.

"These operations have been going on so successfully that perhaps no pleasure has been more pure than that which I have enjoyed for some time past in my daily visits to some of these establishments, where, by the industry of the persons engaged, I see the sure foundations laid of independence for themselves and for their children's children through many generations. From the new order of influences arising around them, they must become a superior race; intelligent, virtuous and happy,—beings whose chief occupation, after a few years of temperance and industry, will be to distribute to others the means of becoming as independent, prudent, happy and useful as themselves.

"I had also made my arrangements to settle, before my departure from Europe, every outstanding account against myself and those concerned with me in this establishment and experiment, that no obstacle should remain after my departure, to impede the progress and success of the young colonies, and looking back through the two years just expired, I could not but feel an almost inexpressible delight and inward satisfaction from reflecting upon the obstacles which had been overcome, and from viewing in the mind's eye the cheering prospects which are before us.

"While preparing for my journey to Europe, and just as I was going to set out, an event occurred which arose, as I must believe, from some extraordinary misconception



in the minds of our well meaning friends, which, fortunately, has delayed me some days among you. These misconceptions are, I believe, now completely removed, and I have had, by this delay, the pleasure of receiving and of becoming acquainted with some highly respectable families from the south, who have traveled several hundred miles on purpose to live some time among you, and to make themselves familiar with the new system."

On May twenty-seventh, Mr. Owen delivered an address, full of parting counsel, to "the ten social colonies of equality and common property on the New Harmony estate,"—the two additional communities being colonies of Germans, one from Pennsylvania, and one from Germany, as we learn from the Gazette of May twenty-third. "With the right understanding of the principles upon which your change from the old to the new has been made," he said in part, "you will attain your object. Without that understanding you cannot succeed. You should have honesty of purpose, devotion to the success of each and all communities; confidence in one another and submission to majority rule; well regulated industry and wise economy; to make provision for the schools should be an object of first importance. \* \* \* Industry, economy, beauty, order, and good feeling are silently and gradually growing up around you, and the right spirit of the great system, not derived from enthusiasm or imagination, but from a real knowledge of your own nature and of your true interest, is gaining ground among you, and cannot fail soon to become general. \* \* \* New Harmony cannot be numbered among the colonies of the social system, but there is progress, and the day is not far distant when it will join the ranks of the faithful. \* \* \*

"With regard to the schools, it is my desire that all your children should be educated in the best manner and at the least expense to you. I should like to add, without any expense to you; this would be the proceeding most gratifying to my feelings that could now occur; but having expended a large capital in putting you into your present independent condition; having paid for the whole of the real and personal property that I purchased since I came to this country, and having discharged every other debt, I do not yet know whether my remaining income will enable me, with the prudence that is necessary in my

situation, to undertake to clothe, feed, and educate all your children without cost, or with such aid from your surplus produce as you can spare without inconvenience. Relying, however, upon the faithful stewardship of the parties in whose hands the remaining property which I possess here has been entrusted, I shall appropriate three thousand dollars this year towards defraying the expenses of this all-important subject, the general direction of which I leave to Mr. Dorsey, late treasurer of Miami University, in whose steadfastness, integrity, ability and disinterested devotion to the cause I have full confidence. \* \* \*

“When I return I hope to find you progressing in harmony together.”

On June first, 1827, Mr. Owen left New Harmony for England, stopping *en route* to New York in several cities to deliver lectures on the social system, and to paint hopeful pictures of conditions at New Harmony.

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## *The Ten Lost Tribes of Communism*

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Robert Owen had met the Waterloo of his communistic schemes, but he retired from a field of hopeless defeat as if he had been the Wellington, rather than the Napoleon, of the contest. It soon became evident that the enthusiastic spirit of Robert Owen, with the funds at his command, had alone kept the population so long together in the semblance of communistic association. With the commander-in-chief gone, the little army broke into disastrous retreat before the self-assertive forces of individualism. The last evidence of the existence of any of the communistic societies is a report of a Harvest Home celebration by Feiba Peveli on July twenty-sixth, 1827, when "fifty persons sat down to an excellent supper laid out on the lawn near their village; the utmost order prevailed, and appropriate songs and toasts added to the hilarity of the evening." One by one these societies became disorganized by dissension, and when Robert Owen returned to New Harmony, on April first, 1828, his optimism failed in the face of a complete collapse of the "social system," though his confession of defeat was a grudging one.

"I had hoped," he said in an address delivered at New Harmony Hall on April thirteenth, 1828, "that fifty years of political liberty had prepared the American people to govern themselves advantageously. I supplied land, houses and the use of capital, and I tried, each in their own way, the different parties who collected here; and experience proved that the attempt was premature, to unite a number of strangers not previously educated for the purpose. I afterwards tried what could be done by those who associated through their own choice, and in small numbers; to those I gave leases of large tracts of good land for ten thousand years for a nominal rent, and upon moral conditions only; and these I did expect would have made progress during my absence, and now upon my re-

turn I find that the habits of the individual system were so powerful that these leases have been, with a few exceptions, applied for individual purposes and individual gain, and in consequence they must return again into my hands.

"This proves that families, trained in the individual system, have not acquired those moral characteristics of forbearance and charity necessary for confidence and harmony; and communities, to be successful, must consist of persons devoid of prejudice, and possessed of moral feelings in unison with the laws of human nature.

"Monopolies have been established in certain departments, without my endorsement; it was not my intention to have a petty store and whisky shop here.

"I can only feel regret, instead of anger," said Mr. Owen, in closing. "My intention now is to form such arrangements on the estate as will enable those who desire to promote the practice of the social system, to live in separate families on the individual system and yet to unite their general labor; or to exchange labor for labor on the most beneficial terms for all; all to do both or neither, as their feelings or apparent interest may influence them; while the children shall be educated with a view to the establishment of the social system in the future. \* \* \* I will not be discouraged by any obstacle, but will persevere to the end."

Some of the leases offered by Robert Owen to small communistic societies in 1827, were taken by sincere and industrious workers; others were obtained by speculators, who cared nothing for Owen or his schemes. To those who had acted in good faith, Mr. Owen finally sold, at a low figure, the lands they occupied. Through the speculators he lost a large amount of personal property. His expenditures in the purchase and maintenance of the property, with his losses by speculators, aggregated two hundred thousand dollars—his entire fortune at the beginning of the experiment amounting to but fifty thousand dollars more. Had the community system proved practicable, his intention was to deed this land in trust to the associations without exacting any payment whatever. What was left of his fortune he soon expended in the furtherance of similar social schemes. As someone has said: "He seems to have felt it a point of honor, so long

as he had means left, to avert reproach from the cause of coöperation, by paying debts left standing at the close of unsuccessful experiments, whenever these had been conducted in good faith." In later years he conveyed the residue of the New Harmony estate to his four sons, only requiring of them that they execute a deed of trust for thirty thousand dollars' worth of land, which yielded an annuity of fifteen hundred dollars. This was his sole source of support for many years.

It is impossible to trace the processes by which the property of the various communities passed into individual hands. Dr. Schnack says that Messrs. John Cooper, James Elliot, James Maidlow, Jonathan Stocker and others continued community Number 3 under the original lease for several years, but that at the dissolution of the organization the property was bought and divided by Messrs. Cooper, Maidlow and Elliot. The lease of community Number 2 finally came into the hands of Jacob Schnee, the postmaster at New Harmony during community days, and later was merged in a purchase by W. C. Pelham. Other individuals undertook the management of the several factories, but with little success, so that the buildings were finally diverted to other purposes than that of manufacturing. So many of the communists remained in New Harmony and its immediate vicinity, that Dr. Schnack, with the assistance of several old residents, compiled in 1890 the following list of New Harmony family names which still survive the community period: Beal, Birkbeck, (descendants of Morris Birkbeck, of the English colony in Edwards county, who was drowned in Fox river while returning to Albion, Ill., from a visit to the community), Bolton, Brown, Cooper, Cox, Dransfield, Duclos, Evans, Fauntleroy, Fretageot, Gex, Grant, Hugo, Johnson, Lichtenberger, Bennett, West, Lyons, Mumford, Murphy, Neef, Owen, Parvin, Pelham, Robson, Sampson, Schnee, Snelling, Soper, Twigg, Warren and Wheatcroft. The only three members of the community now living are Victor Duclos, the gardener of Thomas Say, still a resident of New Harmony, Edward T. Cox, of Albion, Florida and William Dransfield, of Clay City, Ill.

A. J. Macdonald, in his unpublished manuscript on "American Communities," gives the data contained in the

following table concerning the communistic societies, exclusive of those located on the New Harmony estate, which had their origin in the Owenite movement:

Name.	Place.	Capital.	Debt.	Duration.
Blue Spring.....	Monroe Co., Ind.			One year.
Co-operative Society.....	Valley Forge, Pa.			
Coxsackie.....	New York.	Small.	Large.	Between 1 and 2 yrs. 1 year.
Forrestville.....	Indiana.	325 acres of land.		
Franklin.....	New York.			
Haverstraw (80 members).....	New York.	120 acres of land.	\$12,000	5 months.
Kendal (200 members).....	Ohio.	200 acres of land.		2 years.
Nashoba.....	Tennessee.	2,000 acres of land.		3 years.
Yellow Springs (100 families).....	Ohio.			3 months.

Total number of communities, nineteen; of which twelve were situated in Indiana, three in New York, two in Ohio, one in Pennsylvania, and one in Tennessee. It is certain that this list is not complete. In southwestern Indiana, especially, the communistic fever was prevalent during the years through which the New Harmony experiment continued and many neighborhoods were affected by it. In some cases branches of families united in communistic association for brief periods. By 1830 not an association was left to continue the movement so auspiciously inaugurated by Robert Owen five years before.

Explanations of the failure of the Owenite communities have been as numerous as commentarians upon them. The most comprehensive estimate of the causes leading to failure is that of Macdonald, who spent eighteen months at New Harmony in 1853-54, twenty-five years after the last vestige of communistic association disappeared from the estate. His remarks are interesting. "I was cautioned," he said, "not to speak on socialism, as the subject was unpopular. The advice was good,—socialism was unpopular, and with good reason. The people had been wearied and disappointed, had been filled full of theories until they were nauseated, and had made such miserable attempts at practice, that they seemed ashamed of what they had been doing. An enthusiastic socialist would soon be 'cooled down,' because the people would see his ignorance.

"During a residence of nearly eighteen months in New Harmony, I endeavored to ascertain some particulars regarding the failure of the community. It was a difficult endeavor, for as Mr. Warren truly said: 'If you ask a dozen individuals, you will get a dozen different causes.' The cause Mr. W— assigned was 'error in the principles,' and for many years he has endeavored to prove the error by introducing his plan of 'equitable commerce.'

"From Mr. C— I heard the story, as he ended it, by saying that with all the troubles and vexations of that important period, it was the happiest time of his life. Mr. A— said that many persons came there and lived as long as they could get supplies for nothing. Many things were obtained from the public store which were lost or wasted. Mr. B— said that there were some noble characters there, with names that have since stood high in the localities to which they belonged, who set examples of industry and self-denial worthy of a great cause. I could mention some of them that I have known in my travels. Mr. C— said that Mr. Owen forbade the use of spirituous liquors in the town; yet it was obtained from the distillery in a variety of cunning ways. Persons went at night and deposited bottles, mugs and cans, and returned at certain periods and found them filled.

"I was one day at the tan-yard, and Squire B— and some others were standing talking around the store. During the conversation Squire B—asked if he had ever told them how he had served 'old Owen' in 'community time.' He then informed us that he came from Illinois to New Harmony, and that a man in Illinois was 'owing him,' and asked him to take a barrel of whisky for the debt. As he could not well get the money, he took the whisky. When he came to New Harmony, he did not know where to put it, but finally hid it in his cellar. Not long after this, Mr. Owen found that the people still got whisky from some quarter, he could not tell where, though he did his best to find out. At last he suspected Squire B—, and accordingly came right into his shop and accused him of it; on which Squire B. had to 'own up' that it was he who had retailed the whisky, saying he had to take it for a debt, and what was he to do to get rid of it? Mr. Owen turned 'round and in his simple manner said, 'Ah! I see you do not understand the principles.' This story was

finished with a good hearty laugh at 'Old Owen.' I could not laugh, but felt that such men as Squire B— did *not* understand the principles, and no wonder there are failures when such men as he frustrate benevolent designs.

"Mr. Owen has often said that the New Harmony experiment failed because the members did not understand the principles. It may be so,—facts speak for themselves, and every individual must be free, as he is, to find out, each his different cause. All agree that a battle was fought, that there was some gain, and some loss, but though many years have now passed away, it still remains for time to prove whether the battle was for the good or evil of mankind.

"The reader will, no doubt, think with me, that the history of the New Harmony community, so far as I have been able to collect it, is but a mass of confusion, so many theories were tried, and so many failures took place, that, like a ball of entangled thread, it is difficult to unravel. If he glances at Mr. Owen's principles, he will see what Mr. Owen wished to practice, and if he understands the materials with which this practice was to be made, he will see how impossible it was to produce the desired results.

"Mr. Owen said he wanted 'honesty of purpose,' but he got dishonesty; he wanted temperance, and instead, he was continually troubled with intemperance; indeed, this appears to have been one of the greatest troubles with which he had to contend in those times. \* \* \* He wanted industry, but he found idleness; he wanted carefulness, and found waste; he wanted cleanliness and found dirt; he wanted 'desire for knowledge,' but he found apathy. He wanted the principles of the formation of character understood, but he found them misunderstood. He wanted these good qualities combined in one and all the individuals of the community, but he could not find them self sacrificing and enduring enough to prepare and educate their children to possess these qualities. Thus it was proved that his principles were either entirely erroneous in practice, or much in advance of the age in which he promulgated them.

"He seems to have forgotten that if one and all the thousand persons assembled there possessed all the qualities which he wished them to possess, there would be no



necessity for his vain exertions to form a community, because there would of necessity be 'brotherly love,' charity, industry and plenty, and all their actions would be governed by nature and reason. We want no more than this, and if this is the material to form communities of, and we cannot find it,—we cannot form communities. And if we cannot find parents who are ready and willing to educate their children to give them qualities for a 'community life,' then when shall we have 'communities of united effort?'

"There is no doubt in my mind that the absence of Robert Owen was one of the great causes of the failure of the community, for he was naturally looked up to as the head, and his influence might have kept people together at any rate to effect something similar to what had been effected at New Lanark. But with a people free as these were from a set religious creed, and consisting as they did of all nations and opinions, it is doubtful if even Mr. Owen had continued there all the time, he could have kept them together. No comparison can be made between that population and the Shakers or Rappites, who are each of one religious faith. \* \* \*

"Wm. Sampson of Cincinnati, was at New Harmony from the beginning to the end of the community. He went there on the boat which took the last of the Rappites away. He says the cause of failure was a rogue named Taylor, who insinuated himself into Mr. Owen's favor, and afterward swindled and deceived him in a variety of ways; among other things establishing a distillery contrary to Mr. Owen's wishes or principles, and injurious to the community. Owen thought it would be ten or twelve years before the community would fill up, but no sooner had the Rappites left, than the place was taken possession of by strangers from all parts, when Owen was absent in Europe, and the place under the management of a committee. When Owen returned and found the condition of things, he deemed it necessary to make an alteration, and notices were published in all parts telling people not to come there, as there was no accommodation for them, yet still they came, until Owen was compelled to have all the log cabins razed.

"Taylor and Fauntleroy were Owen's associates. When Owen found out Taylor's rascality, he resolved to abandon

the partnership with him, which Taylor would only agree to do upon Owen's giving him a large tract of land upon which he proposed to form a community of his own. \* \* \* Instead of forming a community, he built a distillery, and set up a tan-yard in opposition to Mr. Owen's.

"In the *Free Enquirer*, of June tenth, 1829, there is an article by Robert Dale Owen on New Lanark and New Harmony, in which, after comparing the two places and showing the difference between them, he makes the following remarks relative to the experiment at New Harmony: 'There was not disinterested industry; there was not mutual confidence; there was not practical experience; there was not unison of action because there was not unanimity of counsel. These were the points of difference and dissension,—the rocks on which the social hulk struck and was wrecked.'

"In the *New Moral World* of October twelfth, 1839, there is an article on New Harmony, in which it is asserted that Mr. Owen was induced to purchase that place on the understanding that the population then resident there, the Rappites, would remain until he had gradually introduced other persons to acquire from them the systematic and orderly habits, as well as practical knowledge which they had gained by many years of practice. But through the removal of Rapp and his followers, Mr. Owen was left with all the property on his hands, and he was compelled of necessity to get persons to come there to prevent things from going to ruin. It shows the unsuitableness of the persons who went there, and how they failed in their attempts, and proves the sincerity of Mr. Owen in the terms upon which he granted them land, viz.—the perpetual lease of the lands, so long as the principles of the new system were carried into practice. They failed to do this, and the estate reverted to Mr. Owen."

Josiah Warren in his "Practical Details of Equitable Commerce," says: "Let us bear in mind that during the great experiments in New Harmony, everything went on delightfully except pecuniary affairs. We should no doubt have succeeded, but for property considerations. But then the experiment would never have been commenced except for property considerations. It was to annihilate social antagonisms by a system of common property, that we undertook the experiment at all."

John Pratt, a Positivist, as quoted by Noyes, said: "Like most men of the last generation, Robert Owen looked upon society as a manufactured product, not an organism endowed with imperishable vitality and growth. \* \* \* The internal affinities of Owen's commune were too weak to resist the attractions of the outer world."

Alexander Campbell, and religious leaders of the period generally, pointed to the failure of the New Harmony experiment as the natural result of "free love and atheism on trial." Horace Greeley and Charles A. Dana attributed the failure principally to the lack of a religious basis upon which all successful communities had been founded,—Owen having been the first to attempt the establishment of a non-religious community. Greeley said that a great obstacle encountered in such experiments, was "the class of people attracted, the conceited, the crochety, and the selfish," while Dana concluded: "Destroy selfhood, and you destroy all motive to exertion."

Sargent, one of Owen's biographers, thinks there should have been some religious bond among the members to ensure success. Paul Brown, in his "Twelve Months at New Harmony," questioned the sincerity of Robert Owen himself, while E. H. Hamilton, as quoted by Noyes, says that Owen "required other people to be what he was not himself; he himself was unreceptive as a thinker." Noyes thinks that drink had much to do with the failure, in spite of prohibitory enactments. Noyes quotes some of his associates as saying:

L. R. Leonard: "He found democrats harder to manage than the servile workmen of Scotland."

G. W. Hamilton: "The Owenites were too independent."

F. W. Smith: "He did not have enough deputies."

C. W. Burt: "Communism must be ruled either by law or grace. He abolished law and did not employ grace."

George Jacob Holyoke, in his "History of Coöperation," says that "the cranks killed the colony," which was composed, "for the most part, of the selfish, the headstrong, the pugnacious, the unappreciated, the played-out, the idle and the good-for-nothing generally, who, discovering themselves out of place, and at a discount in the world as it is, rashly conclude that they are exactly fitted for the world as it ought to be. \* \* \* Nevertheless, the men of good

sense reigned at first, and prevailed intermittently throughout. \* \* \* The absence of Mr. Owen during the years when personal inspiration and training were most important, were causes quite sufficient to account for the fluctuations and the final effacement of New Harmony."

Noyes gives us the explanation offered by the members of four of the branch communities, as follows:

Yellow Springs: "Self love was a spirit that could not be exorcised."

Nashoba: "The projectors acknowledge that such a system cannot succeed unless the members composing it are superior beings."

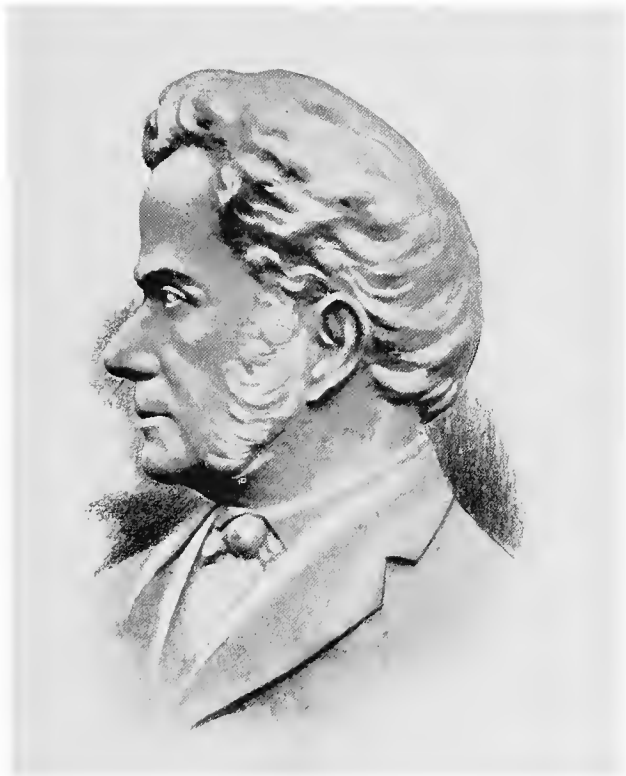
Haverstraw community: "There was a lack of men and women of skillful industry, sober and honest, with a knowledge of themselves and a disposition to command and to be commanded."

Coxsackie community: "Too many persons engaged in law-making and talking who did not work at any useful employment."

Robert Dale Owen, writing many years after the conclusion of the New Harmony venture says, in speaking of the "Gazette" editorial before quoted as an obituary of the New Harmony and Macluria communities: "In enumerating the causes leading to the failure of the experiment, the 'Gazette' \* \* \* omits the one most potent factor. All coöperative schemes which provide equal remuneration to the skilled and industrious and the ignorant and idle, must work their own downfall, for by this unjust plan of remuneration they must of necessity eliminate the valuable members, who find their services reaped by the indigent, and retain only the improvident, unskilled and vicious members. \* \* \* Robert Owen distinguished the great principle, but like so many other devisers, missed the working details of his scheme. If these, when stated, seem to be so near the surface that common sagacity ought to have detected them, let us bear in mind how wise men stumbled over the simple puzzle of Columbus; failing to balance the egg on one end till a touch from the great navigator's hand solved the petty mystery."







JOSIAH WARREN.





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## *Josiah Warren.*

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“A remarkable American, Josiah Warren.”—John Stuart Mill.

Among the most remarkable characters attracted to New Harmony in community days was Josiah Warren, equally notable as an inventive genius, a social philosopher and a peaceful revolutionist. He was born in Boston in 1798, of historically famous Puritan stock. Of his parents and early life but little is known. At an early age he displayed musical talents, and, with his brother George, played professionally in local bands. At the age of twenty he married, and soon after set out from his native place to improve his fortunes in the west. He settled in Cincinnati, and gained an honorable repute as an orchestra leader, but he had other interests besides music. Mechanical pursuits occupied his leisure hours, the earliest fruit of which was the invention of a lamp, patented in 1823, which substituted lard for tallow as fuel, giving a better light at a lower cost. Its success was such that the inventor before long was running a lamp manufactory in Cincinnati.

More pressing problems than those of illumination were, however, shortly to arise and absorb the active mind and generous heart of the ingenious young New Englander. There came to Cincinnati in 1824 a visitor whose reputation as the boldest and most successful social reformer of the age, was world wide. When Robert Owen, with a fervor of conviction and inspiring enthusiasm which have never been surpassed, unfolded his plans for the inauguration of the New Moral World, Warren was so much impressed that he decided to join the grand experiment which was about to begin at New Harmony. So, after disposing of his lamp factory, Warren, with his young family, joined Owen and his enthusiasts on the Rappite property, hoping to assist in founding the ideal community which was to

\*This chapter is the contribution of Mr. William Bailie, of Boston, who has made a searching study of the life and services of Josiah Warren, and is about to publish a monograph, of which this is but a summary, on the reformer and his philosophy.

usher in a millenium of peace and plenty, brotherhood and happiness, ultimately to embrace all mankind.

Here Warren found a field in which to study the problems of government, property and industry, together with the relation of the individual to society, such as never before was given to man. During two stormy years of vicissitudes, disappointments and failure, Warren remained with the community, and bore his share of the burdens incident to so pretentious an undertaking. And when he finally departed, it was not, like so many others, as an embittered reactionary, but as an earnest, hopeful student who had spent his time to good purpose. As one who had with painful solicitude witnessed the inadequacy of communism to correct the evils of property, and the failure of paternal authority, as well as of majority rule, to solve the problems of government, he had learned an invaluable lesson, and stored up pregnant experience for use in future efforts to grapple with the same vital issues. With Warren the failure of communism was simply a reason for trying another plan of attack upon the existing institutions of society. Like Owen, he never doubted that "the emancipation of man" was possible, and human happiness only a question of suitable social adjustment and the application of what he deemed to be right principles.

Chief among the causes which, in Warren's mind, led to disaster at New Harmony, were the suppression of individuality, the lack of initiative and the absence of personal responsibility. When everything was decided by authority, or by the will of the majority, each was prone to ascribe the faults of the system to the shortcomings of his neighbors. These defects Warren believed to be inseparable from any social scheme based upon government and community of goods. Even under the most favorable conditions failure would in the long run be assured. He concluded, therefore, that the basis of all future reform must be complete individual liberty. Everyone should be free to dispose of his person, his property, his time and his reputation as he pleases,—but *always at his own cost*,—this qualification of the principle is inseparable from it, the core, as it were of his philosophy.

The New Harmony experience had convinced Warren that any theory of reform, however perfect or plausible, should be put to the test before being offered to the world

as a remedy for existing evils. To this end, therefore, he undertook his first experiment, the Time store.

On the eighteenth of May, 1827, there was unpretentiously opened at the the corner of Fifth and Vine Streets in Cincinnati, a small country store, conducted on a plan new to commerce. It was the first Equity store, designed to illustrate and practicalize the cost principle, the germ of the coöperative movement of the future. When the advantages of the store became known, it proved to be the most popular mercantile institution in the city. The people called it the "Time store," because a clock was used by the merchant to determine the amount of compensation for his service in waiting upon the customers. The storekeeper exchanged his time for an equal amount of the time of those who purchase goods from him. The actual cost of the goods bought was paid for in cash, the labor note of the customer was given to the merchant to pay for his service. It ran something after this fashion: "Due to Josiah Warren, thirty minutes in carpenter work. —John Smith." Here was the application of the principle of labor for labor, the cost principle, in its most primitive form, which was subsequently modified to allow for the different valuations of the various kinds of labor.

The idea of labor notes originated with Robert Owen, but Warren's application of it was original and proved entirely successful. Though at the beginning the Equity store met with scant encouragement, it was but a short while until it taxed all the reformer's time and energies. The merchant on the next corner soon found himself without occupation, and requested Warren to explain to him the method of conducting business on the equity plan. The founder of the movement was only too happy to assist his rival to convert his place into a "Time store," and delighted to see so quickly an instance of what competition could do in enforcing the adoption of more equitable methods of exchange.

Warren's store was a labor exchange where those who had products to sell could dispose of them, provided the goods were in demand, without having to give the lion's share as profit to the middleman. It was also a bureau for labor seeking employment, and thus served to direct the reformer's attention to the long and useless apprenticeships by which the common trades were hedged around.

He wished to disprove the need for long terms of industrial servitude, and this desire led to the idea of a coöperative village. Full of enthusiasm for the principles which he was now convinced would solve the deeper economic problems of society, having tried them in regard to the distribution of wealth, he longed to see them applied to its production.

Robert Dale Owen at this period became interested in Warren's plans, but after much waiting, and a visit to New York in 1830, the Cincinnati reformer decided to prepare, unaided, for a village experiment. He set himself to learn many practical arts, including wagon building, wood and metal working, printing and type founding. The first village of Equity was commenced in Tuscarawas county, Ohio, and after a two years' trial was abandoned, owing to the malarial and unhealthy condition of the locality. Many interesting experiments in the industrial and practical education of the young were carried out by Warren, which showed that in this field he was a true pioneer, for it is only today that his views are finding realization in the manual training schools and technical institutions for practical education.

The Peaceful Revolutionist, Warren's first periodical, appeared in January, 1833, but did not survive the same year. It was a four page weekly of conspicuously neat typography, and was devoted to expositions of the principles of equity. So primitive at the time were his resources, and so marvelous his skill and ingenuity, that the plates from which the paper was printed were cast over the fire of the same stove at which the wife cooked the family meals. The printing press he used was his own invention, and with his own hands he made type-molds, cast the type and the stereo-plates, built the press, wrote the articles, set them up, and printed off the sheets.

The years prior to 1842 were devoted mainly to mechanical pursuits and printing inventions. About 1840 Warren constructed the first roller press that was ever used to print newspapers. The following description of this mechanism is from an editorial which appeared February twenty-eighth, 1840, in an Evansville paper:

"The first number of the Southwestern Sentinel is the first newspaper probably in the world which was ever printed on a continuous sheet. Our press or printing ma-







Not transferable.

LIMIT OF ISSUE,  
1,000 pounds.

1871.

*Due to*

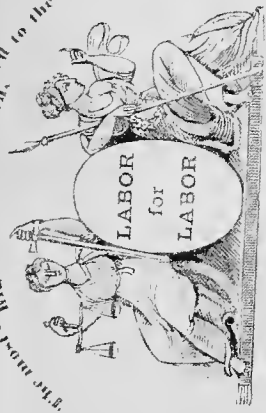
The most desirable labor is entitled to the  
ONE HUNDRED HOURS.

Not transferable.

ONE HUNDRED  
HOURS.

1871.

*Chas. Jackson.*



TEN POUNDS OF INDIAN CORN;  
BEING THE PRODUCT OF

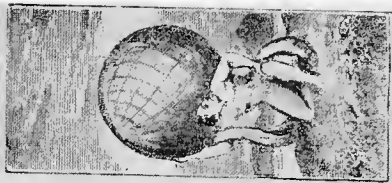
ONE HOUR'S LABOR.

Geo. Weston, Print. PAYABLE AT

Mass.

SPRINGFIELD.

*Time is Wealth.*



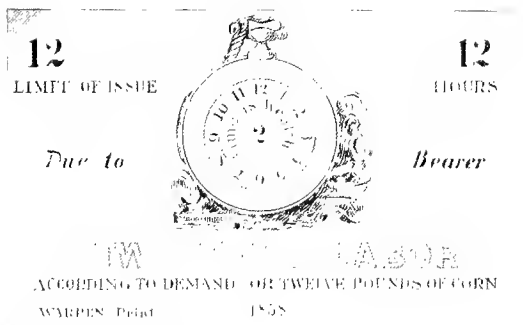
LABOR NOTE ISSUED BY JOSIAH WARREN.











**Labor Note Issued by Josiah Warren.**



chinery is the invention of Mr. Josiah Warren, of New Harmony. He has brought a series of experiments extending through nine years to a successful close, and this machine, which he calls his speed press, is one of the results."

Unfortunately the innovation was opposed by the printers, who saw in its labor-saving power a menace to their interests. They deliberately threw the press out of gear at every opportunity, and at length so exasperated the inventor that he came one day to the Sentinel office, had the press hauled away, and deliberately broke it to pieces.

Typographical inventions continued, however, to occupy Warren's attention. His purpose was to extend his stereotyping inventions to all varieties of printing, illustration and artistic reproduction. His improvements in this field he termed "universal typography."

The Indiana Statesman, of New Harmony, under dates of October fourth, 1845, and March seventh, 1846, contains flattering accounts of the progress and utility of Warren's inventions. His typographical plates were durable, cheap, and had a smooth, glassy surface, so like stone that the inventor termed them "stone-types." He claimed that the facility with which illustrations could be got up, the rapidity of stereotyping and printing them, together with the durability of the plates, justified the expectation that they would ultimately supersede woodcuts, steel-plate and copper-plate engraving and printing, and lithography. The process included printing in colors, besides a result similar to what is now known as half-tones.

While it is doubtful if Warren ever received an equivalent for his ingenuity, labor and outlay on these inventions at which he worked during the larger part of his life, it is certain that his methods were utilized by others, and the world is accordingly the gainer by his improvements. The processes now in use for the finer class of stereotype work are based upon his discoveries. The latter years of his life were devoted to studies and experiments with a view to perfecting his inventions, and his final results, it is believed, were not made known to the world, nor rendered available when death terminated his labors.

The New Harmony Time store was opened in 1842. At

first it encountered strong opposition at the hands of interested rivals, but its beneficial influence was soon felt in a fall of retail prices throughout the surrounding country. Of this, his second store experiment, Warren wrote: "Whatever may be thought of the hopelessness or the unpopularity of reform movements, I will venture to assert that no institution, political, moral nor religious, ever assumed a more sudden and extensive popularity than the Time store of New Harmony. But it was principally among the poor, the humble and the down-trodden. None of those who had been accustomed to lead, none who had anything to lead with, offered the least assistance or aid, nor scarcely sympathy, though they did not attempt to deny the soundness of the principles. \* \* \* When all the stores in the surrounding country had come down in their prices to an equilibrium with the Equity store, the custom naturally flowed back again to them, and the next step was to wind up the Time store and commence a village."

Warren next turned his ingenuity to the production in 1844 of an original system of music, denominated by him "Mathematical Notation," designed on scientific principles to accomplish in the representation of harmonic sounds a similar service to that performed by phonography in the representation of the elements of speech. The author printed the book by his newly perfected universal typography, and, as may still be seen by a copy preserved in the library of the New Harmony workingmen's institute, it was a beautiful example of his stereotyping process, reproducing his own handwriting in delicate copper plate. Dr. Mason, a musical authority of that day, admitted the comprehensiveness and simplicity of Warren's musical notation, but believed it would be a hopeless undertaking to attempt to supersede the universally accepted system.

About this period Warren received seven thousand dollars for his stereotyping patents, and such a wave of financial prosperity revived his desire to found another Equity village. For this purpose he secured land near New Harmony, but abandoned it for more favorable prospects in Ohio. The village of Utopia was founded by Warren in 1847 about a mile above Claremont, a Fourierist community, which had just then come to grief. Unlike the latter there was no common ownership of property in

Warren's experiments. Each family owned its own lot and house (after it was erected) but the members of the village coöperated in all cases where it was mutually advantageous to do so. Warren's efforts were for those whose only means was their labor force, and his purpose was to demonstrate that such people, with free access to natural resources, could, by exchanging their labor on equitable terms, by means of labor notes, build their own houses, supply their prime necessities, and attain to comfort and prosperity without dependence on capitalists or any external authority, for the means of life.

Utopia went on progressing in a quiet way for many years. It was the policy of the settlers to avoid publicity, and to refrain from encouraging outsiders to visit or to join them. One of the pioneers, E. G. Cubberly, in October, 1872, while still residing in his original home in Utopia, wrote: "The labor notes put us into a reciprocating society,—the result was, in two years twelve families found themselves with homes who never owned homes before. \* \* \* Labor-capital did it. I built a brick cottage, one and a half stories high, and all the money I paid out was nine dollars and eighty-one cents—all the rest was effected by exchanging labor for labor. Mr. Warren is right, and the way to get back as much labor as we give is by the labor cost prices,—money prices, with no principle to guide, have always deceived us."

It may naturally be asked what became of the village. Why did equity villages not multiply? Why did the pioneers keep from the public as far as possible all information concerning them? To such questions no satisfactory answer in a few words can be given. Owing to the high price of the surrounding land, most of the settlers, after about four years, moved from Utopia into Minnesota, where land was cheap and abundant.

Leaving the scenes of his labors in Ohio and Indiana, Warren in 1850 visited New York and Boston, and, by means of a quiet propaganda, succeeded in arousing the interest of many earnest people in the individualistic form of coöperation advocated by him. He met the brilliant writer and reformer, Stephen Pearl Andrews, who henceforth became Warren's most ardent disciple, and the literary exponent of equity. Andrews' "Science of Society," an exposition of the sovereignty of the individual, and

cost the limit of price, has probably done more towards calling the attention of independent thinkers and reformers to Warren's philosophy than anything ever put forth by himself, and is by far the ablest statement of the "principles" which has yet appeared.

As a result of Warren's activity, the Village of Modern Times was founded in 1851. The site was on Long Island, forty miles by railroad from New York City. The soil was considered worthless, but this did not deter the enthusiasts of equity. They came by ones and twos, and gradually began to clear the ground for market gardening, meanwhile building themselves houses of such pretensions as their limited resources permitted. About a hundred souls had settled on the ground when the New York Tribune began to feature the colony and create a publicity as undesirable to the settlers as it proved to be annoying. The newspaper notices brought many visitors, some to stay, mostly ignorant of the ideas on which the village was founded. True to their principles, which allowed equal rights to all in natural opportunities, the pioneers refrained from taking any steps to exclude the newcomers, so long as they did not invade the rights of others. This adherence to principle had, however, its drawbacks, though in the end it proved a self corrective. One man began to advocate plurality of wives, and started a paper to support his views. Another believed clothing to be a superfluity and not only personally practiced his Adamic vagaries, but inflicted them upon his helpless children. A woman who would not have passed for a model of physical perfection, displayed herself in male attire, which gave rise to the newspaper comment that "the women of Modern Times dressed in men's clothes and looked hideous." Still another woman had the diet mania so severely that after trying to live on beans without salt until reduced almost to a skeleton, she died within a year. Whereupon the newspapers declared: "The people of Modern Times are killing themselves with fanatical ideas about food." These were some of the burdens the real settlers had to bear because they acted on the non-invasive principle, and accorded liberty to do even the silliest things, believing that experience, and the application of personal responsibility in allowing things to be







## EXPLANATION OF THE EQUITABLE MONEY.

THE MONEY TAKEN FOR LABOR OUGHT TO ENABLE THE HOLDER OF IT TO GET AS MUCH LABOR AS HE OR SHE GAVE FOR IT.

Labor is here understood to be. All kinds of services, that would not be performed for the pleasure of it.

The Note promises a certain, DEFIXED QUANTITY OF LABOR embodied in the article promised: so that the receiver of it can know what he is doing when he takes it: which he cannot know when he takes common money — he can never tell how much of any thing he can get for a dollar twenty four hours after he has taken it: and this is the great defect of all money as now known and used. The Notes are made "NOT TRANSFERABLE", at first, because the use of them requires a new training of the understanding; and we do not want them to fall into the hands of those who have not had this. — Therefore, the name of the payee is at present inserted with a pen, when the note is issued: and if the holder of it passes it to any other person, it is because he thinks that the payer would not object if he was present: and thus the note becomes a medium of introduction to the payer of the

Notes for large amounts being lost, if payable only to the person named, (on the face or by endorsement), secures the non payment of them.: but very small amounts (for change) can be made payable to "Bearer", as the occasional loss of them might not be of serious consequence. Instead of these notes being, like bank notes, made of the thinnest paper, on purpose to be easily lost, they can be made of Parchment or Card paper, which is more safe, more easily handled, and even in the dark they can be distinguished from each other by their sizes. With a coating of bleached Shell Lac, after they are printed, they will bear a good deal of circulation.

These notes have been made to promise Carpenter work, Mason work, Iron work, Needle work, Washing, &c. &c. The notes of the store keeper circulate very freely: But notes that promise some Staple Article that every body uses, one that will keep firm year to year,—an article that can not become worthless by the over-supply of it,—an article that is easily divisible into minute quantities; and one that cannot be monopolised, is best for general purposes. IRON, STEEL, and INDIAN CORN are articles answering all these demands, particularly Indian Corn. It can be kept of uniform quality from year to year. Every one who has land can raise his own banking capital. It is too bulky to be stolen. It can be converted into some thirty different kinds of food, besides Beef, Butter, Milk, Cheese, Hides, Tallow, Pork, Lard, Mutton, Wool, Poultry, Eggs, Oil, Starch, Alcohol, Molasses, Fuel &c., all without passing into any speculator's hands: — "LIMIT OF ISSUES." A Record is kept at the printing office of all the notes given out, and which Record is open to public inspection: and the amount issued to any one can be publicly known.

The Issuers of these Notes can advertise on the backs, any different kinds of Labor in which they can redeem them, attaching a price to each kind in pounds of Corn, as we now do in dollars and cents: and the value of the notes to the holders of them will be greater in proportion to the different kinds of valuable services they will command. For farther particulars, see "TRUE CIVILIZATION".

This is a very small and very simple thing to the eye; but, considered as a New Element in human affairs, no mind can measure its magnitude!

LABOR NOTE ISSUED BY JOSIAH WARREN.



done at each one's own cost, would work the surest and most effectual cure.

Despite the persistent misrepresentations and the withering slanders to which the colony was subjected during its earlier years, the pioneers prospered. But after reaping so much of the undesirable fruits of notoriety, the name was changed to Brentwood, under which appellation it is still known.

Writing to an English friend in 1857, one of the settlers, Edward D. Linton, asks: "You have been here, sir, and I ask you, considering the natural obstacles to overcome, if you ever saw greater material success attained in so short a time by the same number of people without capital, and with only their hands and brains to operate with, under all the disadvantages, of habits formed by a false education and training. \* \* \* And as it regards individual and social happiness and the entire absence of vice and crime, I am confident this settlement cannot be equaled. This is, emphatically, the school of life. It is what has been learned here, infinitely more than what has been done, that constitutes what I consider the greatest success of the settlement. What has not been done is, I think, of far more consequence than what has been done. \* \* \* I would rather that my children would live here and have the advantages of the society and practical lessons taught here, than for them to have what is called an education in the best institutions of learning in the world."

Linton's tribute to Warren in the same letter cannot be omitted: "But whether I ever live to see the practical realization of the principles or not, here or elsewhere, I never can feel sufficiently grateful to the unostentatious man whose remarkable and peculiar constitution of mind enabled him to discover the most subtle and sublime truths ever made known to man, for his self government and the regulation of his intercourse with his neighbors. In my own person and in my own domestic affairs, I have been incalculably benefited."

Broad avenues, tree shaded streets, pretty cottages surrounded by strawberry beds and well tilled gardens, formed the outward appearance of Modern Times. The occupants were honest, industrious and had learned to mind their own business, while readily coöperating with

their neighbors for mutual advantage. They were free from sectarian dissensions, law courts, jails, rum shops, prostitutes and crime. No one acquired wealth save by his own industry. Long afterwards the people who lived there during the years that the principles of Equity were the only law amongst citizens, looked back with regret mingled with pleasure on those pioneer days of effort to achieve a higher social ideal.

It should be remembered that the equity villages did not fail in the sense that New Harmony, Brook Farm and numerous other similar experiments failed. The Modern Timers had no trouble over property or forms of government. Each owned his house and land, and by mutual understanding political or civic authority was dispensed with. None felt responsible for the failure of his neighbors, and only aggressive or invasive action was resented by combined action. The panic of 1857, which in New York City alone threw upwards of twenty thousand people suddenly out of work, shattered a manufacturing enterprise that had been successfully begun in Modern Times. Before the effects of the ensuing industrial depression had cleared away, the country was in the throes of civil war, and all hope of success was for the time dissipated.

In July, 1854, while living at Modern Times, Warren began the publication of his "Periodical Letters," a record of the movement and further exposition of the principles, which were issued with more or less regularity until the end of 1858. He spent the winter of 1855-56 visiting his old friends in Ohio and Indiana. After 1860 he returned no more to the Long Island village.

The reformer's activity declined with advancing age. Several years were spent quietly at Cliftondale, near Boston, and in 1873 he went to reside with his friends, the Heywoods, in their home at Princeton, Mass. Here he wrote and printed his last production, Part III., of the "True Civilization" series, giving "practical applications" and the "facts and conclusions of forty-seven years study and experiments in reform movements through communism to elementary principles found in a direction opposite to and away from communism, but leading directly to all the harmonic results aimed at by communism. "Equitable Commerce," his first book, containing practically all his

views, was first published in 1846, and was several times reprinted.

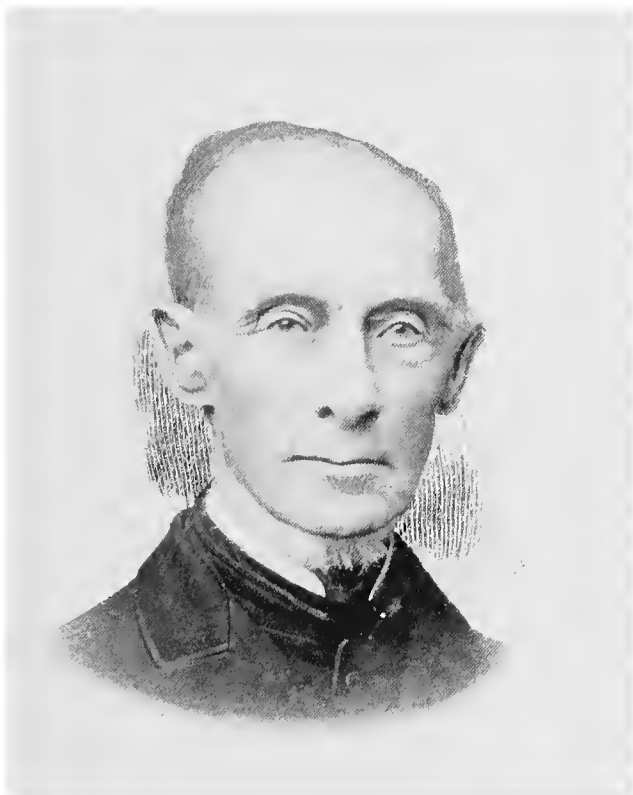
The last months of Warren's life were passed in Boston at the house of his early friend Edward H. Linton, where he was cared for in his last illness by kindly hands. Kate Metcalf, one of the pioneers of Modern Times, nursed him to the end, which came on April fourteenth, 1874.











RICHARD OWEN.



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## *Robert Owen's Later Life*

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"He originated and organized infant schools. He secured a reduction of the hours of labor for women and children in factories. He was a liberal supporter of the earlier efforts to obtain national education. He labored to promote international arbitration. He was one of the foremost Englishmen who taught men to aspire to a higher social state by reconciling the interests of capital and labor. He spent his life and a large fortune in seeking to improve his fellowmen by giving them education, self reliance and moral worth. His life was sanctified by human affection and lofty effort."—Inscription on monument to Robert Owen in Kensal Green cemetery.

In the autumn of 1827 Robert Owen arrived again in England. Through negotiations with the minister from Mexico to the Court of St. James, he projected a plan for communistic colonization in the provinces of Texas and Coahuila. Immense tracts of land in these provinces were to be set apart for Mr. Owen's use, though remaining under Mexican control, and here he was to be given an opportunity to establish a vast communistic commonwealth, colonized from all quarters of the globe. Mr. Owen went to Mexico in order to complete these plans, but the negotiations came to an end when he discovered that the degree of religious toleration he demanded would not be granted. In the spring of 1829 he was again at New Harmony, and in April of that year he met Alexander Campbell in a famous debate on religious questions. The discussion was held at Cincinnati, and lasted several days before immense audiences.

From Cincinnati he journeyed to Washington, where he interested himself in bringing about a better feeling between the United States and Great Britain. As he became intimately associated with President Jackson and Secretary of State Van Buren, his labors were not without effect. The same year he returned to England and began the campaign in behalf of coöperation which he continued to the end of his life. His systems of "labor exchange" and "equitable commerce" attracted wide attention, and have developed into the great labor coöperative system of Great Britain.

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his sons and daughter in America, and to urge his plans on this side of the ocean. As late as 1844, while Fourierism was planting its phalansteries in America, he arrived in New York and published an address to the people of America, declaring that he had come "to effect in peace the greatest revolution ever yet made in human society." He called a world's convention to consider reform movements, in 1845, but this was a failure. Adin Ballou, as quoted by Noyes, said of him at this time:

"Robert Owen is a remarkable character. In years, nearly seventy-five; in knowledge and experience, superabundant; in benevolence of heart, transcendental; in honesty, without disguise; in philanthropy, unlimited; in religion, a skeptic; in theology, a Pantheist; in metaphysics, a necessarian circumstantialist; in morals, a universal executionist; in general conduct, a philosophic non-resistant; in socialism, a communist; in hope, a terrestrial elysianist; in practical business, a methodist; in deportment, an unequivocal gentleman. \* \* \* Mr. Owen has vast schemes to develop, and vast hopes of speedy success in establishing a great model of the new social state, which will quite instantaneously, as he thinks, bring the human race into a terrestrial paradise. He insists on obtaining a million of dollars to be expended in lands, buildings, machinery, conveniences and beautifications, for his model community. He flatters himself he shall be able, by some means, to induce capitalists, or perhaps congress, to furnish the capital for this object. We were frankly obliged to shake an incredulous head and tell him how groundless, in our judgment, such splendid anticipations must prove. He took it in good part, and declared his confidence unshaken, and his hopes undiscourageable by any man's unbelief."

Robert Owen spent the following winter in New Harmony. In June, 1846, he addressed the Constitutional Convention of the State of New York on "Human Rights and Progress."

"Six times," says Noyes, "after he was fifty years old, and twice after he was seventy, he crossed the Atlantic and back in the service of communism. Let us not say that all this wonderful activity was useless. Let us not call this man a driveler and a monomaniac. Let us rather acknowledge that he was receiving and distributing an



inspiration unknown even to himself, that had a sure aim, and that it is at this moment conquering the world. His hallucination was not in his expectations, but in his ideas of time and methods."

Ralph Waldo Emerson makes some interesting allusions to Robert Owen as he appeared to him in 1845. "Robert Owen of New Lanark," he says, "came hither from England in 1845 to read lectures or hold conversations wherever he could find listeners—the most amiable, sanguine and candid of men. He had not the least doubt that he had hit on the plan of right and perfect socialism, or that mankind would adopt it. He was then seventy years old, and being asked, 'Well, Mr. Owen, who is your disciple? how many men are there possessed of your views who will remain after you are gone to put them in practice?' 'Not one,' was the reply. Robert Owen knew Fourier in his old age. He said that Fourier learned of him all the truth that he had. The rest of his system was imagination, and the imagination of a visionary. Owen made the best impression by his rare benevolence. His love of men made us forget his 'three errors.' His charitable construction of men and their actions was invariable. He was the better Christian in his controversies with Christians.

"And truly I honor the generous ideas of the socialists, the magnificence of their theories, and the enthusiasm with which they have been urged. They appeared inspired men of their time. Mr. Owen preached his doctrine of labor and reward with the fidelity and devotion of a saint in the slow ears of his generation.

"One feels that these philosophers have skipped no fact but one, namely, life. They treat man as a plastic thing, or something that may be put up or down, ripened or retarded, moulded, polished, made into solid or fluid or gas at the will of the leader; or perhaps as a vegetable, from which, though now a very poor crab, a very good peach can by manure and exposure be in time produced—and skip the faculty of life which spawns and spurns systems and system makers; which eludes all conditions; which makes or supplants a thousand Phalanxes and New Harmonies with each pulsation.

"It would be better to say, let us be lovers and servants of that which is just, and straightway every man becomes the center of a holy and beneficent republic which he sees

to include all men in its laws, like that of Plato and of Christ.

"Yet, in a day of small, sour and fierce schemes, one is admonished and cheered by a project of such friendly aims, and of such bold and generous proportions; there is an intellectual courage and strength in it which is superior and commanding; it certifies the presence of so much truth in the theory, and in so far is destined to be fact.

"I regard these philanthropists as themselves the effects of the age in which they live, in common with so many other good facts the efflorescence of the period and predicting the good fruit that ripens. They were not the creators that they believed themselves to be; but they were unconscious prophets of the true state of society, one which the tendencies of nature lead unto, one which always establishes itself for the sane soul, though not in that manner in which they paint it."

In his later years Mr. Owen came to recognize a truth which he had overlooked in all his schemes for social regeneration—the controlling influence of the spiritual nature. As he himself confessed, while he had provided for the physical, the intellectual and the moral needs of man, he had overlooked the spiritual. "Yet, this, as he now saw," says Sargent, "was the most important of all in the future development of mankind. \* \* \* Owen says that in looking back over his past life, he can trace the finger of God directing his steps, preserving his life under imminent dangers, and impelling him onward on many occasions."

"For the last ten years of his life," says Lloyd Jones, "the proceedings of Robert Owen had ceased to be discussed in the newspapers and on the platform. It need not be concluded from this, however, that he was entirely inactive. He republished a considerable portion of his earlier writings, among other things his plans for dealing with the wretched condition of Ireland. He restated his views on national education, maintaining that 'the great want of the world was a good training from birth, and a sound, practical education for all, based on true principles.' He drew up proposals for a treaty of federation between Great Britain and the United States of North America—the gist of which is that Great Britain and America should declare their interests to be the same;

should agree to a federative union to which all other nations should be admitted, and recognize it as a duty to terminate war and live in the abundance of a peaceful industry and friendly exchange." Thus Robert Owen anticipated by fifty years propositions which have in recent years been made for treaties of arbitration and of alliance between the United States and Great Britain.

As late as 1857, while in his eighty-sixth year, Mr. Owen attended a meeting of the Social Science Association at Birmingham, and read a paper on "The Human Race Governed Without Punishment." Attempting to read a paper at the meeting of the association at Liverpool the following year, he broke down and was carried from the platform. He was taken to his native town of Newton, where he secured accommodations in the house next to the place where he was born. Robert Dale Owen was summoned from Naples, where he was *charge d'affaires* for the United States, and, holding the hand of his eldest son, the great philanthropist breathed his last. His last words were "Relief has come."

"The agitation of Owen," writes his friend and follower, Lloyd Jones, "was unsuccessful in its immediate results, but though the immediate consummation of our hopes be denied, it is for us to work on as wisely and as faithfully as we can, trusting the fulfillment will come, perhaps in a better way and at a time more suitable than he could appoint. For everything done by Robert Owen and his friends in founding coöperative villages and workshops, there is ample recompense in the present success of the coöperative idea. I think it constitutes an especial claim on our gratitude that Owen brought into practical activity for the public good the energies of the humblest and the poorest, to augment the vast popular power by which the present coöperative movement is maintained. It is only since Owen's influence has been felt that it can truly be said the masses of the people have been brought collectively into action for the promotion of objects which have been attended by results that are likely to be permanent; because, while they secure general advantages, they confer a general discipline and strength. The coöperative movement is rapidly becoming a national movement, sustained by the development and activity of an ever increasing popular knowledge. \* \* \* In every effort he made

for the benefit of society, his aims were honest, his industry unimpeachable, his generosity unbounded, his sacrifices great and unhesitatingly incurred. He labored for the people; he died working for them, and his last thought was for their welfare."

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## *Seed in Fertile Ground.*

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"Although Owen failed to make his community successful, his opinions spread far and wide. The courts of law, the halls of legislation, and the family government have been modified and influenced by the opinions taught by Mr. Owen in the early days of New Harmony, and afterwards promulgated by his son, Robert Dale Owen."—George Flower.

When Robert Owen's splendid social bark went to wreck upon the rocks and shoals of human nature at New Harmony, the company of genius which in part composed its crew, was left stranded on what then seemed a desert island in the illimitable wilderness. But that little center of progressive thought and philanthropic spirit became a lighthouse destined to diffuse its guiding rays far beyond the limits of the frontier state of which it was a part. Through William Maclure New Harmony was to give a vast impetus to popular education, particularly throughout the West; through David Dale Owen and his coadjutors it was to accelerate the development of American science; through Frances Wright it was to fix its indelible impress upon American popular sentiment; through Robert Dale Owen it was to become a potent factor in American institutional development; through Josiah Warren it was to affect the trend of economic thought, and through Robert Owen, his views modified in the great school of experience he had set up at New Harmony, it was to exert an influence in fixing the tendencies of the coöperative movement in England and the United States.

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William Maclure remained in New Harmony after the collapse of the Educational Society and continued his educational experiments. In 1827 he published an announcement of "Maclure's Seminary," stating: "Young men and women are received without any expense to them, either for teaching, or food, lodging and clothing. Hours, from five in the morning until eight in the evening, divided as follows: The scholars rise at five; at half past five each goes to his occupation; at seven the bell rings for





LIBRARY OF THE WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE—1900.

breakfast; at eight they return to work; at eleven their lessons begin, continuing until half past two, including half an hour for luncheon; then they return to their occupation until five, when a bell calls them to dinner. Afterwards until half past six they exercise themselves in various ways; then the evening lessons begin, and last until eight. The basis of the institution is that the scholars repay their expenses from the proceeds of their seven hours labor, but to effect this will require several years more." On May twenty-seventh, 1827, Mr. Maclure announced "The Orphan's Manual Training School." The Manual Training School had its laboratory in a separate building equipped "with such requisites as are necessary for an experimental course of lectures in chemistry. In another building is a small room lately fitted up for containing the philosophic apparatus, for which it is well adapted. The other room of this building has been used for some time as the drawing school, but it is to be converted into a museum, in which all the natural productions of Harmony and the surrounding country will be accumulated, as well as the collection made by Mr. Maclure during his travels through Europe and America." Mr. Maclure also founded what he called "the school of industry," which had for its principal motto, "Utility shall be the scale on which we shall endeavor to measure the value of everything." Under the auspices of this organization Mr. Maclure established, on January sixteenth, 1828, the New Harmony Disseminator, "containing hints to the youth of the United States; edited, printed and published by the pupils of the school of industry." This was an octavo semi-monthly, changed in July, 1836, to folio form. When the school of industry was abandoned Mr. Maclure became editor and publisher, changing its motto from "Ignorance is the fruitful cause of human misery," to "We ought not, like the spider, to spin a web from our own reasons, but, like the bee, visit every store, and choose the most useful and the best." Dr. J. Schnack, one of the most intelligent and authoritative commentators on New Harmony, says of the periodical: "The editorials were of the highest and purest type, and were contributed, principally, by Mr. W. Maclure and Robert Dale Owen. The contributions and selections were by the foremost scientists, philosophers and authors of those days, and touched upon all depart-









LIBRARY OF THE WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE-1900.



ments of knowledge, especially political economy, philosophy and science, and the abolition of slavery. Among the articles of especial interest in natural science were those of Mr. Thomas Say, entitled: 'Descriptions of Some New Terrestrial and Fluvatile Shells of North America, July twenty-ninth to November eighteenth, 1829.' Mr. Maclure contributed an extensive series of articles on political science, in which he advocated many reforms in political economy which have since been adopted."

One of the organizations founded under the patronage of Mr. Maclure was "The Society for Mutual Instruction," which occupied Building No. 2. "At present," says the Disseminator, "the large room from front to rear is occupied by the society as a lecture room. The society has fitted this apartment up with considerable taste, and lighted it with gas manufactured from impure fat, or lard. This gas is the discovery of members of the society. The organization is composed of a number of persons, principally operatives, who reside in Harmony. It is a mechanics' institution; it differs only in name—its objects and means being exactly the same as the mechanics' institutions in this country and Europe, namely, to communicate a general knowledge of the arts and sciences to those persons who hitherto have been excluded from a scientific or general education, by the erroneous and narrow-minded policy of colleges and public schools, which have invariably endeavored to confine learning to the few rich, so that they might tyrannize over the uneducated many. The society is to move later to the hall. It is Mr. Maclure's intention to convert Number 2 into a factory, wherein the junior pupils of the establishment will be employed. In this way it is proposed that the pupils should manufacture the materials for their own clothing from the produce of the farms." This factory was never established, the practical work of the institution being confined to the industrial school in the east end of the old Rappite church. This was called the Mechanics' Athenium, a description of which appears in the Disseminator of March twenty-sixth, 1828. "This is a frame building about seventy-five feet in length, fifty feet wide and thirty feet high, situated a short distance from the hall. It has two stories, the lower one contains a set of workshops, furnished with benches, tools and other

requisites for instructing the pupils of the school of industry in the useful arts of carpentry, tinplate working, turning, shoemaking and cabinet making; the second story is intended to be fitted up, with all convenient dispatch, for a variety of other trades, so that in process of time every facility will be offered for obtaining a practical knowledge of all useful arts and manufactures. A square tower is attached to the east end, with a belfry, containing two bells and a clock which strikes the hours and quarter hours." Early in the history of the New Harmony experiments Mr. Maclure announced an intention of founding an agricultural college, but he went no further with this project than to teach the pupils in his various schools the best methods of doing various kinds of farm work. In July, 1828, R. L. Jennings, originally associated with Mr. Maclure, organized a separate Pestalozzian school, which he called "The Institution of Practical Education."

In 1828 Mr. Maclure went to Mexico to recuperate his failing health, leaving his financial and educational interests under the management of Thomas Say. The state of his health finally compelled him to take up his permanent residence in Mexico. Through Mr. Achilles E. Fretageot, son of Madame Fretageot, he wrote a letter on September second, 1837, conveying property which resulted in the establishment of the workingmen's institute and library in April, 1838, which has continued to this day under such excellent management that New Harmony has perhaps a larger and more valuable library than any community of its size in the country, having on its shelves at this time fifteen thousand volumes. Among other benefactions to this library have been those of William Michaux, who gave his library and one thousand dollars, the interest of which is annually to be expended "in the purchase of books treating on science and facts," and of Alexander Burns, who left one thousand dollars for the benefit of the library. The library remained in the New Harmony Hall until 1894, when, by the notable generosity of Dr. Edward Murphy, who came as a boy to New Harmony during community days, the handsome structure in which it is now housed, was erected. In this building is also an art gallery, filled with pictures brought from European art centers by Dr. Murphy. The library is especially rich in rare books of the earlier years of the century, and of









**THOMAS SAY'S MONUMENT.**

**This Tomb Stands Near the Spot Where the Rappites Made Their First Encampment at New Harmony.**



works bearing on the history of the community period which have been collected with praiseworthy care by the present secretary of the Workingmen's Institute, Mr. Arthur Dransfield, a grandson of Mr. Samuel Dransfield, who had charge of the vineyards during the community period.

Mr. Maclure's intention was to return to New Harmony and make it his home, but he died at San Angel, near the City of Mexico, in his seventy-eighth year, on March twenty-third, 1840. Six years before his trusted agent at New Harmony, Thomas Say, had died, and had been buried in a vault built by Mr. A. Maclure in the yard of his old home. A marble monument had been erected to Mr. Say, bearing the following beautiful inscription:

"Votary of Nature, even from a child,  
He sought her presence in the trackless wild.  
To him the shell, the insect and the flower  
Were bright and cherished emblems of her bower.  
In her he saw a spirit all divine,  
And worshipped like a pilgrim at her shrine."

The vault also contains the bodies of Alexander Maclure, Annie and Margaret Maclure, brother and sisters of William Maclure.

William Maclure's most important benefaction was a provision in his will for a donation of five hundred dollars wherever an association of workingmen should be formed for the purpose of mental improvement and mutual instruction. Under this provision eighty thousand dollars was distributed. One hundred and sixty libraries were endowed or supplied by this fund throughout the West, at a time when there were few private and no public libraries. It is impossible to overestimate the impetus which this wise benefaction gave to intellectual development in every one of the one hundred and sixty communities which enjoyed the benefits of Mr. Maclure's liberality.

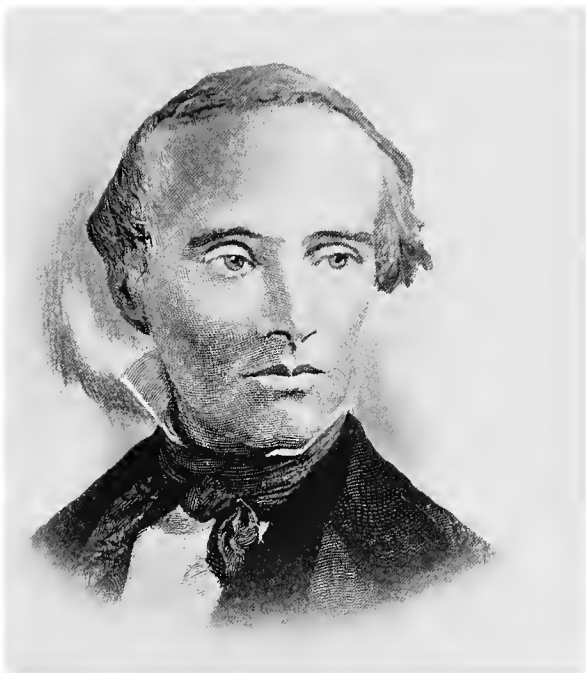
The residence in New Harmony of William Maclure, Gerard Troost, Thomas Say, Charles A. Lesueur and the younger Owens, made it the rendezvous of scientists for many years. Prince Maximilian von Neuweid with his corps of scientific explorers, spent the winter of 1832 at

New Harmony, making a careful study of local natural history in company with Say and Lesueur. Prince Maximilian was one of the most indefatigable scientific explorers of the first half of this century. He left the Prussian army after attaining the rank of general, and set out on an expedition through the interior of Brazil, studying especially the natural history, geology and ethnology of that region. He published the results of this expedition in several volumes. In 1832-34 he traveled in the United States "under the title of Baron Braunberg, accompanied by his artist Bodmer and his taxidermist Dreidoppel." After visiting the larger Eastern cities, he embarked from Pittsburg for New Harmony on October ninth, 1832. He arrived at New Harmony on October nineteenth. In the following spring he descended the Wabash and Ohio rivers to Cairo by steamboat, thence ascending the Mississippi to the mouth of the Missouri and the Missouri to the Rocky Mountain region. In May and June, 1833, he was again at New Harmony. Early in June, 1834, accompanied by C. A. Lesueur, he went by wagon from New Harmony through Owensville, Princeton, Vincennes, "thence eastward very near the route now followed by the B. and O. S. W. Ry. across Indiana; thence northward to Lake Erie; thence eastward via Niagara Falls to Boston." His observations during his American journeys were embodied in two large volumes, entitled "*Reise Durch Nord Amerika*," published at Coblenz, 1838-43—"one quarto volume of texts and illustrations and another folio volume of maps and texts." "An English version of this text was published in 1843," says Dr. Schnack, "but the translation is a very free one, and therefore not accurate or available for scientific purposes. His journal contains many valuable observations, in almost all departments of physical and natural science, being especially interesting on birds, reptiles and flowers, not omitting the geology and the habits and manners of the natives. 'The Maximilian Collection of Birds' is in the possession of the American museum of natural history, in New York City, and is regarded as a valuable collection. In his journal he gives a list of fifty-eight trees and mentions a large number of shrubs he had observed in the vicinity of New Harmony."

In June, 1839, Dr. David Dale Owen, who, since the







**D. D. OWEN.**





close of the community experiments, had returned to Europe in order to pursue his studies in geology, in 1835 had taken a medical degree from the Ohio Medical College, and in 1837 had been commissioned to make a preliminary geological survey of Indiana, was appointed United States geologist. His headquarters were established at New Harmony, and he was given instructions to make a survey of the Northwest, including what is now Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the northern part of Illinois, with a view to locating mineral lands preliminary to the sale of the public domain. This great work was completed in two months. Dr. Schnack thus describes Dr. Owen's interesting method of work: "A large number of men, many of them eminent scientists, were employed. The entire corps was divided into two companies, each having an intelligent head to look after the work; and to each company was allotted a district, in which every section was to be visited and samples of the rock, etc., collected.

"At stated points Dr. Owen would meet each camp and study the work accomplished. The country was almost without settlements, and each camp had to be supplied with hunters, whose duty it was to furnish game for subsistence. In looking over Dr. Owen's report, one cannot fail to appreciate the skill and fidelity with which this great geologist performed this extensive survey, under immense difficulties and in such a short time. He carried with him, on the trip up the Mississippi river, supplies of the most important rocks, minerals and re-agents. These were exposed on a table in the cabin of the steamboat, and he would daily give his men instruction in geology and point out the characteristic rocks of the leading formations, and the minerals likely to be found in them."

In this way, by the time they reached the place to disembark, they had been made acquainted with the first principles of geology. "In after years," continues Dr. Schnack, "this region was more systematically surveyed by Dr. Owen. The headquarters of the United States Geological Survey continued at New Harmony up to 1856, when, at the completion of the Smithsonian institute building at Washington, they were conveyed to that building. A part of the immense collection was taken to Washington, another to the Indiana state university at Bloom-

ington, and a third to the American museum of natural history in Central Park, New York. In passing through the first and last of these institutions, I have been surprised to find such a large proportion of the specimens in all departments, labeled as coming from the New Harmony collection."

When New Harmony became the headquarters of the United States geological survey the old granary-fortress of the Harmonists, which had been equipped with gratings and loopholes by the Rappites for protection against marauders, was turned into a museum. In this were stored not only the specimens collected by surveying parties, but the collections made by Thomas Say in the surrounding states, and by William Maclure in Spain, Portugal, Italy, France, Mexico and the West Indies. Over the old desk at New Harmony hall lectures on chemistry, geology and biology were delivered by the leading scientists of the country and the foreign travelers attracted to New Harmony by its international reputation as a scientific center.

One of Dr. Owen's most valuable assistants in the prosecution of the geological surveys undertaken from New Harmony was Richard Owen, who was a young man of eighteen, "fresh from the schools of Europe," at the conclusion of the community period. Another was the co-worker of Thomas Say, Charles A. Lesueur, who lived in New Harmony many years, exploring the mounds of southern Indiana, writing voluminously on the fishes and mollusks of the West, and "making his living largely with his pencil in painting and making sketches." Lesueur finally returned to France and spent the last years of his life as curator of the museum at Havre. John Chappelsmith, "a wealthy Englishman, an artist and engraver," drew many of the cuts of fossils for the geological reports, and made meteorological observations for a number of years. Mrs. Chappelsmith was an enthusiastic student of entomology, and had some reputation as a lecturer.

James Sampson, who came to New Harmony in 1828, was another scientific student of the David Owen régime. "After making in the dry-goods business a sufficient income," wrote Colonel Richard Owen, "he devoted himself to collecting objects of natural history, by hunting and fishing as well as by exchange, until he had accumulated







**THE OLD FORT—PRESENT CONDITION.**

**Headquarters U. S. Geological Survey under David Dale Owen.**



quite an extensive collection, more especially of land and fresh water shells and archæological specimens, his whole residence being virtually a museum."

Alexander Maclure, brother of William Maclure, lived in New Harmony many years, engaged in study and the administration of his brother's affairs. He was especially interested in social science.

Connected with the geological survey, to again quote Dr. Schnack, were "Colonel Charles Whittlesy, the veteran geologist; F. B. Meek, the eminent paleontologist, who determined and sketched most of the fossil animals for the reports of the Illinois geological survey; Leo Lesquereux, the noted fossil botanist, who has described and sketched more fossil plants of North America than all the rest of the authors combined; \* \* \* Dr. Elderhorst, author of a standard work on the 'Blow Pipe,' and Dr. C. C. Parry, who served on Dr. Owen's geological survey of the Northwest in 1848, and whose knowledge of the Western flora was probably exceeded by none." Robert Henry Fauntleroy, of the United States coast survey, spent several years at New Harmony, where he made some interesting experiments in magnetic declination and intensity. He married, in 1835, Miss Jane Dale Owen, Robert Owen's daughter. Samuel Bolton, an English chemist, lectured frequently on his specialty in New Harmony, beginning as early as 1828. Josiah Warren and Thomas Nuttall republished from the New Harmony press three volumes of F. A. Michaux's "North American Sylva," the plates for which were purchased in Paris by William Maclure.

It is interesting to note, as an evidence of New Harmony's preëminence as a scientific center, the number of state geologists appointed from that place. David Dale Owen occupied this position in Kentucky from 1854 to 1857, in Arkansas from 1857 to 1859, and in 1859 and 1860 was state geologist of Indiana, his service being terminated by his death. He was succeeded in Indiana by Richard Owen, who later became colonel of an Indiana infantry regiment during the civil war, and for fifteen years, beginning in 1864, was professor of natural science in the Indiana state university. Richard Owen survived all other members of the famous Owen second generation, dying in his eighty-first year at New Harmony on March twenty-fourth, 1890. Dr. Gerard Troost became a pro-

fessor of chemistry and mineralogy in the Nashville university, and was later state geologist of Tennessee. Major Sidney Lyon superintended the geodetic and topographical survey of Kentucky. Professor A. H. Worthen served as state geologist of Illinois from 1858 until his death nearly thirty years later, during which time he published seven volumes of reports, "constituting probably the most complete geological survey that has been made of any Western state." Professor E. T. Cox, son of one of the Owenite communists, was State Geologist of Indiana from 1868 to 1880. Dr. J. C. Norwood conducted an early state geological survey of Illinois.

Among the visitors to New Harmony while it was a scientific Mecca were Audubon, the ornithologist, then a storekeeper at Henderson, Kentucky, forty miles distant, and Dr. George Engelman, who rode to the place on horseback from St. Louis in February, 1840, only to miss seeing the coterie of scientists he had expected to meet there. He chronicles as the only result of his trip the sight of a "broad-fruited maple in bloom."

Sir Charles Lyell, the eminent Scottish geologist, was one of the last European scientific explorers who visited New Harmony during its scientific golden age. On his second tour of the United States in 1845-46, he came by boat from New Orleans up the Mississippi and Ohio to Mount Vernon, thence by stage to New Harmony. In his notes he says: "We spent several days very agreeably at New Harmony, where we were most hospitably entertained by Dr. and Mrs. David Dale Owen. \* \* \* Some large buildings, in the German style of architecture, stand conspicuous, \* \* \* the principal edifice being now appropriated as a public museum, in which I found a good geological collection, both fossils and minerals, made during the state survey, and I was glad to learn that by an act of the Indiana legislature, with a view of encouraging science, this building is exempt from taxation. Lectures on chemistry and geology are given here in the winter. Many families of superior intelligence, English, Swiss and German, have settled in the place, and there is a marked simplicity in their manner of living which reminded us of Germany. They are very sociable, and there were many private parties, where there was music and dancing, and a public assembly once a week, to one of









NEW HARMONY AS IT NOW APPEARS FROM INDIAN MOUND.



which we went, where quadrilles and waltzes were danced, the band consisting of amateur musicians. \* \* \*

"We found also, among the residents, a brother of William Maclure, the geologist, who placed his excellent library and carriage at our disposal. He lends his books freely among the citizens, and they are much read. We were glad to hear many recent publications, some of the most expensively illustrated works, discussed and criticised in society here. We were also charmed to meet with many children, happy and merry, yet perfectly obedient; and once more to see what, after the experience of the last two or three months, struck us as a singular phenomenon in the New World, a shy child. There is no church or place of public worship in New Harmony, a peculiarity which we never remarked in any town of half the size in the course of our tour of the United States. Being here on week days only, I had no opportunity of observing whether on Sunday there were any meetings for social worship. I heard that when the people of Evansville once reproached the citizens of this place for having no churches, they observed that they also had no shops for the sale of spirituous liquors, which is still a characteristic of New Harmony."

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Robert Dale Owen began his literary labors early in life. His first production was a play called "Pocahontas," which was performed at New Harmony by the Thespian society. This society was formed in 1828, and continued as an organization for nearly fifty years, in this time graduating a large number of young people to the professional stage. The scenery for the plays produced by this society was for many years painted by Charles A. Lesueur. Following Frances Wright's lecturing tour in 1828, Robert Dale Owen became associated with her in the publication of the "Free Enquirer," which was removed to New York City. In this journal these two brilliant editorial writers advocated many of the advanced ideas concerning education and economics which had been promulgated at New Harmony. One of the results of their agitation was a political movement in the state of New York organized by George H. and Frederick W. Evans, two of their converts. As the result of the efforts of the Evans brothers a workingmen's party was formed, de-

manding, among other things, "the abolition of chattel slavery and wage slavery." In 1830 a convention was held in Syracuse, and Ezekiel Williams was nominated for governor. He received nearly three thousand votes, and by a fusion the party elected one member of the legislature. It was called the "Fanny Wright party" by its opponents. The agitation extended to Massachusetts, and numbered Edward Everett among its supporters. The organization was finally merged into the "Locofoco" party, and had no small influence in developing the anti-slavery movement. All over the country organizations, composed largely of workingmen, advocating the principles promulgated by the Free Enquirers were formed, marking the first organized participation of workingmen in politics. The movement was, however, soon overshadowed by the great issues which divided the country into two hostile camps, and ultimately were settled by the arbitrament of war.

In 1835 Robert Dale Owen entered Indiana politics as a member of the state legislature. In 1836 he was nominated as a Van Buren elector, and went upon the stump in Indiana to become a political orator of wide renown, his speeches being models of logic and free from the taint of personal abuse.

In 1843 he was elected to congress, and was returned in 1845, but in 1847 was beaten. He impressed himself upon the leaders of his party in congress as a man of unusual strength, and his advanced views exercised a marked influence in determining the trend of democratic thought on public questions. While in congress he originated and introduced the bill providing for the application of the neglected Smithsonian bequest to the founding of the Smithsonian institution. The Smithsonian building is said to have been erected on plans based upon peculiar ideas of architecture held by Robert Dale Owen and his brother David Dale Owen, who was United States geologist when the structure was erected. Robert Dale Owen became a member of the board of regents of the Smithsonian, and was influential in determining the nature of its future work, concerning which there was much discussion among American scientists of that period. In 1849 Mr. Owen was an unsuccessful candidate for senator against the popular Governor Whitcomb.

Elected a member of the Indiana constitutional convention in 1850, he entered upon the period of his greatest usefulness, for at last there arrived the opportunity for writing into law some of the advanced doctrines for which his father stood, and which the younger Owen had been eloquently and forcibly advocating during all the years succeeding the collapse of the New Harmony communities. In that body, as Mr. John Holliday says, "he was beyond all comparison the most laborious, fertile and efficient member. The law reforms and the provisions for woman's rights and free schools were especially his work, and leave upon our statute books the ineffaceable marks of his father's inculcations, modified and strengthened by his own talent and observation." This constitution directed the general assembly "to provide by law for a general and uniform system of common schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge and equally open to all." Mr. Owen was also responsible for the law giving to the Indiana common schools one-half of the surplus revenue of the United States appropriated to the state of Indiana. He endeavored in the constitutional convention to secure the enactment of a clause giving married women full control of their property, but failed in this; later, however, a bill pressed by him in the state legislature to the same effect, became a law. The provisions for greater freedom of divorce which Mr. Owen brought about, led to an interesting debate in the columns of the New York "Tribune" between their author and Horace Greely, who roundly denounced them as an attack upon the sanctity of marriage. The departures from precedent which marked the era of Robert Dale Owen's activity in Indiana legislation, excited wide discussion and comment, much of it unfavorable, but in succeeding years other states followed the example of Indiana, not only in making the most generous provisions for free schools, but in emancipating woman from legal bondage. In the formation of public sentiment along these lines, Robert Dale Owen was an active agent. As writer and speaker, his genius was equal to any attack upon the laws for which he stood sponsor, and in the period of discussion which followed the adoption of these advanced measures, he was the most conspicuous and brilliant figure. Commenting on the legislation enacted through his influence, a contributor to the

London "Times" said: "Indiana has attained the highest civilization of any state in the Union."

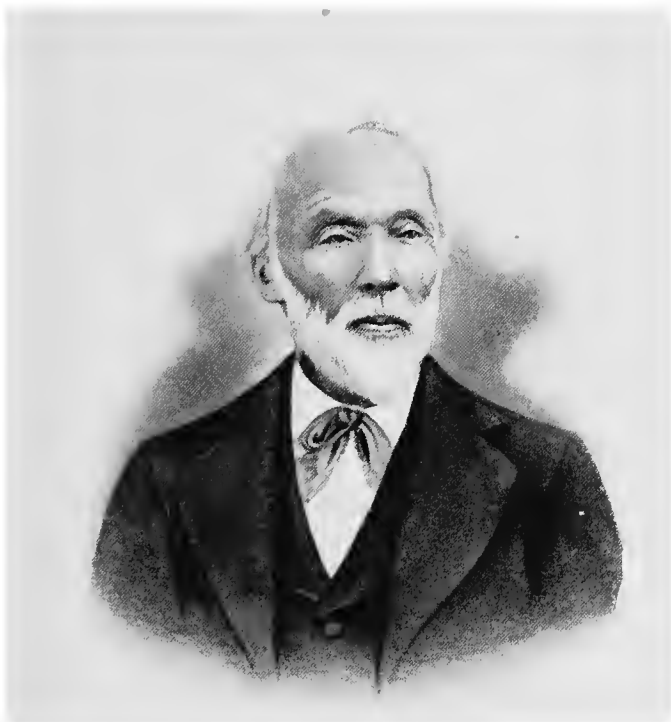
In 1853 Mr. Owen was appointed, by President Pierce, *charge d'affaires* at Naples, and at this post he remained for nearly six years. During this period he followed his father in becoming an advocate of spiritualism. "From the first avowal of spiritualistic notions," to quote a biographer, "he led the numerous hosts of the new faith with undisputed superiority. Into the work of propagating, defending and expurgating spiritualism he put the remainder of his life. He attended spiritualistic conventions all over the country, shaped the doctrines, explored the phenomena and defended the honesty of his, the new faith, and really converted it from a loose assemblage of notions into a system and a religion. His works, 'Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World,' and 'The Debatable Land Between This World and the Next,' were widely read and discussed, the first causing a literary sensation."

At the beginning of the civil war Robert Dale Owen entered enthusiastically into the defense of the Union cause. In southern Indiana, where sympathy for the South ran high in some communities—leading, in one case, to the formal secession of a township from the Union—he was the most conspicuous and effective leader of the Union cause. He was commissioned by Governor Morton to purchase arms in Europe for the Indiana troops, and performed his task with signal ability. From the beginning of the war he was an ardent advocate of the manumission of the slaves, as indeed he had been for forty years before, but unlike many other abolitionists, he was not disposed to increase President Lincoln's burden by complaints concerning the seemingly slow progress toward that great end. When emancipation seemed to hang in the balance, however, he penned his remarkable letter to President Lincoln, under date of September seventeenth, 1862. Someone has described this masterpiece of Robert Dale Owen's as "an ever enduring monument of dispassionate, well-reasoned, perfectly poised deductions, at a very critical time in the life of a great nation." To this day the reader of his eloquent appeal finds himself stirred by the simple power of this great paper. "Its perusal thrilled me like a trumpet call,"









**ROBERT DALE OWEN.**  
*September 1875.*



said President Lincoln. "It will be satisfaction to you to know," wrote Salmon P. Chase, Secretary of the Treasury, to Mr. Owen, "that your letter to the President had more influence on him than any other document which reached him on the subject,—I think I might say than all others put together. I speak of that which I know from personal conference with him." While it did not turn Abraham Lincoln to a course upon which he had long been vaguely determined, it strengthened him in his great purpose, and precipitated the Preliminary Proclamation which was issued five days after the receipt of Mr. Owen's letter.

Robert Dale Owen died June twenty-fourth, 1877. For a period before his death "his mind was deranged by overwork—deranged, but not obscured—for during several months residence in the hospital for the insane, his mental powers were incessantly active and brilliant, though touched by grotesque shapes. Happily he regained his mental soundness, but did not long survive, dying at the ripe age of seventy-three."

"What was said of him in one of the newspapers," said Mr. John H. Holliday, in a paper written some years ago, "seems to me to hold good still: 'In scholarship, general attainments, varied achievements; as author, statesman, politician and leader of a new religious faith, he was unquestionably the most prominent man Indiana ever owned. Others may fill now, or may have filled, a larger place in public interest or curiosity for a time, but no other Hoosier was ever so widely known, or so likely to do the state credit by being known, and no other has ever before held so prominent a place so long, with a history so unspotted by selfishness, duplicity or injustice.'"

With the death of Robert Dale Owen, the last of the great figures conspicuous in the New Harmony communisms, passed away, but the great movements to which they had given origin and direction still sweep onward in an ever-widening current.



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## *Appendix.*

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“The New Harmony Communities” was taken as a research topic in 1893 by the author as a member of the seminarium of political science at DePauw University, and was followed during his senior college year under the direction of Colonel James Riley Weaver, Director of the seminarium, whose helpful suggestions have contributed materially to whatever success may have attended the effort to complete a thorough study of the social experiments at New Harmony. The initial work was done in the library of the workingmen’s institute at New Harmony during the summer of 1893, and a visit was made to the same library in 1896. The secretary of the institute, Mr. Arthur Dransfield, has for years been collecting with commendable care all the material obtainable with reference to the history of the Rappite and Owenite experiments, sparing neither trouble nor expense to make this collection complete. He has coöperated with the writer in his search for data, has made frequent corrections and suggestions, and under Mr. Dransfield’s supervision the collection of photographs which form the basis for the illustrations in this volume, was made. Considerable work was done in the Indiana state library at Indianapolis, where valuable material was found and rendered available through the courtesy of the former State librarian, Miss N. E. Ahern, and the present librarian, Mr. W. E. Henry. The paucity of material in the Library of Congress at Washington served to emphasize the fact that the story of the New Harmony experiments had become a lost chapter in the history of American social reform movements. Through the courtesy of the Librarian of Congress, Mr. Herbert Putnam, and the librarian of Yale university, Dr. A. VanName, the Macdonald manuscript, which forms a part of the Yale collection, was temporarily transferred to the Library of Congress and used under the supervision of the manuscript division. The Macdonald manuscript is a history of the earlier communistic experiments in America, and the familiarity of

the author with the Owenite communities rendered this material especially valuable.

In the New Harmony library, one of the most interesting book collections in the country, the files of the New Harmony Gazette, a weekly paper published throughout the lifetime of the Owenite experiment as the organ of the movement, was found the most prolific source of information. The scrap books of Richard Owen and Mrs. Arthur Dransfield, the letters and papers of Josiah Warren, the community account books, and the letters, wills and deeds of William Maclure, were also found in the New Harmony library. From Dr. Aaron Williams' book on "The Harmonists," the author has drawn liberally, this being the only authoritative publication on the history of the Rappites. Acknowledgments are due to Mr. John Holliday, of Indianapolis, who placed at the disposal of the writer data collected in a study of the New Harmony communities some years ago.

The chapter on Josiah Warren, as shown by the footnote, is the production of Mr. William Bailie, of Boston, who has through several years prosecuted a study of the life-work of the founder of the philosophy of individualism.

A list of the more important manuscript and book sources is appended. No attempt has been made to catalogue the great mass of fragmentary material found in magazines and newspaper articles:

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- Communism and Socialism.—Theodore D. Woolsey, 1888.
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- Richard Owen's Scrap Book.
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- Letters, Wills and Deeds of William Maclure.
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- The Free Enquirer. Vols. I-VI, inc. Published at Baltimore and New York.—Frances Wright, Robert Dale Owen and Amos Gilbert, Editors.
- The Crisis. Vols. I and II, 1832-4, London.—Robert Owen and Robert Dale Owen, Editors.
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- drawn and colored by Mrs. Say and C. A. LeSueur. Engravings by L. Lyon, C. Tiebout and I. Walker.
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END.













