

**WORKINGMEN'S  
HOMES: ESSAYS  
AND STORIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649736027

Workingmen's Homes: Essays and Stories by Edward E. Hale

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

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

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

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

**EDWARD E. HALE**

**WORKINGMEN'S  
HOMES: ESSAYS  
AND STORIES**





MODEL HOUSES AT E. DEDHAM FOR  
QUINCY GERMAN HOMESTEAD ASSOCIATION

WORKINGMEN'S HOMES.

ESSAYS AND STORIES

BY

*Everett*

EDWARD E. HALE

AND OTHERS,

ON THE HOMES OF MEN WHO WORK IN  
LARGE TOWNS.



BOSTON:

JAMES R. OSGOOD AND COMPANY

LATE THURBER & FIELDS, AND FIELDS, OSGOOD, & Co.

1875.

## CONTENTS.

---

	Page
INTRODUCTION . . . . .	1
CO-OPERATIVE HOMES . . . . .	5
THE QUINCY ASSOCIATION . . . . .	28
THE VILLAGE IN DEDHAM . . . . .	37
CHEAP TRADES IN MASSACHUSETTS . . . . .	55
HOMES FOR BOSTON LABORERS . . . . .	64
BOSTON CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY . . . . .	75
HOW THEY LIVED AT NAGUADAVICK . . . . .	88
HOW THEY LIVE IN VIKELAND . . . . .	122
HOW THEY LIVE IN BOSTON, AND HOW THEY DIE THERE	155
<hr/>	
APPENDIX . . . . .	179

## WORKINGMEN'S HOMES.

---

### INTRODUCTION.

THE reader will see that the papers in this book have a single object, whether cast in the form of fiction or whether narratives of fact. The account of Naguadavick is the account of what might be; the accounts of Vineland, Dedham, and Wollaston are the accounts of what is; and the account of Boston is the account of what ought not to be.

I have, perhaps, a right to explain the earnestness with which I try to enforce the necessity of better homes for laboring men by referring to my own experience. For more than thirty years I have been constantly engaged in the Christian ministry. One third of that time was spent in Worcester, Massachusetts; about half of it in Boston. When I went to Worcester it was a town of about eight thousand people; when I left it, it had three times that number. Boston proper is a crowded town of a quarter-million inhabitants. It is impossible for me not to notice, in every hour of my life, the contrast between the homes of the working people in these two places. I might almost say that there is no other difference

1



of importance between the social opportunities of the two places. They are not far apart; both are active places of business, employing in about equal proportions people of enterprise and energy, in the varied work of manufacture, commerce, and transportation. But in one of these places almost every man can own his house, and half the men do. In the other hardly any man can own his house, and half the people are crowded into quarters where no man should be compelled to live.

To watch over and improve the charities of any town is the special duty of the Christian ministry in it,—to feed its hungry and clothe its naked, to open the eyes of its blind and the ears of its deaf, to make its lame walk, to cleanse its lepers, and to preach good-tidings to its poor. Will the reader imagine to himself the position of the man engaged in that duty, when he finds his sick in such tenements as they must live in, in our present system,—his blind child, for instance, born so, perhaps, in rooms with no window, and all his poor in such homes that the only truly good-tidings are tidings which send them away from him? Where a considerable part of the people live in such homes our best-devised charities, either for moral culture or physical relief, work at terrible odds. Your City Missions, your Ministry at Large, your Industrial Aid Society, or your Overseers of the Poor, are all working against the steady dead-weight which, as we all know,

---

---

presses down and holds down the man who is in an unhealthy or unhappy home.

This contrast in my own life between life in a small manufacturing and commercial town and life in a large one makes me feel the bitterness of these odds the more. I am sure that the suffering thus involved is unnecessary, as I am sure the labor which tries to relieve its symptoms must be in large measure thrown away. With an intense personal interest, therefore, have I attempted to show in this book how these evils may be remedied.

It is, therefore, now five years since I have attempted, in whatever way I could, to call the attention both of capitalists and of workingmen to the necessity of simpler methods by which the workingmen of our cities could own land and homesteads. LAND is the great civilizer. I have preached about this necessity, I have made speeches about it, I have written stories about it, I have written essays about it. I believe that it involves the most important considerations regarding the great social problems of the life of large cities.

Most fortunately for those people of Boston who have a personal interest in the discussion, Hon. Josiah Quincy has engaged himself for many years in practical measures by which companies of workingmen could thus make themselves independent. He has the pleasure of seeing many communities coming into being as the result of his far-sighted

---

---

---

plans and his personal devotion to the details of these plans.

By way of answer to numerous letters addressed to him and to me from all parts of the country, asking for information as to the best methods of carrying out the details of such "workingmen's homes," I have now collected these papers. Mr. Quincy kindly adds a complete statement of his own combinations, and this will be found, by people in any of our cities, who have to carry forward such an enterprise, the most important and suggestive part of this book. A few of the papers are included in my collection called "Sybaris and other Homes." Others of them have had the wide circulation of the "Christian Union." Some are now published for the first time.

The plans require the tripartite combination, 1, of Emigrants; 2, of Land-owners; 3, of Railroad Companies. I therefore include in the collection the Report of the Massachusetts Railroad Companies on the cheap trains,—a workingmen's train established by the Eastern Railroad under the Statute of 1872.

I believe the little book thus includes whatever is necessary for the information of any company of workingmen who wish to make a settlement near one of our large towns.

---