

**THE SILENT REVOLUTION: OR,
THE FUTURE EFFECTS OF
STEAM AND ELECTRICITY UPON
THE CONDITION OF MANKIND**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649175710

The silent revolution: or, The future effects of steam and electricity upon the condition of mankind by Michael Angelo Garvey

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

MICHAEL ANGELO GARVEY

**THE SILENT REVOLUTION: OR,
THE FUTURE EFFECTS OF
STEAM AND ELECTRICITY UPON
THE CONDITION OF MANKIND**

THE
SILENT REVOLUTION:

OR

THE FUTURE EFFECTS
OF
STEAM AND ELECTRICITY

UPON

THE CONDITION OF MANKIND.

BY

MICHAEL ANGELO GARVEY, Esq., L.L.B.,
OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE.

".....Pater ipse colendi
"Haud facilis esse viam voluit priusq. per artem
"Movit agros, curis acuens mortalia corda.
"Nec torpere gravi passus sua regna veterno."

GEOR. I.

LONDON:
WILLIAM AND FREDERICK G. CASH,
(SUCCESSORS TO CHARLES GILPIN,) 5, BISHOPSGATE STREET WITHOUT.
EDINBURGH: ADAM AND CHARLES BLACK.
DUBLIN: JAMES B. GILPIN.

1852.

CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I.

PAGE.

Introduction. New epoch in the history of man.— Intellectual activities and their objects.—Practical tendencies of the age.—Achievements of science: the power it bestows upon mankind.—Illustrations of the energy and adaptation of steam in subserving human purposes: its applications and benefits.—Locomotion by steam: its effects in developing enterprise.—Power of the imponderable elements.—Electricity: its probable destination as a channel of intelligence: general ideas of its power as an agent of communication.—The electric telegraph: its wonderful properties; annihilates time; unaffected by position.—The land telegraph.—The submarine telegraph.—Mind the prime mover of all physical forces: its character: necessity of its study in order to a right idea of human progress.—The past our surest guide in conjecturing the future	1
--	---

CHAPTER II.

The free concourse of individual minds the mainspring of human progress.—Facilities of intercourse, and for the transmission of thought, its chief agents.—These propositions may be proved from history.—Historical retrospection must be limited.—Essential differences in the historical phases of society.—Difficulty of assigning the influence of remote ages upon our present condition.—Example of the feudal system; its

A 2

1333461

	PAGE.
tyranny; its brutalizing tendencies; its disrespect for human life and intelligence.—Prostration of the people in mind.—Industry restricted.—Low value of moveable property.—The transmission of real property hampered by legal subtleties.—Natural order of events disturbed by these causes.—Poetic views of the age of chivalry fallacious.—Tendency of feudalism to divide the community, and to destroy individuality.—Power of the chieftain; its evil influence on the minds of his followers.—Isolation and opposition of interests.—The expansive energy of the nation crippled.—Guilds; landlords; priests.—Rise of the modern English period; its grand characteristic.—Transition under Henry VII.—Feudalism compared with the modern social system.—Growth of the latter.—Proposal to investigate the conditions of its development.—Restatement of propositions.—Compendious view of the effects of transport and intercourse.—Reasons for fixing the beginning of the sixteenth century as a point of departure in these inquiries.—Decline of feudalism.—Revival of the human mind.—Great discoveries	14

CHAPTER III.

Condition of England at the beginning of the sixteenth century.—Deficient in means of intercourse.—Character of the roads.—Appearance of the country.—Forests.—Highways in the middle of the sixteenth century.—Harrison's description.—The first highway Act.—State of the roads in Kent.—Bridges.—Parish reparation.—Fearful condition of the metropolitan thoroughfares.—Surveyors of highways.—Statute labour.—Gradual awakening of public opinion to the importance of good roads.—Numerous enactments.—Establishment of tolls and turnpike trusts.—Travelling still difficult.—Mr. Pepys.—Prince

CONTENTS.

v

	PAGE.
George of Denmark.—Roads in 1740 described by Penant.—Their condition in 1770 described by Arthur Young.—Rise of road engineering.—M'Adam.—Acceleration of improvements.—Introduction of railways	27

CHAPTER IV.

Primitive modes of conveyance in England.—The pack-horse: trains of pack-horses.—Carriers.—Rate of travelling.—Dangers.—Banditti.—Caravans.—The Rochester caravan robbed at Gad's Hill.—Means of personal transit.—The saddle and pillion.—Queen Elizabeth on a pillion.—The horse litter.—Enormous number of horses required for locomotion in the sixteenth century.—Numbers required by Queen Elizabeth.—Their pressure upon the produce of the soil.—Ancient expenses of loyalty.—Habits of the nobility.—Competition of the human and equine races.—Introduction of the coach.—Description of first coaches.—Perplexities of primitive coaching.—Running footmen: their duties.—Appearance of a travelling carriage by night.—Accidents, and method of repairing.—Relics of ancient coaching.—Improved methods of transport.—The broad-wheeled waggon.—Stage-coaches: their character and performances: opposition to them: their general adoption; improvement; perfection.—They are superseded by steam.—Conveyance by water.—Navigable rivers.—Canals: Liverpool and St. Helen's: Bridgewater: their general adoption in the three kingdoms.—History of the means formerly employed for the transmission of intelligence.—Special couriers.—Foreign post of James I.—Inland letter-office erected by Charles I.—Correspondence during the civil war.—Example of an ancient superscription.—Rise and progress of the present postal system 39

CHAPTER V.

PAGE.

Consequences of the difficulty of communication visible in the condition of the people.—Isolation of districts.—Dialect, prejudices, and traditionary reputation. — Customs and superstitions.—The Celtic element.—Fire-worship and heliolatry.—Druidism.—Celtic and Teutonic fairies.—Prejudices against the Welsh and Scotch.—Annual execution of a Welshman in effigy.—Junius's opinion of the Scotch.—Dr. Johnson's antipathy to Scotland.—Effects of intercourse upon these false notions.—Willing justice to Scotland.—Influence of isolation on the origin and perpetuation of popular errors.—Reasons why men of great learning and ability are sometimes found imbued with vulgar errors.—Illustrations from the past.—Witchcraft : the most striking	55
--	----

CHAPTER VI.

Sir Reginald Scott's definition of witchcraft.—James I.; his book against witches.—Ranulf Higden.—Mean notions of the Devil and his subordinate spirits.—The methods of capturing and subjugating devils: labours enjoined them: their usual reward. — Terrible consequences of the belief in witchcraft.—Number of persons executed for that crime.—Witch-finders.—Hopkins; his practical dilemma.—Savage spirit of the law.—The Witch Act.—National recognition of a lie.—Effects upon the popular mind.—Brutality of the people. — Dreadful incident at Tring in 1751.—Recent instances of sorcery a proof that it is passing away.—Domestic habits of the people.—Erasmus's account of an English interior.—Barbarous profusion of the upper classes.—Queen Elizabeth's breakfast. — Lord Goring's supper.—Houses of the common people.—Food.—Clothing.—Sleeping.—Sports.—Effects of defective intercommunication upon industry.—

	PAGE.
National resources undeveloped. — Imports. — Steel-yard.—Merchant adventurers.—Exports.—Statement of Guicciardini.—Cloth trade privileged.—Monopolies dissolved by increased communication. — Origin of Halifax. — Want of means of transport, interfered with sales.—Annual fairs.—Bad effects of the wool-trade on agriculture, towns, and population.—Weakness of the commercial spirit.—Despotic prohibitions.—Royal monopolies. — Discouragement of private enterprise	67

CHAPTER VII.

Progress of commerce in England.—Destruction of Antwerp : its effects on English art.—Voyages of discovery.—Effects of the revocation of the Edict of Nantes on English trade.—Remarks on the blindness of bigotry.—Progress of industry slow.—Remarks of De Witt and of Napoleon.—Rise of towns.—Appearance of the country in the middle of the seventeenth century.—Evelyn at Enfield.—Mr. Macaulay's description of England at the Revolution.—Feebleness of the laws owing to want of communication.—Their amelioration and firmness concurrent with improvement of roads.—Turpin in Epping Forest.—Enormous number of dangerous persons in the Tudor period.—Cruel severity of the laws.—Multitudes executed.—Slavery established by law.—Mr. Carlyle a plagiarist : his plan for suppressing pauperism.—Spirit of the legislature exterminating, not reforming, or preventing.—Tremendous character of the ancient Penal Code.—Blackstone's observation.—Vindictive spirit of the executive.—Montesquieu's observations on crimes and punishments.—Facilities of transit and transmission	83
---	----

CHAPTER VIII.

	PAGE.
Uses of this retrospect.—Recapitulation.—Changes effected by intercourse.—Reasons for confining our historical observations to England.—The topics that are now to occupy us.—Expansion of view required to embrace the agencies in operation.—Universality of the adaptation, and unlimited power of steam; on land; on the ocean.—Approximation of lands.—Progress of steam as an agent of transport.—The new means of transmitting intelligence require a corresponding extension of our speculations.—Character of the electric telegraph as a medium of thought: its progress in uniting different countries: anticipation of what it will enable man to perform: its probable uses when universally adopted.—The grand secret of human liberty and progress.—The social tendencies: their origin and power.—Past history not that of mankind: the future will be.—Mankind not to be judged of from parties, and combinations.—Operation of the gregarious principle more permanent than that of separating causes: its objects and benefits	97

CHAPTER IX.

Educational influence of intercourse.—Nature of mental training.—Development of the mind.—Mediate and immediate knowledge.—Their character and influence.—Interpretation of words.—Causes of their significancy.—Influence of local seclusion upon the comprehension of language.—Teaching by objects.—Pestalozzi's system.—Importance of immediate knowledge.—Words only recall past impressions.—Immediate acquisitions prepare the mind to profit by literature and oral discourse: supply it with tests of truth.—Important effects of intercourse in furnishing the mind with such acquisitions.—Manner in which
