

**STUDIES IN MODERN
SOCIALISM AND
LABOR PROBLEMS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649290857

Studies in modern socialism and labor problems by T. Edwin Brown

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T. EDWIN BROWN

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BY
T. EDWIN BROWN, D. D.

NEW YORK
D. APPLETON AND COMPANY
1, 3, AND 5 BOND STREET
1886

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TO

GEORGE W. SAMSON, D. D., LL. D.,
EX-PRESIDENT OF COLUMBIAN UNIVERSITY,

AND

MARTIN B. ANDERSON, LL. D.,
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER.

THE ONE, MY PASTOR AND COLLEGE TEACHER, TAUGHT ME THE PRINCIPLES OF
RELIGION AND MORALITY; THE OTHER, A LOYAL PARISHIONER FOR
TWELVE YEARS, ALWAYS GIVING MORE THAN HE RECEIVED,
INTERESTED ME IN ECONOMIC STUDIES, AND INCITED
ME TO THE MORE FAITHFUL DISCHARGE OF
THE ETHICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE
CHRISTIAN TEACHER.

This Work,

THE FRUIT OF SEED WHICH THE ONE PLANTED AND THE OTHER
HELPED TO MATURE,

IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED TO BOTH,

AS A TOKEN

OF MY GRATEFUL FRIENDSHIP.

P R E F A C E.

FOR years I have had a deepening conviction that true economic principle and right economic action were intimately related to Christian morality. As a result of this conviction, I ventured a series of addresses on social questions before audiences of business men and workmen. Through the courtesy of the "Providence Daily Journal" and the "Providence Evening Telegram," which published in full, and of the "Providence Daily Star" and the "Boston Herald," which published copious extracts, these addresses were widely circulated. At the suggestion of many readers, of various classes, and from various sections of the country, the substance of the discussions is embodied in the present volume.

As I have always written for ears, rather than for eyes, I ask of my reader the privilege of talking with him in the following chapters. Such a familiar method will be, at least, easier for me—perhaps not without added interest for him.

My thanks are tendered to United States Senator Nelson W. Aldrich, for the use of his valuable economic library; to Colonel Carroll D. Wright, for suggestions

and for public documents; to Professor Richard T. Ely, for special service in the work of final revision; and to the many friends who, in various ways, have co-operated in the task now ended.

FIRST BAPTIST PARSONAGE,
PROVIDENCE, R. I., *May, 1886.*

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STUDIES IN MODERN SOCIALISM.

CHAPTER I.

IS THERE A SOCIAL PROBLEM? WHAT HAS CHRISTIANITY TO DO WITH IT?

"And again, they—the preachers—must not allow the Gospel to be handled, what is too often the case, as a mere message of hope and comfort in view of a future world; but they must make it walk directly into the complex relations of modern society. . . . If, in addition to this, our prophets of the pulpit take care to keep abreast of the intellectual movement of the age, so as not only to stir the world in sermons, but to guide them in the wisdom of daily life, they have nothing to fear from all the windy artillery that the speculations of a soulless physical science, the imaginations of a dreamy socialism, or the dogmatism of a cold philosophical formalism, can bring to bear upon them. Let them grapple bravely with all social problems, and prove whether Christianity, which has done so much to purify the motives of individuals, may not be able also to put a more effective steam into the machinery of society."—*John Stuart Blackie*.*

"Is there a social question?" some one once asked the Frenchman Gambetta. "No," answered the statesman, strangely blinded to the facts. "No, there is no social question." Few men who think will accept Gambetta's blunt negative. There is a social question. There has always been one since the human race outgrew the limits of its first family. And to-day that question is of burning and ominous importance. On the 23d of May, 1857, Lord Macaulay addressed a letter to an American friend, in which he writes: "The day will come when in the State of New York a multitude of people, not one half of whom has had more than half a breakfast or expects to have more than half a dinner, will choose a Legislature. Is it possible to doubt what sort of a Legislature will

* "What Does History Teach?" Harper's Handy Series, New York, 1886. Pp. 118, 119.