THE DILEMMAS OF LABOUR AND EDUCATION

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BY

AKIN KÁROLY

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INTRODUCTION.

PROBLEMS of government are the most arduous of any the human mind has to deal and human agency has to cope with. In such, we have to consider Man, as a mere physical creature already hard to understand, in his more complicated aspects and relations, as a moral being, the product of time, customs, laws, and traditions. Those who cultivate the so-called exact sciences are fully aware how difficult it is to ascertain by observation all the more important elements that enter into any physical phenomenon; while those who have penetrated into the higher regions of mathematics are cognizant how clumsy algebra, and even the more refined calculus, proves itself whenever it has to deal with the combined influence of more than a very limited number of shifting elements. Mathe-

maticians then must stop short at what are called approximate solutions, that of necessity involve error; the which, as experience has so frequently shown, will practically crop out in the most unexpected quarters. Now, if mathematics, that wonderful instrument which facilitates the work of the mind in similar fashion as machinery favours the labour of the hand,—and that notwithstanding its prodigious modern progress,—is yet so helpless and imperfect, what can we expect of mere ordinary reasoning in vague or ill-defined words, and in loose, contradictory, or meaningless phrases? If the steam-hammer will not break a very hard nut, shall we expect to crush it with our fingers? if dynamite will not remove some gigantic rock, shall we undertake to heave it up with our shoulders?

Nevertheless, we need not wonder that political as well as more strictly social or economic questions are the talk of everybody, and that nearly every person thinks himself entitled to hold and give opinions on such. The problems and phenomena concerning