# POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY, SOME THOUGHTS ON DEMOCRATIC REFORM

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Popular Sovereignty, Some Thoughts on Democratic Reform by Charles Anthony

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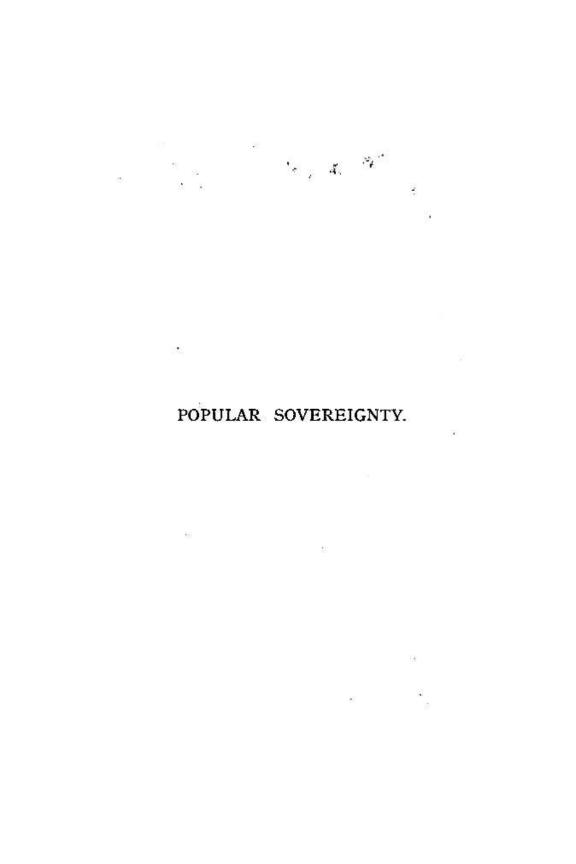
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## CHARLES ANTHONY

# POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY, SOME THOUGHTS ON DEMOCRATIC REFORM





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# POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY:

## BEING SOME THOUGHTS ON DEMOCRATIC REFORM.

### BY CHARLES ANTHONY JUN.

AUTHOR OF

"THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PRPERDURES OF WOMEN," MTC.



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## CONTENTS.

CHAPTER I,		
		PAGE
THE PRINCIPLE OF LIBERALISM	00	. 1
CHAPTER II.		
PARLIAMENTARY DEADLOCKS	- 13	. 16
CHAPTER III.		
CAN PARLIAMENT BE RELIEVED?	20	- 36
CHAPTER IV.		
LOCAL LEGISLATION,	. 39	. 54
CHAPTER V.		
LIMITS OF PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT.	*	. 73
CHAPTER VI.		
THE ELECTORAL WEAKNESS OF LIBERALISM .		. 90
CHAPTER VII,		
LIBERAL FOREIGN POLICY	38	. 109

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vi

			_		-00			
	СН	AP	TER	VI	II.			
								PAGE
LAND REFORM.	$\mathcal{C}$	7.	8	83	S .	8 ¥		. 128
	C	HAI	PTE	R I	₹.			
FREE TRADE IN I	AND	70	Ø	•			•8	. 139
	c	HA.	PTE	RX				
THE DIVISION OF	Pro	ITS	IN .	Agri	CULT	VRE .	*	. 156
	CI	HAI	PTE	RХ	I.			
FREE TRADE IN I	ABOU	k	*61	×	::	393	196	. 168
	CI	IAP	TER	k XI	II.			
FREE EDUCATION	•	*	*	12	83	3 5		. 181
	CH	IAP	TER	X	II,			
THE BURDEN OF	[AXA]	LION		٠			100	. 194

### POPULAR SOVEREIGNTY.

#### CHAPTER I.

#### THE PRINCIPLE OF LIBERALISM.

THE MAIN PRINCIPLE which will be found to underlie the propositions and arguments of these political and social chapters, the leading motive to which they must owe whatever consistency they may lay claim to, is this-that for all the evils to which the State or the community is subject, the fit and sufficient remedies are to be secured by a recourse to the final authority of the people. In other words, the source of power, the object of government, the sanction of law, the remedy of all evils to which the body politic is subject, reside in the community of individuals by whom the State is made up. Does the statute law require amendment?-it must be done in the interest of the bulk of the nation, for their special behoof, if not at their special solicitation. Is an entirely new law proposed in Parliament?-it must be for the purpose of increasing the popular welfare, not for the exclusive benefit of a class. Is the public mind disturbed, or the public peace threatened, or the prosperity of the country jeopardised?—the root of the disorder is to be sought in some abuse or injustice or hardship which has weighed upon the people, and which must be removed as soon as it is discovered, in order that the whole body politic may not suffer.

We have tried other measures in England, and have found them all more or less mischievous; though the history of this country will show that the idea of the commonwealth, and the rights and privileges of individual Englishmen, have never been lost sight of altogether. We have legislated for a class, or for the sovereign, at least as often as we have legislated for the people, and when the public mind has been agitated, and the masses have vehemently protested against a tyranny or an injustice, we have frequently turned upon them with sword and bayonet and musket, actually aggravating the evils which it was the alleged intention to cure.

England has had more than enough of these barbarous and empirical methods of treatment, and expects now to see the pure science of self-government applied by the political medicine-men who take her in hand. She has had (let us believe) her last Peterloo in the provinces, her last turn-out of the