

The Reverend Augustus Applegath response to:
A letter on Chartism Addressed to the Workers in the Environs of Dartford

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1. Not fair to call Chartism seditious
2. Extension of political rights, something more than a "pretense." Chartist Assembly held Tuesday, May the 2nd 1848 - stated their

Social Grievances

1. The land monopoly
2. Pauperism
3. Crime
4. The Remedy

Great Political Grievances

1. The restricted franchise
2. Oppressive and unequal taxation
3. Army and Navy
4. Judicial civil and pension lists
5. The national debt
6. Re.(peal) of the union

Industrial questions

1. Labour in capital, their relative position
2. Machinery, its effects

Commercial questions

1. Free trade
2. The currency question
3. National education. State church, criminal code. Free press

Notes by Rev. A. Applegath

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1. The government's "anxious wish and endeavour" are shown after a curious manner. What has it done for Ireland?
2. Influence of such people never will be destroyed till complete and even handed justice is done to Ireland.

A picture of the Church in Ireland, as by law established
Taken from report of Ecclesiastical Commissioners made in 1833

Armagh	87,809
Tuam	39,531
Dublin	23,926
Elphin	29,255
Down	30,966
Derry	39,621

1/10 of the entire soil of the kingdom

Lord Melbourne in 1835 says 1250 benefices in Ireland made up of union of parishes - sometimes. 3, 4, or 5: or 8 or 9 parishes

Parishes	Protestants	Income per Annum
9 75	lessin each than 50	170,000
155	= no flock! not one	12,000
173	not 10	19,000
406	seldom 15 never 50	56,000

Never mind, as the author of the "Fudge family" finds, "Popish Paddy pays for all."

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1. Most unfair to say repealers are forcing Ireland into a state of rebellion. Why may they not seek to repeal a fake union which the people never consented to, which man brought about by the most prolific and disgraceful means, and which produces the worst effects?
2. To save Ireland! Why not save her from her land tyrants and do what Ireland wishes.

The visitation of the destroying angel in Egypt, milder than that of the Landlord as permitted by law.

e.g. Strokestown with 605 families, 3006 individuals, if 204 souls go to a square mile then 15 miles of a country were cleared by one man, Major Mahon.*

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1. Chartism does not object to members with property, but does not consider as now that property is essential. A careful study of the present taxation system will show clearly that property. Gentlemen of Parliament have looked very carefully after the interests of land. In my opinion, every profession and trade ought to be represented, then all classes might be treated fairly!

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1. Cannot see the argument here. If no man in Dartford is fit for a legislator, so no man is fit elsewhere ergo no legislator. "Equal electoral divisions" one of the points of the Charter, very necessary for it is utterly unfair for a small place to return one or two members and a large place to do no more. Then "3,462" voters with their 2 members have the same influence as "302,519" - I am ready to change this unnatural state of things.

			electors
Harwich	2 members	pop. 3,227:	181
Frinsbury	2 members	pop. 265,000:	12,900
Thetford	-	pop. 3,014	160
Maryleborne	-	pop. 287,000	11,600
Chippenham	2 members	pop. 6,600	265
Manchester	2 members	pop. 24,900	12,000
Liverpool	2 members	pop. 262,000	15,000

82 Harwich to make one Liverpool

*(Major Denis Mahon was an infamous Anglo Irish landowner who drove so many families off of his estate at Strokestown, County Roscommon that he was murdered by his own tenants on 2nd November, 1847.)

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The small boroughs under aristocratic influence neutralize the effects of the large and popular constituencies.

4 English counties with 69,000 send 64 members while all Scotland with four times that population send only 53.

Statutes passed under Edward II, Henry III, Edward III and others declare "that the **H. of C (House of Commons)** should be chosen by the uncontrolled will of the people, that every male of full age had the right to exercise the franchise; in that the laws of the country derived their only force from being enacted by a Parliament chosen by the general voice of the people."

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1. And what reason can be given why a man should not be a member even without property qualifications? "No property qualification," another point I vote for on these grounds: That then the "interests" and the "grievances" of the people would be better known and attended to. Now we see that the majority of Parliament does not know even what is good for the middle class - bankers, merchants, manufacturers: and as for the people, little is done. If as much were spent on education as is spent on prisons, trials, exportation - I know all would be improved.

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1. The "injustice" now consists of the smaller class (the law makers) making most particular care of themselves. I want justice for all - and the people have it not now. Is it not a "partial law" to make one pay £10 out of every hundred hardly earned - and let another enjoy a £100,000 in land without any tax?
2. Mr. Cobden has shown that the poor man is thus taxed for things necessary or of semi-necessity
Out of £1 spent in tea he pays 10 /- (/ - and s =shillings)

	s		s
tea	20	duty	10
soap	20	duty	6
sugar	20	duty	5
tobacco	20	duty	10
beer	20	duty	4
spirits	20	duty	14
coffee	20	duty	8

Till Charles the 2nd all taxation was direct - now no one knows at all what he pays.

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Extension of franchise: uncertain and small in its amount of good.

Sir Joshua Walmsley* to the inhabitants of Leicester, his constituents: "*On all hands, it is admitted that the influence of the aristocracy in the Lower House is unconstitutionally great.*" To enlarge the suffrage, therefore appears to me the basis upon which all future measures of political amelioration must rest. He mentions advantages to follow, "The reduction of the expenditure by many millions starting annually; the annihilation of class privileges; the equilisation of taxation and the application of state property to strictly state purposes would be the result of a **H. of C. (House of Commons)** becoming the faithful reflex of the popular mind.

*(**Sir Joshua Walmsley** (1794–1871) was an English businessman and Liberal Party politician in both Liverpool and Leicester. He was a leading member of Richard Cobden's Anti Corn Law League and a campaigner for electoral reform)

In 1847 elections for G.B. and Ireland were 1,062,000 out of whom 165,000 returned 329 members, a majority of the whole house.

3,500,000 inhabited houses in G.B. Household suffrage add to the present constituency for G.B.
2,500,000.

Universal suffrage would add ?

For 1841, 4,700,000 males in G.B. above 20 years of age.

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1. Making laws for the property of others - the very question/point upon which all the arguments rest: If you say to the Chartist, "you shall not interfere with the free men who make laws for you" - may not he answer - "you shall not interfere with me and make laws for me without my having any hand in the matter."
2. Chartism does not profess to interfere with property. They make no man's rights. They want labour (which is the source of wealth) to be properly represented, which it is not, which it is utterly impossible that it should be, under the present state of things.

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1. I have read- that this Parliament has passed 120 laws against bribery! The ballot would secure the independence of the voter.
2. Shortening the duration of Parliament would increase the responsibility of the representative. The expense and other questionable practices would undoubtedly be lessened and a member that was agreeable to his constituents would be very likely to be re-elected.