

SOCIAL STATICS;

OR,

THE CONDITIONS ESSENTIAL TO
HUMAN HAPPINESS

SPECIFIED,

AND THE FIRST OF THEM DEVELOPED,

BY

HERBERT SPENCER,

AUTHOR OF "FIRST PRINCIPLES," "PRINCIPLES OF BIOLOGY," "PRINCIPLES OF
PSYCHOLOGY," "ESSAYS, FIRST AND SECOND SERIES," "EDUCATION," ETC.

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NOTICE.

The original English edition of SOCIAL STATICS has been some time out of print. As there has since continued to be a small demand for the work, but a demand not great enough to repay the cost of printing a second English edition, the Author has thought it best to meet the requirement by importing a supply of the American reprint. This is not, therefore, a new edition in the proper sense of the term. It differs from the original English edition only in its size, the headings to its pages, and in having an index. The "Preface to the American Edition" should be read; as it contains certain disclaimers which equally apply to this English re-issue.

January, 1868.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

TO THE AMERICAN EDITION.

THE author desires it to be understood that the reprint of *Social Statics*, herewith issued to the American public, must not be taken as a literal expression of his present views. During the fourteen years that have elapsed since the original publication of the work, the general theory which it enunciates has undergone, in his mind, considerable further development and some accompanying modifications. So that, though he adheres to the leading principles set forth in the following pages, he is not prepared to abide by all the detailed applications of them.

The bases of Morality laid down in Part I., and in the preliminary chapters of Part II., must be regarded as but adumbrations of what he holds to be the true bases. Though in the main correct as far as they go, they are incompletely worked out, and form but a moiety of the groundwork on which a scientific system of Ethics must rest.

The deductions included in Part II. may be taken as representing, in great measure, those which the author would still draw ; but had he now to express them, he would express some of them differently. Especially in the chapters on " The Rights of Women," and on " The Rights of Children," he would make qualifications which, while they left the arguments much as they are, would alter somewhat their logical aspects.

Similarly of the deductions which make up Part III. The doctrines there enunciated respecting Political Rights, State Functions, and the Limitations of State Functions, are such as, in their general characters, the author continues to hold. But in re-stating them he would bring into greater prominence the transitional nature of all political institutions, and the consequent *relative* goodness of some arrangements which have no claims to *absolute* goodness.

If it be asked why the author does not so re-model the work as to make it accurately represent his present opinions, the reply is that he could not do this satisfactorily without an amount of labor that would require him to suspend the issue of the *System of Philosophy* on which he is now engaged. When, however, he comes to the closing volumes of this System, should he ever get so far, he proposes to set forth in them the developed conclusions of which *Social Statics* must be regarded as a rough sketch.

LONDON, Nov. 16, 1864.

P R E F A C E.

BEING somewhat at variance with precedent, the tone and mode of treatment occasionally adopted in the following pages will, perhaps, provoke criticism. Whether, in thus innovating upon established usage, the writer has acted judiciously or otherwise, the event must determine. He has not, however, transgressed without adequate motive; having done so under the belief that, as it is the purpose of a book to influence conduct, the best way of writing a book must be the way best fitted to effect this purpose.

Should exception be taken to the manifestations of feeling now and then met with, as out of place in a treatise having so scientific a title; it is replied that, in their present phase of progress, men are but little swayed by purely intellectual considerations—that to be operative, these must be enforced by direct or implied appeals to the sentiments—and that, provided such appeals are not *in place of*, but merely *supplementary to*, the deductions of logic, no well-grounded objection can be made to them. The reader will find that the several conclusions