

Original Complaint from Mr O'Brien to Home Secretary

HOME OFFICE
22 MAY 1909
RECEIVED

4 Quoit Green,
Bromfield,
Nr. Sheffield

183473 ~~183473~~ 16th May 09

To the R.E. Hon. Herbert Gladstone M.P.
Home Secretary to His Majesty's Govt.

My Dear Sir,

In the enclosed pamphlet you will find evidence that a man called Edward Carpenter, who lives only a few miles from here, is one of the leading spirits in a secret society of a political character composed of persons bound together by homosexual practices carried on amongst themselves.

I enclose a list of the man's openly circulated writings, &c

(2)

that you may be able to verify the quotations made from them in my pamphlet; & if you wish to see a copy of his privately-circulated advocacy of sexual inversion I shall be glad to send you one.

What I want to ask you before going any further is this plain question - Supposing that you have reasons ~~for~~ given for believing that this man is one of the leaders of a criminal & secret society bent upon destroying civilization, will it then be your duty to take action against him?

3

I am already spending between fifteen & twenty pounds of my own savings in printing & circulating pamphlets against the man. Nearly all the copies of these pamphlets are given away in order to get them into the hands of the public; for booksellers & newsagents dare not sell them. So that I am not doing this for material gain. I am doing it because I know that it is my duty before God & man to do it. Sexual inversion spells ruin for any country, & any man who advocates it & spreads the practice of it among the people of these islands is

(4)
doing infinitely more mischief
to human society than the
greatest criminal hung or
whung

In a letter which appeared
in the Sheffield Daily Telegraph
on or about April the 12th I
asked Edward Carpenter
whether he was willing to be
present when I read his
pamphlet called Homogeneity
Love before a public audience,
but he refused to face such
a test, as you may see if
you read the concluding
words of a letter of his
which appeared in the

(5)

same newspaper on the 17th
of April. Why did he refuse?
If he does not, ~~as I allege,~~
advocate sexual inversion
why should he be afraid of
a public test? And even if
he does advocate it he ought
surely to have the pluck
& the manliness to do what
other advocates even of bad
doctrines have often not
been afraid to do. For history
shows that there have been
times when the vilest doctrines
have been openly proclaimed.
If this infamy called "comrade
love" is such a glorious &
splendid thing; if it is such

(14)
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"a valuable social force"; if,
in cases, it is ^{such} an indispensable
factor in the production of the
noblest human character, if
it is a bond of political &
social union "of the most
lasting & passionate
compulsion"; if it is a
useful aid to "social & heroic
work", & if it has other
advantages both for individuals
& for the community at large
— as its advocate says that
it has — why should it not
be openly & boldly proclaimed
to the whole world? Why
should it be sent through
the country in private?

(17)

circulated pamphlets? Why should the "comrades" thus be able to selfishly keep all its inestimable blessings to themselves? If its advocate possesses, "to a very large degree", the spirit of Christ, as he was said the other day by an admirer who wrote in the before-mentioned newspaper to possess, why should he be afraid of openly preaching it, as Christ is said to have openly preached his doctrines? Christ, so we are told, lived a life of suffering & died a death of agony for the sake of his principles. Surely

(8)

this great Socialist Prophet of
Candwell Valley may at least
be expected to face the ordeal
of a public audience for the
sake of his. One correspondent,
whose letter appeared in the
Sheffield Daily Telegraph on
April the 22nd, suggested
that he should Homogenize
Love "to a gathering of educated
Sheffield gentlemen - say
doctors & head schoolmasters
- so that they might hear it
read & discuss its character,"
but he has not yet accepted
that proposal. In fact, his
whole action in the matter
has up to the present been
that of a shirking, ~~shirking~~

(9)

skulking coward, & not of
a man at all. He began his
defence against my attack with
a falsehood which he had
to retract at a later period. In
a letter which appeared in the
Sheffield Daily Telegraph on the
6th of April he said — "I
make no secret of my writings.
In fact it would be senseless
for an author to do that; &
Mr. O'Brien's suggestion that he
has unearthed things that I have
endeavoured to conceal is absurd
on the face of it" But in his
letter which appeared in the same
newspaper on April the 17th, he
said in reference to Homogenic Love —
"Only a few copies were printed &
those privately, for the simple

(10)

reason that the pamphlet was not intended for general circulation, but only in order to be sent to a few scientific friends, for the purpose of comparing notes & obtaining more information on a subject than new to me."

I know of three persons in Holmesfield who have read this vile production. Not one of them is a scientific man. I know of four who have read it in Sheffield. Not one is a man of science. In a note at the beginning of it we are told that the pamphlet is one of a series on sex questions, but that it is thought best at present

(11)

to print it for private circulation only. Instead of defunding his pamphlet & the vile teaching in it, the Socialist Prophet has written a pack of lies about it. He has taken refuge in falsehood, but it will not avail him. The Power fighting against him will never fail & never rest until it has mated out unto such an infernal monster the punishment which he has long so justly deserved. Some of the readers of my pamphlet have said that it is too severe upon him. Is it possible to be too severe upon

infamy such as his? a friend of his told me that he should have left the matter alone. I asked that friend if he would have acted in that way if a son of his own had been poisoned & morally ruined by the teaching of this Prophet. When the thing is brought home to them in this way the apologists for Sodom & Gomorrah are silenced. It is the young & inexperienced who are made victims of this iniquity. From "embrace & endearment" between persons of the same sex they are led ~~on~~ on through the different stages of it until they reach the last. In our widening circles

(14)
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it spreads in secrecy &
darkness through a community
until at last a time comes
when society is full of it.
"This vice," says Voltaire, "was
so common at Rome, that it
was impossible to punish
a crime which almost
everyone committed. Octavius
Augustus, that murderer,
debauchee, & coward, who
exiled Ovid, thought it right
in Virgil to sing the charms
of Aeneas. Horace, his other
political favourite, constructed
small odes on Ligurinus;
& this same Horace, who
praised Augustus for reforming
manners, speaks in his satires

(14)

in much the same way of both boys & girls. Yet the ancient law "Santinia", which forbade pederasty, always existed, & was put in force by the emperor Philip, who drove away from Rome the boys who made a profession of it. If, however, Rome had witty & licentious students, like Petronius, it had also such preceptors as Quintilian; & attend to the precautions he lays down in his chapter of "The Preceptor", in order to preserve the purity of early youth.

"Cavendum non solum crimine turpitudinis, sed etiam suspicione." We must not only

was not believe

15

beware of a shameful crime, but
even of the suspicion of it." —
Philosophical Dictionary, Article
on "Socratic Love":

I am afraid that there are
few persons in this country to-
day who are as anxious to
preserve the purity of early
youth as Quintilian was.
Everywhere have I found
~~reluctance~~ to fear & reluctance
to handle this question.
People appear to think that evil
carried on beneath the surface
of society in a sly, crafty,
subtle, clever & quiet way is
not a thing that ought to
be exposed & fought
against? I do not believe

(16)
that your honoured & respected
father would have taken this
view. Whenever wrong was done
in any part of the world, &
he knew of it, his custom always
was to speak out against it,
& do all that lay in his
power to put it down. So
far as he knew his duty, he
did it to the best of his
ability like a man; & I
am firmly convinced that
if he had been at the head
of the British Government
to-day, & had known of the
existence of a vile political
society, whether large or
small, that aimed, by the
express acknowledgment of

(14)
one of its Prophets & leaders, at
the destruction of civilization,
he would have left no stone
unturned to rid this country
& the world of such a deadly
& destructive pest. He would
have thought of the young men
& the young women of to-day &
of the days to come, & in their
interest, & on their behalf, he
would have struck as hard
at their enemies as ever
old Ulysses ~~struck~~ struck when he
pitilessly slew the witches
who occupied his palace,
consumed his substance, &
sought to destroy his honour.

Of what use is it to spend millions in building dreadnoughts to defend ~~your~~ yourselves against foreign enemies when you allow a domestic cancer, whose heart is in the very centre of your island, to eat away the very foundations of national & imperial strength? Your greatest enemies are inside your own borders. And they are not your enemies only. They are the enemies of all mankind. In crushing them you will be doing a service not to your own country alone, but to every

only late assisting a country
country in the world. Sexual
invasion spells depopulation
whenever it spreads. Referring
to depopulation in his own
country, M. de Foville has
recently asked — "Is it the
beginning of the end?" "In
another twenty-five years," he
continues, "there will be two
Germans for every Frenchman,
without counting the sons of
the Fatherland scattered all
over the globe by emigration.
Thus France is marching
with quickened step to her
doom." If the present
downward movement
continues "France will soon
be ripe for invasion. It is the

(20)

only fate awaiting a country which is capable of supporting 80,000,000 inhabitants & is content with half that number." God is not mocked. The Omnipotent (whose truths about the disaster to which infamous conduct leads, for individuals & ^{for} nations alike, are laws forbidding such conduct) cannot be set at defiance with impunity. It is virtue alone which makes a nation or an empire strong. Sodom & Gomorrah may cover their seas with fleets & their shores with armies, but all these will avail them nothing in the day of trial.

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(21)
if the character of their people
is what it must become
if the teaching of this
infamous Socialist Prophet
makes headway among the
young men & young women
whose minds it is intended
to corrupt & whose lives
it is meant to blast
beyond all possibility of
reform. Dealing with the
cause of the fall of the
Roman Empire on page 287
of the issue of Macmillan's
Magazine for August 1869,
Professor Seely says that "the
Empire perished for lack
of men"; & every well-
informed student of history

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knows that although the destructive infamy which these advocates of sexual inversion have done to the skies did not actually annihilate the descendants of early Rome, yet that, along with other social evils, it did a great deal in this direction. It is to this state that the Socialist Prophet & his vile disciples are working & scheming & plotting & contriving in darkness & secrecy to reduce England & every other civilized country in the world; & for the evil which they are seeking to do the whole lot of them deserve

(23)
to be exterminated like
vermin off the face of
God's earth. Why cannot they
be content to keep their
abominable practices to
themselves? Why should they
endeavour to lead others into
the lost condition to which
they have themselves sunk?
Is there not enough natural
vice in the country? if, indeed,
any form of vice can ever be
natural. But to use the vice
of homosexuality as a sort
of social & political cement
holding persons together in
a band of so-called "comradship",
is surely, I should think, to
carry it to such a length
as to bring them within the
earnest

(20)
reach of the laws of any
civilized country. Is there any
right-minded father of a
family who would like this
kind of thing, or even the
sentiment of it — for the
sentiment is the root out of
which all its forms grow
— to be introduced either
openly or secretly among his
growing sons & daughters? Of
what avail is it for parents
to endeavour to instil into the
minds of their children lofty
& pure ideals of friendship,
such as those of Epictetus,
Marcus Aurelius, & similar
teachers — ideals which
have nothing of a physical
or carnal taint in them —

(9)
(25)

when all their efforts in this direction, when all their labours to do their duty as parents, are being sapped & undermined by these vile advocates of sexual inversion, not one of whom dare get upon a public platform & lay before a public audience the revolting & loathsome ideas which they set forth in their privately & openly circulated books & pamphlets? These men — for the Socialist Prophet is only one among the rest, only one of the diseased school to which he belongs — claim

(20)

that they have a gospel to preach & a practice to justify. Why do they not come out into the open to preach that gospel & justify that practice? Why do they not do what all the great teachers of the world have done? Are they afraid of unpopularity? Are they afraid of suffering? Do they dread the anger of an outraged public? — of a public which they have not yet sufficiently poisoned with their vile writings to make it safe for them to take a bolder course? The Socialist

Prophet says that he believes
that the Braman men, or, in
other words, the homosexual
men — for Braman is but
a timid substitute for the
plain English of Homosexual
— are superior to the normal
men in respect of their love
feeling, "which is gentler,
more sympathetic, more
considerate, more a matter of
heart & less one of mere
physical satisfaction than
that of ordinary men." (The
Intermediate Sex, page 128.)
Very well, then, if they are
such superior persons to
the rest of us, why cannot
they come out openly &

preach their superior gospel like other teachers have done? The extensive Appendix at the end of The Intermediate Sex contains the special pleadings of a number of homosexual writers on behalf of their erotic & shocking insanity. Why not give public audiences the benefit of these ~~any~~ arguments, just as such audiences are given the benefit of arguments for other practices that make for the good of individuals & for that of society at large?

(29)

The Intermediate Sex, which is certainly one of the most villainous productions that it has ever been my painful duty to read, contains a considerable portion of the privately-circulated pamphlet called Homogenic Love, but not by any means the whole of it; & the strongest passages, especially those which, by referring to physiology, most ~~clearly~~ unmistakably show the sexual character of the passion advocated, are not to be found anywhere in it. Evidently the Prophet thinks that by veiling his

meaning in this manner he
has succeeded in keeping
himself out of the clutches
of the law. He is a clever
& cunning instrument of hell
& destruction, & a worthy
~~representative~~ of the Father of
Lies, whom he serves. In
my humble judgment it
would be worse than folly
to allow him without
opposition to go on spreading
his vile corruption amongst
all classes until his
deluded disciples have
become numerous enough
to accomplish his own &
their insane purpose, or
at any rate to work an

(31)

immense amount of evil in the desperate attempt to accomplish it. For the band of criminals to which he belongs will, when they think they are able to do so, arise & attempt to sweep away ~~all~~ not only civilization, but also all those who desire it to remain & to go on improving until the end of time. They will do for the civilization of modern times did for that of Greece & Rome, which was ruined from within before it fell before the blows of external enemies. It is the duty, then, I think, of those among us who see this threatening

evil, to do all that lies in
our power to avert it, by
opposing with voice & pen,
as well as in every other
effective way, the infernal
funds who are working
so energetically to bring it
upon us or upon our
children. I feel absolutely
certain that this infamous
conspiracy against the
light & the right is
contrary to the spirit of
the laws of this land,
whether it is contrary to
the letter or not; & I am
strongly inclined to think
that if any man took
the trouble to make

(33)
researches into the matter
he would find that this
dialactical movement is
in conflict also with the
~~letter~~ letter of the Lawes.

Be this, however, as it may,
our duty is clear. Against
a movement of such a
character we ought to be
prepared to use every
possible weapon not
absolutely condemned by
conscience & reason. The
famous conspiracy of
Cataline, who conspired
with a gang of wretches as
dissolute & bankrupt as
himself to extirpate the
senate, plunder the treasury,

(30)
(34)
I set Rome on fire, was a
mere storm in a teacup in
comparison with that of
persons whose openly-
proclaimed object is to
sweep away civilization, &
make the vilest, lowest,
& most debasing practices
be openly tolerated ~~in~~
~~organized~~ in human society,
Cataline & his worthless
followers sought to set
a city on fire. Wretches
of the type of Whitman &
Carpenter seek to set the
minds & hearts of all
mankind on fire, not with
any fire that dies out
through lack of fuel,

(36)
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but with the fire of hell
itself, which burns
eternally in the ~~souls~~
souls of these fiends, &
with which they seek to
drag down to everlasting
perdition all the sons of
men. It is not one city
or one country; it is every
city & every country - nay,
it is the human race itself
which these conspirators
are seeking to destroy. In
being at war with
civilization they are at
war with humanity; for
civilization is the path
of humanity's progress

from darkness to light, &
on that path it cannot
go back without ~~moving~~
taking a course that
must ultimately end in
mental, moral, & physical
destruction.

If there is no action which
you can take in this matter
I shall be glad of your
advice as to the best method
of fighting against the poison
to which I have here drawn
your attention. I do not
see why persons who are
undermining the very
foundation of human society

should be allowed to have
 everything their own way
 simply because they work
 in secret instead of in the
 light of open publicity
 evil done in darkness is
 evil still. Its effect upon
 the rising generation is
 just the same as is that
 of the same evil done
 in a more open & straight-
 forward manner. I am
 circulating the enclosed
 pamphlet because I know
 of no other way in which
 I can fight against the
 deadly & destructive thing

with which it deals. If you³⁸
know of any organized
body in the country that
would be likely to take
up this question & do
anything to counterwork
the mischief now being
done by the Socialist Prophet
& his disciples, I shall be
very much obliged to you
for any information about
such a body. I have
called the attention of
the local police to the
fact that the Prophet
teaches sodomy, & they
know quite well that

The Final Page/Pages appear to be missing – and are not in the file