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978-1-108-00937-9 - An Essay on the History and Management of Literary,
Scientific, and Mechanics' Institutions

James Hole

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An Essay on the History and Management of Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institutions

In this Essay, first published in 1853, the Victorian social activist James Hole offers an impassioned defence of the one of the central products of early Victorian social reformism, the mechanics' institutes. Aimed at improving the education of working-class men, women and youths, the institutes offered basic literacy training as well as higher-level lectures on science, the arts, and industry. This volume, originally a prize-winning essay, outlines Hole's plan for improving the efficacy of the institutes, which he saw as failing in their mission of enlivening the minds of those whose primary labours were physical. The institutes 'have established the right of the people to culture', Hole writes, but they had yet, in his view, to instil it. An important work in the history of education, Hole's Essay provides revealing insights into social reformism and the complexities of class politics within the movement.

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*And Especially How Far They May Be
Developed and Combined so as to Promote the
Moral Well-Being and Industry of the Country*

JAMES HOLE



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AND ESPECIALLY

HOW FAR THEY MAY BE DEVELOPED AND COMBINED,

SO AS TO PROMOTE

THE MORAL WELL-BEING AND INDUSTRY OF

THE COUNTRY.

BY JAMES HOLE, ESQ.,

HONORARY SECRETARY OF THE YORKSHIRE UNION OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS.

"Nemo Labori Musas vetet."

PUBLISHED UNDER THE SANCTION OF THE SOCIETY OF ARTS.

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Train up thy children, England,
In the ways of righteousness, and feed them
With the bread of wholesome doctrine.
Where hast thou thy mines — but in their industry?
Thy bulwarks where — but in their breasts?

SOUTHEY.



L'éducation est l'avenir des peuples.

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THE Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, in their Prize List for the Session 1852–3, offered the Society's Medal and a Premium of £50 for the best Essay on the History and Management of Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institutions; and especially how far, and in what manner, they may be developed and combined, so as to promote the moral well-being and industry of the country. In consequence of this announcement a number of Essays were received; and, on the request of the judges to whom they were referred, the prize was awarded to the Essay with the motto "Nemo Labori Musas vetet," sent in by Mr. James Hole, of Leeds. It was a part of the conditions under which the prize was offered, that the successful candidate should publish his essay, under the sanction of the Society.

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