

hobby of it, and others foolishly delude themselves with the notion that it is their duty.

These observations apply to the old political parties only.

We of the Labour Party have nothing to excuse us but the pure-souled desire to leave the world better than we found it; though why we found it at all, or why we should be reluctant to leave it where and how it was, are questions to which nobody seems able to find convincing answers. I daresay it is all very different in less enlightened countries, where the chaste and purifying influence of a Labour Party is not yet a factor in public life. I hope some of these benighted peoples will read this book; it will 'put them wise' in case the epidemic reaches them some day.

I might go on making these discursive observations until I forgot all about my subject—like other great authors—but I must not palter with the verities.

Half a century ago the British Workman sat up and began to take notice. He has been rubbing his eyes and wondering where he is and what it is all about ever since. I have been trying to tell him, but he will not believe me.

He had just got Compulsory Education and a slice of Franchise—battered on one side only—and other desirable things, and he had not the remotest idea of what he could, or should do with any of them. There were only two political parties then, the Liberals and the Tories. They were both his friends and, in spite of his ingratitude, they