

The True Levellers Standard
Advanced
Or, The State of Community opened, and Presented to the Sons of Men.

The True Levellers Standard

ADVANCED:

OR,
The State of Community opened, and Presented to the
Sons of Men.

By

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John Taylor, &c.*

Beginning to Plant and Manure the Waste land upon
George-Hill, in the Parish of *Walton*, in the
County of *Surrey*.

Winstanley, Gerard

Ld



The City

LONDON,
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May 25, 1939

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Kress
Room



To all my fellow Creatures that shall view these ensuing Lines.

THIS God of this world blinding the eyes of the men of the world, have taken possession of them and their Lives, Rules and Reigns, and in a high measure opposeth the everlasting spirit, the King of Righteousness; both in them, and on the whole Creation, bending all its Wit and power to destroy this spirit, and the persons in whom it lives, rules and governs; making Lawes under specious pretences, yea and penalties too, that all Nations, Tongues, and Languages, shall fall down and worship this god, become subject, yea in slavery to it, and to the men in whom it dwells: But the god of this world is Pride and Covetousness, the rootes of all Evil, from whence flowes all the Wickedness that is added under the Sun, as Malice, Tyranny, Lording over, and despising their fellow Creatures, killing and destroying those that Will not, or cannot become subject to their Tyranny, to uphold their Lordly Power, Pride, and Covetousness.

I have had some Conversation with the Authour of this ensuing Declaration, and the Persons Subscribing, and by experience find them sweetly aided and guided by the everlasting spirit, the Prince of Peace, to walk in the paths of Righteousness, not daring to venture upon any acts of injustice, but endeavouring to do unto all, as they would have done to them, having Peace and Joy in themselves, knit together and united in one Spirit of Glory and Truth, Love to their fellow Creatures, Contentation with Food

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and Rayment, shewing much Humility and Meekness of Spirit; such as these shall be partakers of the Promise.

Blessed are the Meek, for they shall inherit the Earth.

Secondly, For this action of theirs, in labouring to Manure the Waste places of the Earth, it is an action full of Justice and Righteousness, full of Love and Charity to their fellow Creatures; nothing of the god of this world, Pride and Covetousness seen in it, no self-seeking, or glorying in the Flesh.

Vouchsafe to reade, or view over these ensuing Lines yee Powers of the Earth; Oh that Reason might sit upon the throne of your hearts as Judge; I am confident there is nothing written in anger or hatred to your persons, but in love to them as fellow Creatures; but against that which have bound up your own Spirits in slavery; if you could speak impartially, your own Consciences can bear me witness, and only bears sway in your forcing you to exercise Tyranny, scourging and trampling under foot your fellow Creatures, especially those whose eyes are opened and can clearly discover the great Devil, Tyranny, Pride, and Covetousness working to and fro upon your Spirits, and reigning in you, which will prove your own destruction: The Angels that kept not their first Estate, are reserved under Chains of darkness unto the Judgment of the great day.

The whole Creation are the Angels of the everlasting Spirit of Righteousness, they are all ministring spirits, speaking every Creature in its kind the Will of the Father. The Chariots of God are 20000 thousands of Angels, Psal. &c.

But yee the great ones of the Earth, the Powers of this world, yee are the Angels that kept not your first estate, and now remain under Chains of darkness: Your first Estate was Innocency and Equality with your fellow Creatures, but your Lordly power over them, both Persons and Consciences, your proud fleshly imaginations, lofty thoughts of your selves, are the fruits of darkness which you are kept under: The whole Creation groaneth and is in bondage, even until now, waiting for deliverance, and must wait till he that with-holdeth be taken away, that man of sin, that Antichrist which sits in the throne, in the hearts of the men of this world, the Powers of the Earth, above all that is called God.

I know you have high thoughts of your selves, think you know much, and see much, but the Light that is in you is Darknesse; and how great is that darknesse? They that live in the light of the Spirit can discover that to be the blacknesse of darknesse which you count light. And truly, a great Light, a bright Morning Star which will flourish and spread it self, shining in Darknesse, and darknesse shall not be able to comprehend it, though you Spurn never so much against it.

I expect nothing but opposition, mockings, deridings from Lord Esau the man of Flesh: I know it will be counted in the eye of Flesh, a foolish undertaking, an object of scorn and laughter; but in this is their Comfort and encouragement, That the power of Life and Light, the Spirit by whom they are commanded, will carry them on, strengthen and support them, rescuing them from the Jaw of the Lyon and Paw of the Bear; For great is the work which will shortly be done upon the Earth. Despise not Visions, Voyces and Revelations; examine the Scriptures, Prophecies are now fulfilling; be not like Josephs Brethren, speak not evil of things you know not: For whatsoever is of God will stand, do what you can, though you may crush it for a time, the time is neer expired it will spring up again and flourish like a green Bay tree: What is not of the Father will fall to the ground, though you bend all your wit, power and policy to keep it up; but of that will be no Resurrection. That the eternal Spirit may enlighten you, that Reason may dwell in you, and act accordingly, is the desire of your Loving Friend, and Fellow Creature,

April 20,
1649.

JOHN TAYLOR.



A Declaration to the Powers of England, and to all the Powers of the World, Shewing the Cause why the Common People of England have begun, and gives Consent to Digge up, Manure, and Sowe Corn upon George-Hill in Surrey; by those that have Subscribed, and thousands more that gives Consent.



IN the beginning of Time, the great Creator Reason, made the Earth to be a Common Treasury, to preserve Beasts, Birds, Fishes, and Man, the lord that was to govern this Creation; for Man had Domination given to him, over the Beasts, Birds, and Fishes; but not one word was spoken in the beginning, That one branch of mankind should rule over another.

And the Reason is this, Every single man, Male and Female, is a perfect Creature of himself; and the same Spirit that made the Globe, dwells in man to govern the Globe, so that the flesh of man being subject to Reason, his Maker, hath him to be his Teacher and Ruler within himself, therefore needs not run abroad after any Teacher and Ruler without him, for he needs not that any man should teach him, for the same Anoynting that ruled in the Son of man, teacheth him all things.

But since humane flesh (that king of Beasts) began to delight himself in the objects of the Creation, more then in the Spirit Reason and Righteousness, who manifesteth himself to be the indweller in the Five Sences, of Hearing, Seeing, Talking, Smelling, Feeling; then he fell into blindness of mind and weakness of heart, and runs abroad for a Teacher and Ruler: And so selfish imaginations taking possession of the Five Sences, and ruling as King in the room of Reason therein, and working with Cove-

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rounesse, did set up one man to teach and rule over another; and thereby the Spirit was killed, and man was brought into bondage, and became a greater Slave to such of his own kind, then the Beasts of the field were to him.

And hereupon, The Earth (which was made to be a Common Treasury of relief for all, both Beasts and Men) was hedged in to In-closures by the teachers and rulers, and the others were made Servants and Slaves: And that Earth that is within this Creation made a Common Store-house for all, is bought and sold, and kept in the hands of a few, whereby the great Creator is mightily dishonored, as if he were a respecter of persons, delighting in the comfortable Livelihood of some, and rejoycing in the miserable povertie and straits of others. From the beginning it was not so.

But this coming in of Bondage, is called *A-dam*, because this ruling and teaching power without, doth *dam* up the Spirit of Peace and Liberty; First within the heart, by filling it with slavish fears of others. Secondly without, by giving the bodies of one to be imprisoned, punished and oppressed by the outward power of another. And this evil was brought upon us through his own Covetousnesse, whereby he is blinded and made weak, and sees not the Law of Righteousnesse in his heart, which is the pure light of Reason, but looks abroad for it, and thereby the Creation is cast under bondage and curse, and the Creator is sleighted; First by the Teachers and Rulers that sets themselves down in the Spirits room, to teach and rule, where he himself is only King. Secondly by the other, that refuses the Spirit, to be taught and governed by fellow Creatures, and this was called Israels Sin, in casting off the Lord, and chusing *Saul*, one like themselves to be their King, when as they had the same Spirit of Reason and government in themselves, as he had, if they were but subject. And Israels rejecting of outward teachers and rulers to embrace the Lord, and to be all taught and ruled by that righteous King, that *Jeremiah* Propheesied shall rule in the new Heavens and new Earth in the latter dayes, will be their Restoration from bondage, *Ier. 23. 5, 6.*

But for the present state of the old World that is running up like parchment in the fire, and wearing away, we see proud Imaginary

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ginary flesh, which is the wise Serpent, rises up in flesh and gets dominion in some to rule over others, and so forces one part of the Creation man, to be a slave to another; and thereby the Spirit is killed in both. The one looks upon himself as a teacher and ruler, and so is lifted up in pride over his fellow Creature: The other looks upon himself as imperfect, and so is dejected in his Spirit, and looks upon his fellow Creature of his own Image, as a Lord above him.

And thus *Esau*, the man of flesh, which is Covetousness and Pride, hath killed *Jacob*, the Spirit of meekness, and righteous government in the light of Reason, and rules over him: And so the Earth that was made a common Treasury for all to live comfortably upon, is become through mans unrighteous actions one over another, to be a place, wherein one torments another.

Now the great Creator, who is the Spirit Reason, suffered himself thus to be rejected, and troden under foot by the covetous proud flesh, for a certain time limited; therefore saith he, *The Seed out of whom the Creation did proceed, which is my Self, shall bruise this Serpents head, and restore my Creation again from this curse and bondage; and when I the King of Righteousness reigns in every man, I will be the blessing of the Earth, and the joy of all Nations.*

And since the coming in of the stoppage, or the *A-dam*, the Earth hath been inclosed and given to the Elder brother *Esau*, or man of flesh, and hath been bought and sold from one to another; and *Jacob*, or the younger brother, that is to succeed or come forth next, who is the universal spreading power of righteousness that gives liberty to the whole Creation, is made a servant.

And this Elder Son, or man of bondage, hath held the Earth in bondage to himself, not by a meek Law of Righteousness, But by subtle selfish Councils, and by open and violent force; for wherefore is it that there is such Wars and rumours of Wars in the Nations of the Earth? and wherefore are men so mad to destroy one another? But only to uphold Civil propriety of Honor, Dominion and Riches one over another, which is the curse the Creation groans under, waiting for deliverance.

But

But when once the Earth becomes a Common Treasury again, as it must, for all the Prophecies of Scriptures and Reason are Circled here in this Community, and mankind must have the Law of Righteousness once more writ in his heart, and all must be made of one heart, and one mind.

Then this Enmity in all Lands will cease, for none shall dare to seek a Dominion over others, neither shall any dare to kill another, nor desire more of the Earth than another; for he that will rule over, imprison, oppress, and kill his fellow Creatures, under what pretence soever, is a destroyer of the Creation, and an actor of the Curse, and walks contrary to the rule of righteousness: (*Do, as you would have others do to you; and love your Enemies, not in words, but in actions.*)

Therefore you powers of the Earth, or Lord *Esau*, the Elder brother, because you have appeared to rule the Creation, first take notice, That the power that sets you to work, is selfish Covetousness, and an aspiring Pride, to live in glory and ease over *Jacob*, the meek Spirit; that is, the Seed that lies hid, in & among the poor Common People, or younger Brother, out of whom the blessing of Deliverance is to rise and spring up to all Nations.

And Reason, the living king of righteousness, doth only look on, and lets thee alone, That whereas thou counts thy self an Angel of Light, thou shalt appear in the light of the Sun, to be a Devil, *A-dam*, and the Curse that the Creation groans under; and the time is now come for thy downfall, and *Jacob* must rise, who is the universal Spirit of love and righteousness, that fills, and will fill all the Earth.

Thou teaching and ruling power of flesh, thou hast had three periods of time, to vaunt thy self over thy Brother; the first was from the time of thy coming in, called *A-dam*, or a stoppage, till *Moses* came; and there thou that wast a self-lover in *Cain*, killed thy brother *Abel*, a plain-hearted man that loved righteousness: And thou by thy wisdom and beastly government, made the whole Earth to stinck, till *Noah* came, which was a time of the world, like the coming in of the watery Seed into the womb, towards the bringing forth of the man child.

And from *Noah* till *Moses* came, thou still hast ruled in vaunting, pride, and cruel oppression; *Ismael* against *Isaac*,

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Esau

Eſau againſt *Jacob* ; for thou haſt ſtill been the man of fleſh that hath ever perfecuted the man of righteouſneſſe , the Spirit Reaſon.

And Secondly, From *Mofes* till the *Son of Man* came, which was a time of the world, that the man child could not ſpeak like a man, but liſping, making ſigns to ſhew his meaning ; as we ſee many Creatures that cannot ſpeak do. For *Mofes* Law was a Language lapped up in Types, Sacrifices, Forms, and Cuſtoms, which was a weak time. And in this time likewiſe , O thou teaching and ruling power, thou waſt an oppreſſor ; for look into Scriptures and ſee if *Aaron* and the Priests were not the firſt that deceived the people ; and the Rulers, as Kings and Governors, were continually the Ocean-head, out of whoſe power, Burdens, Oppreſſions, and Poverty did flow out upon the Earth : and theſe two Powers ſtill hath been the Curſe, that hath led the Earth, mankind, into confuſion and death by their imaginary and ſelviſh teaching and ruling, and it could be no otherwiſe ; for while man looks upon himſelf, as an imperfect Creation, and ſeeks and runs abroad for a teacher and a ruler, he is all this time a ſtranger to the Spirit that is within himſelf.

But though the Earth hath been generally thus in darkneſſe, ſince the *A-dam* riſe up, and hath owned a Light, and a Law without them to walk by, yet ſome have been found as watchmen, in this night time of the world, that have been taught by the Spirit within them, and not by any fleſh without them, as *Abraham*, *Iſaac*, *Jacob*, and the Prophets : And theſe, and ſuch as theſe, have ſtill been the Butt, at whom, the powers of the Earth in all ages of the world, by their ſelviſh Laws, have ſhot their fury.

And then Thirdly from the time of the *Son of man*, which was a time that the man-child began to ſpeak like a child growing upward to manhood, till now, that the Spirit is riſing up in ſtrength. O thou teaching and ruling power of the earthy man, thou haſt been an oppreſſor, by imprisonment, impoveriſhing, and martyrdom ; and all thy power and wit, hath been to make Laws, and execute them againſt ſuch as ſtand for univerſal Liberty, which is the riſing up of *Jacob* ; as by thoſe ancient enſlaving Laws not yet blotted out, but held up as weapons againſt the man-child.

O thou

O thou Powers of *England*, though thou haſt promiſed to make this People a Free People, yet thou haſt ſo handled the matter, through thy ſelf-seeking humour, That thou haſt wrapped us up more in bondage, and oppreſſion lies heavier upon us ; not only bringing thy fellow Creatures, the Commoners, to a morſel of Bread, but by confounding all ſorts of people by thy Government, of doing and undoing.

First, Thou haſt made the people to take a Covenant and Oaths to endeavour a Reformation, and to bring in Liberty every man in his place ; and yet while a man is in purſuing of that Covenant, he is imprifoned and oppreſſed by thy Officers, Courts, and Juſtices, ſo called.

Thou haſt made Ordinances to caſt down Oppreſſing, Popiſh, Episcopall, Self-willed and Prerogative Laws ; yet we ſee, That Self-wil and Prerogative power, is the great ſtanding Law, that rules all in action, and others in words.

Thou haſt made many promiſes and proteſtations to make the Land a Free Nation : And yet at this very day, the ſame people, to whom thou haſt made ſuch Proteſtations of Liberty, are oppreſſed by thy Courts, Sizes, Seſſions, by thy Juſtices and Clerks of the Peace, ſo called, Bayliſſs, Committees, are imprifoned, and forced to ſpend that bread, that ſhould ſave their lives from Famine.

And all this, Becauſe they ſtand to maintain an univerſal Liberty and Freedom, which not only is our Birthright, which our Maker gave us, but which thou haſt promiſed to reſtore unto us, from under the former oppreſſing Powers that are gone before, and which likewiſe we have bought with our Money, in Taxes, Free-quarter, and Bloud-ſhed ; all which Sums thou haſt received at our hands, and yet thou haſt not given us our bargain.

O thou *A-dam*, thou *Eſau*, thou *Cain*, thou Hypocritical man of fleſh, when wilt thou ceaſe to kill thy yonger Brother ? Surely thou muſt not do this great Work of advancing the Creation out of Bondage ; for thou art loſt extremely, and drowned in the Sea of Covetouſneſſe, Pride, and hardneſſe of heart. *The bleſſing ſhall riſe out of the duſt which thou treadeſt under foot, Even the poor deſpiſed People, and they ſhall hold up*

Salvation to this Land, and to all Lands, and thou shalt be ashamed.

Our Bodies as yet are in thy hand, our Spirit waits in quiet and peace, upon our Father for Deliverance; and if he give our Bloud into thy hand, for thee to spill, know this, That he is our Almighty Captain: And if some of you will not dare to shed your bloud, to maintain Tyranny and Oppression upon the Creation, know this, That our Bloud and Life shall not be unwilling to be delivered up in meekness to maintain universal Liberty, that so the Curse on our part may be taken off the Creation.

And we shall not do this by force of Arms, we abhorre it, For that is the work of the *Midianites* to kill one another; But by obeying the Lord of Hosts, who hath Revealed himself in us, and to us, by labouring the Earth in righteousness together, to eate our bread with the sweat of our brows, neither giving hire, nor taking hire, but working together, and eating together, as one man, or as one house of Israel restored from Bondage; and so by the power of Reason, the Law of righteousness in us, we endeavour to lift up the Creation from that bondage of Civil Propriety, which it groans under.

We are made to hold forth this Declaration to you that are the Great Council, and to you the Great Army of the Land of *England*, that you may know what we would have, and what you are bound to give us by your Covenants and Promises; and that you may joyn with us in this Work, and so find Peace. Or else, if you do oppose us, we have peace in our Work, and in declaring this Report: And you shall be left without excuse.

The Work we are going about is this, To dig up *Georges-Hill* and the waste Ground thereabouts, and to Sow Corn, and to eat our bread together by the sweat of our brows.

And the First Reason is this, That we may work in righteousness, and lay the Foundation of making the Earth a Common Treasury for All, both Rich and Poor, That every one that is born in the Land, may be fed by the Earth his Mother that brought him forth, according to the Reason that rules in the Creation. Not Inclosing any part into any particular hand, but all as one man, working together, and feeding together as Sor-

of one Father, members of one Family; not one Lording over another, but all looking upon each other, as equals in the Creation; so that our Maker may be glorified in the work of his own hands, and that every one may see, he is no respecter of Persons, but equally loves his whole Creation, and hates nothing but the Serpent, which is Covetousness, branching forth into selfish Imagination, Pride, Envie, Hypocricie, Vncleanness; all seeking the ease and honor of flesh, and fighting against the Spirit Reason that made the Creation; for that is the Corruption, the Curse, the Devil, the Father of Lies; Death and Bondage that Serpent and Dragon that the Creation is to be delivered from.

And we are moved herunto for that Reason, and others which hath been shewed us, both by Vision, Voyce, and Revelation.

For it is shewed us, That so long as we, or any other, doth own the Earth to be the peculier Interest of Lords and Landlords, and not common to others as well as them, we own the Curse, and holds the Creation under bondage; and so long as we or any other doth own Landlords and Tennants, for one to call the Land his, or another to hire it of him, or for one to give hire, and for another to work for hire; this is to dishonour the work of Creation; as if the righteous Creator should have respect to persons, and therefore made the Earth for some, and not for all: And so long as we, or any other maintain this Civil Propriety, we consent still to hold the Creation down under that bondage it groans under, and so we should hinder the work of Restoration, and sin against Light, that is given into us, and so through the fear of the flesh man, lose our peace.

And that this Civil Propriety is the Curse, is manifest thus, Those that Buy and Sell Land, and are landlords, have got it either by Oppression, or Murther, or Theft; and all landlords lives in the breach of the Seventh and Eighth Commandments, *Thou shalt not steal, nor kill.*

First by their Oppression. They have by their subtle imaginary and covetous wit, got the plain-hearted poor, or yonger Brethren to work for them, for small wages, and by their work have got a great increase; for the poor by their labour lifts up Tyrants to rule over them; or else by their covetous wit, they have

have out-reached the plain-hearted in Buying and Selling, and thereby enriched themselves, but impoverished others: or else by their subtle wit, having been a lifter up into places of Trust, have enforced people to pay Money for a Publick use, but have divided much of it into their private purses; and so have got it by Oppression.

Then Secondly for Murther; They have by subtle wit and power, pretended to preserve a people in safety by the power of the Sword; and what by large Pay, much Free-quarter, and other Booties, which they call their own, they get much Monies, and with this they buy Land, and become landlords; and if once Landlords, then they rise to be Justices, Rulers, and State Governours, as experience shewes: But all this is but a bloody and subtle Thecvery, countenanced by a Law that Covetousness made; and is a breach of the Seventh Commandment, *Thou shalt not kill.*

And likewise Thirdly a breach of the Eighth Commandment, *Thou shalt not steal*; but these landlords have thus stoln the Earth from their fellow Creatures, that have an equal share with them, by the Law of Reason and Creation, as well as they.

And such as these rise up to be rich in the objects of the Earth; then by their plausible words of flattery to the plain-hearted people, whom they deceive, and that lies under confusion and blindness: They are lifted up to be Teachers, Rulers, and Law makers over them that lifted them up; as if the Earth were made peculiarly for them, and not for others weal: If you cast your eye a little backward, you shall see, That this outward Teaching and Ruling power, is the Babylonish yoke laid upon Israel of old, under *Nebuchadnezzar*; and so Successively from that time, the Conquering Enemy, have still laid these yokes upon Israel to keep *Jacob* down: And the last enslaving Conquest which the Enemy got over Israel, was the *Norman* over *England*; and from that time, Kings, Lords, Judges, Justices, Bayliffs, and the violent bitter people that are Free-holders, are and have been Successively. The *Norman* Bastard *William* himself, his Colonels, Captains, inferiour Officers, and Common Souldiers, who still are from that time to this day in pursuite of that victory, Imprisoning, Robbing, and killing the poor enslaved *English* Israelites.

And

And this appears cleer, For when any Trustee or State Officer is to be Chosen, The Free-holders or Landlords must be the Chusers, who are the *Norman* Common Souldiers, spread abroad in the Land; And who must be Chosen? but some very rich man, who is the Successor of the *Norman* Colonels or high Officers. And to what end have they been thus Chosen? but to Establish that *Norman* power the more forcibly over the enslaved *English*, and to beat them down again, when as they gather heart to seek for Liberty.

For what are all those Binding and Restraining Laws that have been made from one Age to another since that Conquest, and are still upheld by Force over the People? I say, What are they? but the Cords, Bands, Manacles, and Yokes that the enslaved *English*, like *Newgate* Prisoners, wears upon their hands and legs as they walk the streets; by which those *Norman* Oppressors, and these their Successors from Age to Age have enslaved the poor People by, killed their younger Brother, and would not suffer *Jacob* to arise.

O what mighty Delusion, do you, who are the powers of *England* live in! That while you pretend to throw down that *Norman* yoke, and *Babylonish* power, and have promised to make the groaning people of *England* a Free People; yet you still lift up that *Norman* yoke, and slavish Tyranny, and holds the People as much in bondage, as the *Bastard* Conquerour himself, and his Council of War.

Take notice, That *England* is not a Free People, till the Poor that have no Land, have a free allowance to dig and labour the Commons, and so live as Comfortably as the Landlords that live in their Inclosures. For the People have not laid out their Monies, and shed their Blood, that their Landlords, the *Norman* power, should still have its liberty and freedom to rule in Tyranny in his Lords, landlords, Judges, Justices, Bayliffs, and State Servants; but that the Oppressed might be set Free, Prison doors opened, and the Poor peoples hearts comforted by an universal Consent of making the Earth a Common Treasury, that they may live together as one House of Israel, united in brotherly love into one Spirit; and having a comfortable livelihood in the Community of one Earth their Mother.

If