

sible. Co-operation had at length passed out of the land of dreams and been translated into the region of solid fact. A new social and economic engine of the highest capacities had been invented. What had been effected once, might be effected again and again. There was no limit to the possible expansion of the system. For the Rochdale experiment had not been made under any highly exceptional advantages. It was the result of thrift, of mutual trust, of untiring energy, of straightforward purpose and persistent faith in an idea firmly grasped. These are everyday working qualities which we need not despair of finding elsewhere than in Rochdale. Toad-lane—there is a pleasant irony in the name—has become the Athens and the Mecca of co-operation.

A second link of association which connects me with this movement is, as I said, not personal but hereditary. Among the portraits of my predecessors, the Bishops of Durham, which line the walls of a room in Auckland Castle, is one which cannot fail to attract attention—a lordly and dignified but benevolent demeanour, a sagacious countenance, with the quick, penetrative eye. It is Shute Barrington, the last but one of the Prince Bishops, the Counts Palatine of Durham, who died at a very advanced age a little more than half a century ago, having held the see for thirty-five years. It was the fashion in those days to promote men of aristocratic birth to the principal sees; and Barrington, as the scion of a noble house, was appointed by the favour of the reigning sovereign to Durham. We should not naturally have looked to such a quarter as this for the initiation of a great economic reform. As a rule such experiments have been extorted by the pressure of necessity. But Barrington was endowed at once with large and generous sympathies and with a shrewd practical intelligence. In his educational and economic interests he seems to have been decidedly in advance of his age. His private accounts, which I have seen, and his public institutions, which all men can see, alike attest his zeal for education; and I was greatly interested, but not greatly