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RECENT EDUCATIONAL SPEECHES IN ENGLAND.

(Continued from the November number.)

I. THE RIGHT HON. LORD PALMERSTON, K.G.

From speeches delivered by Lord Palmerston at the inauguration of the New Mechanics' Institute and School of Science and Art in Leeds, October 25th, and also before the Leeds Ragged School Society, October 26th, we make the following extracts. It has been remarked as a singular illustrative coincidence of the social condition of Europe, that while the chief statesmen on the Continent of Europe are engaged either in discussing or promoting warlike movements in their own country, or among their neighbours, the Premier of the most powerful country in Europe, (whose enthusiastic volunteers now outnumber her standing army,) has been engaged in the discussion of questions, at a Mechanics' Institute, solely affecting the social advancement of the people. The fact itself, and the influential position occupied by Lord Palmerston in England as well as in Europe, are thus referred to in the *Revue de Deux Mondes* for this month—"the only publication in France" says the *Times*, "which pretends to anything like independence." The *Revue* says: "In the state of things before us the European power most worthy of being observed is England. When we speak of England, let us at once say that her actual policy is incarnate in one single man—in that extraordinary man who has just completed his 76th summer, in the lucky Lord Palmerston. * * * He is at the present moment—let us say the word, since it is the fashion—the real dictator of England. Singular that this new supremacy of

Lord Palmerston should be established in silence—no great fact, no remarkable resolve in foreign policy explains it; it is enveloped in the veil of mystery. Between the country parties and the statesman it is admitted as a sort of tacit fact. It looks like Freemasonry. Not a man in England, but says to himself—'That's the man,' and none but has understood the meaning of what binds the minister to the people, and the people to the minister. The English who talk so much about their own affairs and those of others, are wonderful sometimes for the silence they keep on matters they have much at heart. * * * This silence, which the suspended character of the situation commands, has been artfully maintained at Leeds by Lord Palmerston. Some words of general sympathy for Italy, in which no express mention was made of any fact or of any name; and that is all. We mistake, Lord Palmerston really talked politics at one of the meetings which he attended. The passage in the speech which has an interest for the present, passed unnoticed in the press of Europe." The *Revue* quotes Lord Palmerston's remarks on what Mr. Crossley said about his being more successful in politics than in weaving, and goes on: "Lord Palmerston said no more; but the few words he spoke set all the weavers laughing and applauding vehemently. This is what may be called speaking by signs; and this is a specimen of the cypher by means of which Lord Palmerston and the English nation correspond with each other."

MECHANICS' INSTITUTES AND THEIR FOUNDERS—LORD BROUGHAM.

After a few preliminary remarks, Lord Palmerston thus spoke of the useful career of Lord Brougham:—In addressing an audience upon the subject of mechanics' institutes it would be ungrateful and not becoming to forget those distinguished men who were the founders of this system of instruction—I mean Dr. Birbeck and Lord Brougham—names which are engraven in the grateful memories of all those—and numbers great there are—who, in different parts of the United Kingdom, have derived benefit from these institutions. I would speak more immediately of my noble friend Lord Brougham, whose life has been passed in rendering services to his fellow men—who was a zealous advocate of the abolition of the slave trade—who was the earnest champion of the abolition of slavery—who has been the ardent friend of civil and religious liberty all over the world, and who has done more than it has fallen to the lot of perhaps any other man to do, to promote the diffusion of knowledge among his fellow-countrymen throughout the empire. Lord Brougham has passed his life in acquiring knowledge, but