

EXTRACTS

FROM

THE JOURNAL

OF THE

UNITED SOCIETY

OF

COFFEE-HOUSE KEEPERS.

LONDON:

PRINTED, FOR THE USE OF THE SOCIETY,

By C. Conway, Lincolns-Inn-Street;

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EXTRACTS.

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A GENERAL MEETING being called and held at Mr. Carr's, the Bartholomew Coffee-House, West Smithfield, on Saturday, March 22, 1817, at Twelve o'Clock at noon, sixteen persons being present, Mr. John Whitaker was called to the Chair, when the following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

“ That the establishments of ready-prepared Tea and Coffee-Houses, for providing those beverages at breakfast-time for the working classes and the public in general, on an economical scale, are of the greatest public convenience, and of the first consequence to the comfort of the manufacturer, mechanic, and labourer.

“ That Mr. John Whitaker should wait on the Hon. H. G. Bennett, M. P., Chairman of the Police Committee of the Hon. the House of Commons, and lay before him the opinion of this Meeting.

“ That this Meeting do adjourn till again convened by the Chairman.”

On Monday, March 24, 1817, the Chairman had an interview with the Hon. H. G. Bennett, M. P., and submitted to him the Resolutions of the General Meeting of the twenty-second of March, as detailed in the following copies:—

“ That a Meeting of the Proprietors of the liquid Coffee-Houses had been held, to take into consideration and to endeavour to correct the many misrepresentations that have been and do continue to be made, threatening the very existence of these establishments.

“ That the establishment of Coffee (or general Breakfast) Houses, on a plan suited to the wants and means of the middle, the manufacturing, and the industrious classes of society in general, are productive of the greatest convenience, as thousands in this metropolis can testify.

“ That it appears the majority of the manufacturing and labouring classes being either single men, or persons whose occupation leads them to a distance from their homes, were often put to great inconvenience and loss of time previous to the establishment of Coffee-Houses, it being a well-known fact that few licensed Victuallers provide Breakfasts; while the Proprietors of Coffee-Rooms, devoting their attention entirely to this object, are enabled not only to afford those articles at a moderate price; but, throughout the day, to provide the refreshing beverages of Tea and Coffee in the most agreeable manner.

“ The comfort and tranquil accommodation of a Coffee-Room offer an evening asylum to those single young men, who, having no convenience at their respective lodgings, must either walk the streets after the hours of labour, or retire to the Ale-House, and, in many instances, against their inclinations, the evil of which this Meeting forbears to comment on.

“ That the Proprietors of these Establishments are surprised to hear objections raised against them, as their being the cause of a decrease in the

consumption of Spirits among the working classes; but, with respect to any injury the Revenue may be supposed to sustain in consequence of these Establishments, it is presumed that will not be considered as important when put in competition with the benefits these Houses, under good management, are capable of producing in the morals of the labouring classes.

“ That, independent of the different classes of mechanics that are benefitted by the Coffee-Room Establishments, they are of the greatest convenience to Gentlemen of the Army and Navy who are on half-pay; persons arriving in or leaving town by the Stages; Town Travellers, Clerks, Warehousemen, and persons seeking situations or businesses, who are provided with the most popular advertising Morning, Evening, and Sunday Newspapers, at a very small expense.

“ That the Meeting contemplate with great pain the misconception formed by many persons respecting these Establishments. Many unpleasant circumstances have certainly occurred; but they have happened in those Houses that are

shamefully opened for bad purposes, but having the appearance of Coffee-Rooms outside.

“ It has been stated that the Magistrates have no control over those ill-conducted Houses that are open at the most unreasonable hours; but the Report of an Examination at the Mansion-House, before the Right Hon. Matthew Wood, Lord Mayor, fully proves the power the Magistrates have over such Houses, his Lordship having removed from Bride-Lane a house represented as a Coffee-Room, but which appeared, on examination, to be merely a haunt for bad characters.

“ The persons composing this Meeting, as well as many others in this line of business, have expended considerable sums of money in fittings up, and other unavoidable expenses connected with and bringing these Establishments to perfection; and feel deeply alarmed at not seeing any line of distinction drawn between the Houses of real public utility, and those notoriously open for bad purposes.

“ That the Meeting are of opinion, that, with the exception of those Coffee-Rooms that are situated in or near Markets, there is no necessity

to open much before Six o'Clock in the morning, or to continue later than Ten at night; but Nine o'Clock appears the general time to close business.

“The Proprietors beg to suggest, that, where Coffee-Rooms improperly conducted exist, the nuisance might be removed by the interference of the respective parish officers.”

The Hon. Gentleman expressed himself satisfied with this information, and was pleased to declare, in the most decided manner, his full conviction of the great benefits resulting from the Coffee-Room Establishments, when conducted with regularity and decorum.

The Hon. Gentleman also stated that the Proprietors of respectable Coffee-Rooms had just grounds for alarm; and observed, that, if they would petition the Hon. the House of Commons, founding the Petition on the Statement delivered to him, he would present the same to the House; and concluded by observing, that no part of the Petition need be printed, and it should be no expense to the Petitioners.

In consequence of Mr. Bennett's recommendation, a General Meeting was held on Wednesday,

March 26, 1817, at the Surry Coffee-House, Union-Street, Borough of Southwark, to take into consideration the steps proposed, and the opinion given by the Hon. H. G. Bennett; when the Chairman submitted a Petition, which was unanimously agreed to, and signed by the persons present, amounting to twenty-one.

It was unanimously agreed, that the Chairman, and a Deputation of the Meeting, should immediately wait on as many of the Proprietors of Coffee-Houses known to be regularly conducted as the time would admit of, when the following persons volunteered their services:—Mr. Goodwin, Mr. C. Whitaker, Mr. Wathen, and Mr. Jacks; which Deputation procured sixteen signatures the same evening.

—◆—

To the Honourable the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned Coffee-House Keepers of the Cities of London, Westminster, and the Borough of Southwark,

Humbly sheweth,

“ That your Petitioners have every reason to believe that the establishments of Coffee or Breakfast

Houses, on a plan at once uniting comfort with economy, are particularly adapted to the convenience of mechanics and the labouring classes, and are productive of the greatest benefits, as hundreds in this metropolis can testify.

“ That your Petitioners beg leave to state to your Hon. House that the majority of the manufacturing classes are single men, or persons whose employments lead them to a distance from their homes; consequently the Establishments of your Petitioners are of very great importance to such persons.

“ That it is very evident to your Petitioners that the comfort and quiet of a Coffee-Room offer an evening asylum to many single young men after the hour of labour, and tend in a great measure to prevent the evils of bad company.

“ That your Petitioners trust that this is one of the many great benefits the Establishment of Coffee-Rooms, under good management, are capable of producing in the morals of the labouring classes.

“ That your Petitioners view with the most serious alarm the several observations that have been made by the Magistrates, and also what appears to have been given in evidence before the Com-

mittee of your Hon. House (appointed by your Hon. House to inquire into the state of the Police of this metropolis), wherein it is stated that Houses of the description of your Petitioners' are kept open during the whole of the night, and are of a most mischievous tendency, whereas your Petitioners close their Houses at an early hour in the evening.

“ That your Petitioners are aware that many unpleasant circumstances have occurred, which your Petitioners deeply deplore; but your Petitioners beg to state to your Hon. House that those circumstances have happened in consequence of improper persons keeping Houses similar in name, but of a very different description, to those of your Petitioners.

“ That your Petitioners have expended considerable sums of money in bringing these Establishments to perfection, and feel great pain at not seeing any distinction drawn between the respectable liquid Coffee Establishments and those that are open notoriously for bad purposes.

“ That your Petitioners humbly implore your Hon. House to afford them that continuance and pro-

tection of their Property that your Hon. House in its wisdom may see fit :

“ And your Petitioners will ever pray.”

The above Petition was signed by thirty-seven persons.

On Thursday, March 27, 1817, it was delivered to the Hon. H. G. Bennett, M. P., and by him presented, the same evening, to the Hon. the House of Commons, Mr. Bennett at the same time expressing his approbation of such Coffee Establishments*. The Petition was ordered to be brought up; and on a motion for its being read, which was carried in the affirmative, it was read accordingly by the Clerk, and then ordered to be referred to the Police Committee; Mr. Whitkaer being present, having received an order for that purpose from the Hon. Gentleman.

Mr. Bennett expressed a wish that the following persons should hold themselves in readiness to be examined before the Committee when called upon for that purpose:—Mr. John Whita-

* *Morning Herald*, March 28, 1817.

ker, Mr. John Perkins, Mr. Robert Chapman, and Mr. Charles Piper.

The Deputation being called to meet on Monday, March 31, 1817, at the Cossack Coffee-House, Snow-Hill, to receive the Report of Mr. Whitaker, on the fate of the Petition; the Report being favourable, it was deemed requisite to hold another Meeting the following day, and add to its number the names of the persons selected by Mr. Bennett to be examined.

On Tuesday, April 1, the Deputation met, and the Resolution of March 31st was carried into effect; and it was resolved that a General Meeting should be called on the third of April, and that the Chairman give the requisite notice.

At a General Meeting held at the House of Mr. Carr, West Smithfield, on Thursday, April 3, 1817, at Twelve at noon, to receive the Report concerning the Petition, and for general purposes, twenty-one Members being present, it was resolved—

“ That Mr. Francis Roberts be added to the Deputation, as Assistant or Deputy Chairman.

“ That a Subscription of Five Shillings be entered into, to defray the expenses already incurred, or

that may accrue in defending the Character and Interests of this Meeting.

“That the Subscriptions be paid to Mr. John Whitaker, to be applied to the above purpose.

“That this Meeting do adjourn till after the examination of its Members takes place before the Committee.”

On Wednesday, May 14, the following persons attended at the House of Commons, according to summons, when Mr. Whitaker having been called before the Police Committee, the Hon. H. G. Bennett, as Chairman, stated, that the business before the Committee that day would occupy much time; and, as he was desirous that the persons in attendance should not be kept waiting, the Committee appointed the following Friday; when the before-selected persons again attended, and were separately called in and examined as to the nature of the Coffee-Room Establishments—the description of the company using them—the accommodation—the prices charged—the hours of opening and closing—the effect and the general expressed opinion of them by the working classes.

The whole of the evidence was taken in short hand.

At the conclusion of their Examination the Deputation retired, and resolved that a General Meeting should be called to receive their Report of the above transactions.

At a General Meeting held at the House of Mr. Carr, on Tuesday, May 27, 1817, the following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

- “ That this Meeting do form itself into a Society, to be called *The United Society of Coffee-House Keepers*.
- “ That a Committee of Management be now appointed to watch over the interests of this Society during the time, and after the termination, of any proceedings or regulations that may be pending in Parliament.
- “ That a President, Deputy, and seven Members, do constitute the Committee.
- “ That a General Meeting be held Quarterly, to receive the Report of such Committee, and for purposes connected with the interests of the Society.
- “ That a Quarterly Contribution of Three Shillings be paid by each Member at the General Meeting.

- “ That all General Meetings be held at the House of Mr. Carr, Bartholomew Coffee-House, West Smithfield.
- “ That the hour of One o’Clock precisely be the time to call over the Names, and to proceed to business; and that all Members absent at such General Meeting, at the time the Names are called over, be fined One Shilling.
- “ That all Moneys, Contributions, and Fines, be paid into the hands of the Treasurer, to defray any expenses that may occur in defending and supporting the interests of this Society.
- “ That the Committee meet the last Tuesday in every month at Twelve at noon, at the House of Mr. Goodwin, the Cossack, Snow-Hill.
- “ That, should any particular circumstances occur that may materially affect this Society, the President do call a Meeting of the Committee, and lay such information before them as led to their being assembled.
- “ That, if judged necessary, an extraordinary General Meeting should then be called, to receive the Report of the Committee, and to consult accordingly.
- “ That all expenses of refreshments at the General

Meeting be paid out of the Stock, to an extent not exceeding One Shilling for each Member present at such Meeting.

- “ That Mr. John Whitaker do act as President and Treasurer.
- “ That Mr. Francis Roberts do act as Deputy.
- “ That the senior three of the Committee go out, and three others be elected, every Quarterly Meeting.
- “ That a President be elected by ballot every year.
- “ That the President remain on the Committee one Quarter after the expiration of the year.
- “ That any Member may propose to a general Meeting any person that now keeps, or may hereafter keep, a well-conducted House in the Tea and Coffee line, to become a Member of this Society, such person paying into the Stock the amount of the first six months' Subscription upon his character being approved of, and becoming a Member.
- “ That Books be provided, and the Accounts examined and detailed every Quarterly Meeting.
- “ That the above Resolutions, with the Petition to the House of Commons, be printed; and that each Member *only* have a copy.

- “ That, to bring the Quarterly Meetings to equal divisions of time, the Meetings for this year shall take place as follow :—First Meeting, Tuesday, July 29; Second Meeting, Tuesday, September 30; Third Meeting, Tuesday, December 30.
- “ That this Meeting are determined that no person shall be permitted to bring Spirituous Liquors into their Houses, or be accommodated with any vessel to procure the same.
- “ That this Meeting are of opinion that the greatest benefits are likely to result to this Society from the active manner in which Mr. John Whitaker has exerted himself in behalf of the interests of the persons embarked in Coffee Establishments; and, as a token of esteem, this Meeting agree and determine that a Silver Cup, value £10, be subscribed for and provided; and that this Society do dine together when the same shall be presented to him; and that the Committee be empowered to carry the same into effect.
- “ That these Resolutions and Regulations do form the Guide and Rule of this Society till the same be revoked at a General Meeting.”

FINIS.

AT A NUMEROUS MEETING OF PROPRIETORS
OF
ECONOMICAL COFFEE HOUSES,

Held on FRIDAY, May 11th, 1821,

At the Red Hart, Shoe Lane, Fleet Street,

MR. GODWIN IN THE CHAIR:

The following Resolutions were unanimously agreed to:—

1. That in a Bill now before the House of Commons, entitled "A Bill for the more effectual administration of justice in and near the Metropolis," &c. is a Clause "For the Regulation of COFFEE SHOPS," which Clause involves in one general character all the Houses known as **ECONOMICAL COFFEE HOUSES.**

2. That the establishment of Houses of this description, being accommodated to the wants and means of the middle and industrious Members of Society, is productive of substantial comfort and advantage to thousands of these useful classes in the Metropolis.

3. That previous to the establishment of these Houses, men engaged in Manufactories, who are mostly single, and persons whose occupations led them to a distance from their homes, were often exposed to great inconvenience and loss of time in getting breakfast and occasional refreshments; but that since the Proprietors of these Coffee Rooms have devoted their attention to the accommodation of these classes, they are enabled to obtain the refreshments of **TEA AND COFFEE** in the most easy manner, and at very moderate charges, at all times of the Day.

4. That this Meeting being fully aware of the pernicious tendency of *Night Coffee Shops*, is seriously concerned that no line of distinction has been drawn between the *Economical Coffee Houses of real and Public utility*, and those which have the same external appearance, but are notoriously open at unseasonable hours for the accommodation of the idle and profligate.

5. That this Meeting views with anxiety and alarm that portion in a Clause of the abovementioned Bill, which, if the Meeting be not mistaken, would expose the most regular House of an Economical description to be searched, even after it had been shut, and its Keeper had retired to rest; thus confounding the distinction between the Day and the Night Houses, and subjecting those distinguished for decorum to the disgrace and rigour which are visited upon the most disorderly.

6. That this Meeting is of opinion that where Night Coffee Rooms exist, their nuisance might be abated without any additional legislative enactments, by the interference of the Officers of the respective Parishes wherein such Night Coffee Rooms are situated.

7. That a Committee of seven Persons, all *Keepers of Economical DAY Coffee Houses*, be appointed to watch over the interests of the Persons embarked in this Coffee House Trade; that they particularly attend to the progress of the abovementioned Bill; and that they call a General Meeting of the Trade whenever they deem it expedient.

8. That the thanks of this Meeting be given to the Editor of the **STATESMAN**, for the attention he has already bestowed on the interests of the Proprietors of the regular Economical Coffee Houses, and that the **STATESMAN** newspaper be recommended to be taken in at all new establishments of that description.

Extract from an Act

FOR THE

MORE EFFECTUAL ADMINISTRATION OF THE OFFICE

OF A

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE,

3.

PASSED JULY 10th, 1821

XVIII. And whereas it hath become a practice of late to open Shops or Rooms for the Sale, or under the pretence of selling, ready-made Coffee, Tea, and other Liquors, and to keep such Shops or Rooms open during the whole or the greatest part of the Night, thereby affording shelter and accommodation to Thieves, Prostitutes, and other disorderly Persons, and tending greatly to the encouragement of Robberies, and to the concealment of stolen property; be it further enacted, That no Shop, Room, or Place for the purpose aforesaid, within the city of *London* or the Liberties thereof, within the limits of the weekly bills of mortality, or within any of the parishes herein-before mentioned, shall be kept open after the hour of eleven o'clock at night during any part of the year, nor opened before the hour of four o'clock in the morning between *Lady Day* and *Michaelmas*; or before six o'clock in the morning between *Michaelmas* and *Lady Day*; and if any such Shop, Room, or Place shall be open within the hours herein-before prohibited, or being shut up, if any Person shall during those hours be found therein, except the Persons actually dwelling there, or having lawful excuse for being there, then the Master, Mistress, Waiter, or other Person having the care, government, or management of such Shop, Room, or Place, whether he or she be the real Owner or Keeper thereof or not, shall forfeit and pay any Sum not exceeding Ten Pounds, upon conviction of any such offence before any Justice of the Peace, by confession or upon the oath of one or more credible witness or witnesses; and if the party so convicted shall not immediately pay the said Penalty, the Justice shall commit him or her to hard labour in the House of Correction for any space of time not exceeding three months, unless the said penalty shall be sooner paid; and the said Penalty when paid shall be distributed, one moiety to the Informer, the other moiety to the Chamberlain of the city of *London*, if the offence be committed in the said city or the liberties thereof; and if out of the said city and liberties, then the other moiety to the said Receiver for the purposes of this Act: provided always, that nothing herein contained shall apply to or affect any House duly licensed for the sale of Wines and Spirituous Liquors; and that no such conviction shall exempt the Owner, Keeper, or Manager of any such Shop, Room, or Place from any penalty or penal consequence whereto he or she may be liable for keeping a disorderly House.

Regulated pursuant to an act passed in the Third Year of His Majesty George IV.

SILVER LION COFFEE HOUSE

No. 12, GOODGE STREET.

A FEW DOORS FROM TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD.

*TO THE SOBER AND REFLECTING PORTION
OF THE PUBLIC.*

J. WHITAKER, most respectfully informs his friends and the public, that he has fitted up the above premises in the most complete and comfortable manner, and has made such arrangements as enables him to serve those persons who favour him with their company, with a degree of celerity which must be of the first importance to those whose time is valuable, or whose occupation allows but a short time for refreshment.

In the variety of improvements which have taken place within the last few years, in which Public Convenience and Accommodation has been the object, none are more calculated to produce lasting and important benefit to the present as well as the rising population of this metropolis as the establishment of **ECONOMICAL COFFEE HOUSES**, where they are under good management.

This is a subject worthy the attention of the Moralist and the Philosopher. They produce Vigilance and Sobriety, and the Philosophic mind must rejoice when it contemplates the result, of that vast desire after knowledge, which pervades the useful classes of the community? and which desire, the **MECHANIC'S COFFEE HOUSES** have mainly contributed to produce. These Establishments not only provide the sober and refreshing beverages, Coffee and Tea, but at the same time offer something to improve the mind. At the **Economical Coffee Houses**, the advantage of reading useful and instructive books, is open to the means of the most humble Artisan; and as has been before observed, is calculated to make him a better member of society, than if his time were spent in useless and disgusting inebriation and clamour.

The Legislature being aware of their national importance have wisely provided such regulations regarding the **Economical Coffee Houses**, as will have the effect of making them of the first public importance. Coffee is not only agreeable and wholesome, but when sweetened with Sugar is very **NUTRITIOUS**; It excites, as **COUNT RUMFORD** truly says, **Cheerfulness without Intoxication**, and the pleasing flow of Spirits which it occasions, lasts many hours, and is never followed by **Sadness, Languor and Debility**.

While Fermentation's deadly draught,
Has often brought to him who quaffed,
Destruction premature;
COFFEE! 'tis thine to rise supreme,
Give me thy salutary stream
So fragrant, rich and pure.

**COFFEE AND TEA, IN CONSTANT READINESS, AND NOT ONE MINUTE
IN SERVING.**

ROLLS, TOAST, MUFFINS, EGGS, &c. &c.

Newspapers and Books, Literary and scientific, in great variety.

J. GRIFFIN, Printer, 11, outside Middle Row, Holborn.

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