

# Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS  
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON  
# 120 - FAMOUS LAWS IN THE VICTORIAN ERA - AUGUST, 2017



**WELCOME TO TOPIC NUMBER # 120... TODAY WE WILL BE  
LOOKING AT THE MORE IMPORTANT LAWS PASSED  
DURING OUR PERIOD.**



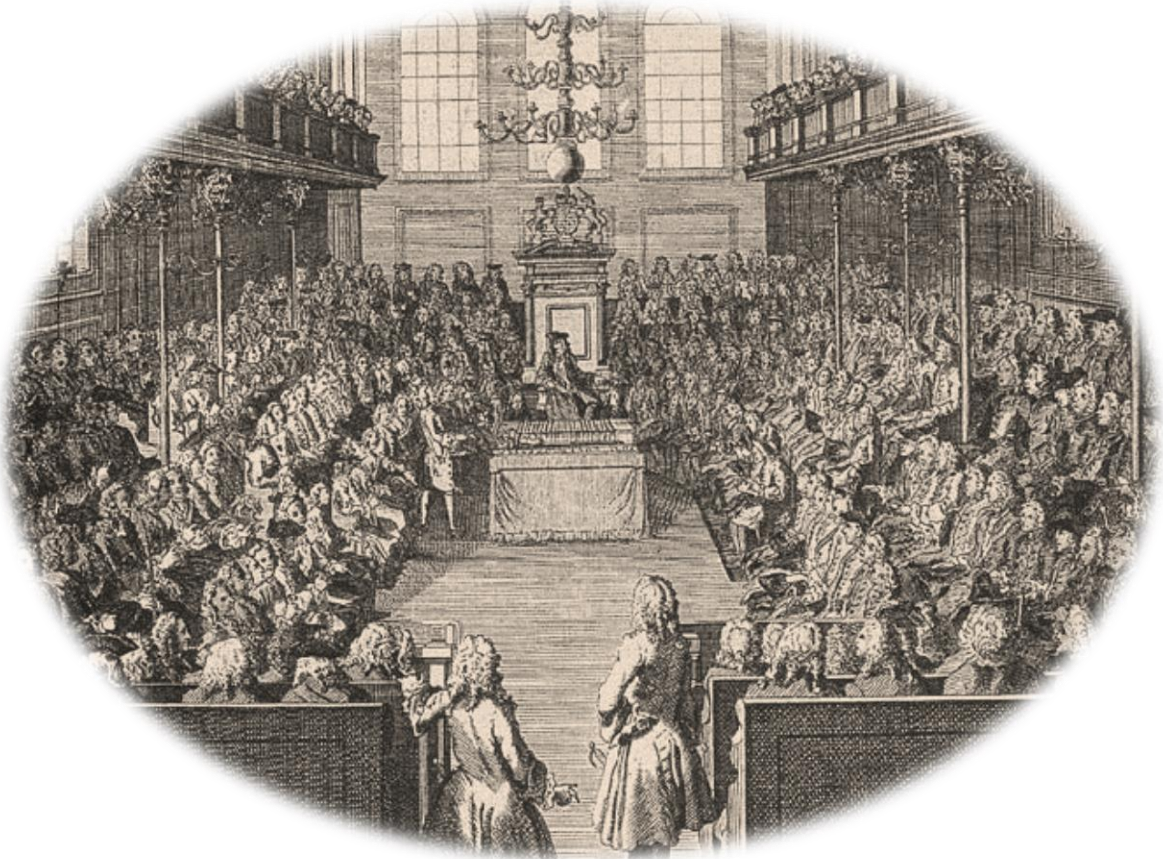
**DURING OUR LIFETIME, ALL THE LAWS IN ENGLAND  
WERE PASSED BY THE PARLIAMENT... THE  
PARLIAMENT HAD THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO  
DISCUSS LAWS, CREATE LAWS AND ALTER  
EXISTING LAWS.**



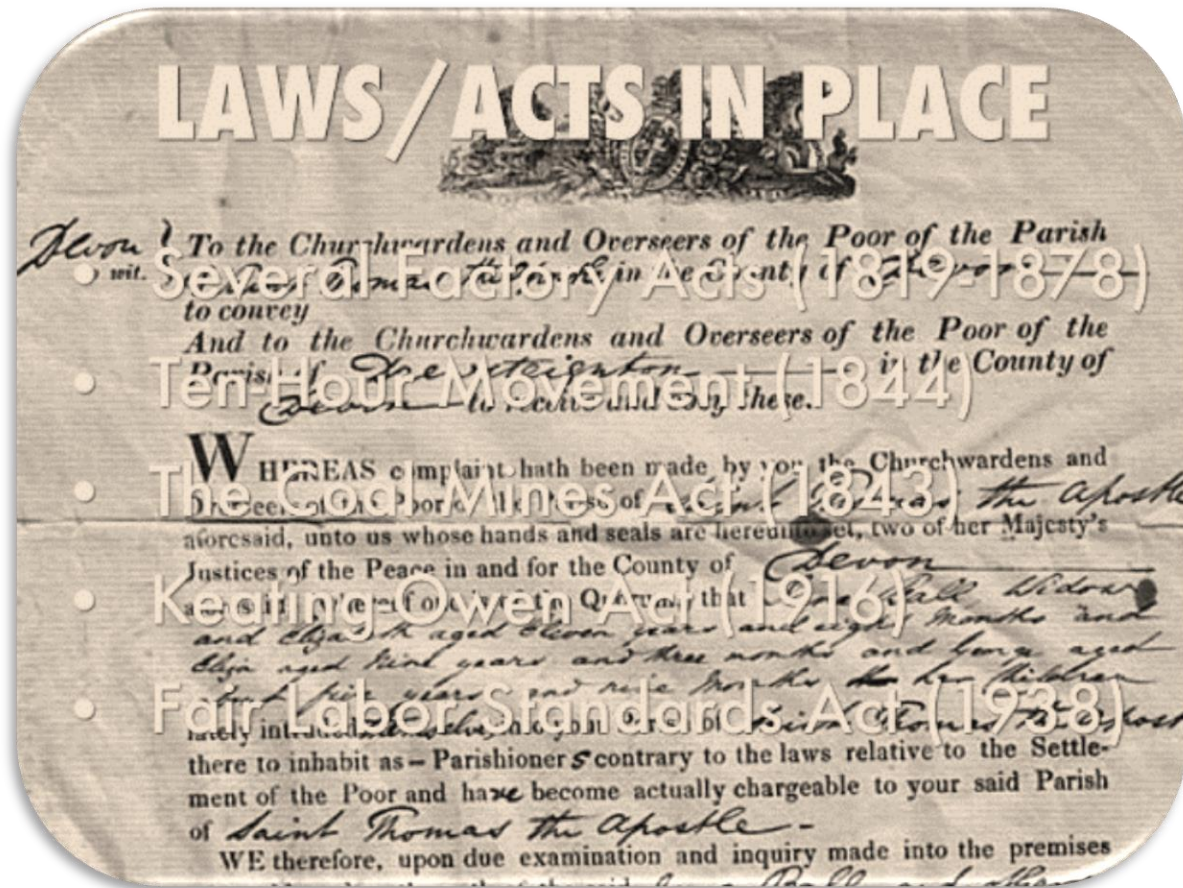
**THE CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING THE SOCIETY,  
AND ECONOMY WERE DISCUSSED WITH THE KING  
OR QUEEN... THEN THE VOTING RIGHTS WERE  
EXERCISED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE PARLIAMENT.**



**THE SUCCESS OF ENGLAND DURING OUR TIME  
DEPENDS LARGELY ON THE LAWS THAT WERE  
PASSED. THE LAWS IN THE VICTORIAN ERA SERVED  
THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:**



FIRST... THE PASSAGE OF LAWS CLASSIFIED THINGS AS RIGHTS AND WRONGS; AND SECOND, THE LAWS SEPARATED THE POOR FROM THE RICH.





**IT IS DUE TO THE LAWS IN THE VICTORIAN ERA  
THAT THE SOCIETY OF ENGLAND HAD A DIFFERENT  
CLASS STRATA IN THE 1800S.**





**BUT IN SPITE OF THE STRINGENCY, WE HAD SEEN THAT THE LAWS WERE MOLDED BY THE SOCIETY. THIS WAS DONE BY EITHER THE DIRECT CONSENT OF THE PEOPLE OR IN AN INDIRECT WAY, BY THE ACTIONS OF THE CITIZENS.**

*Life in Victorian Era England-  
Perhaps the best way to know a  
people is through their laws*

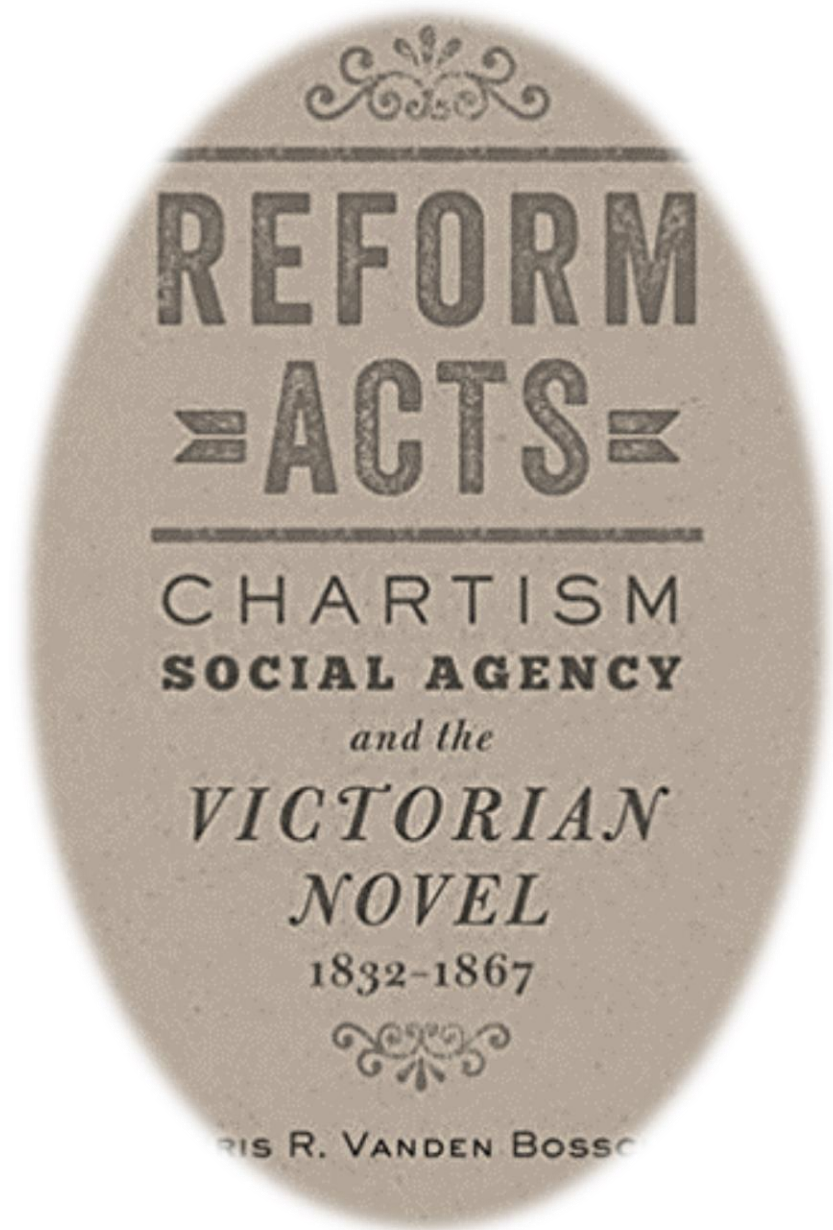


THE MOST PROMINENT LAWS INCLUDED THE REFORM ACTS, CORN LAWS, POOR LAWS, AND THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACT.

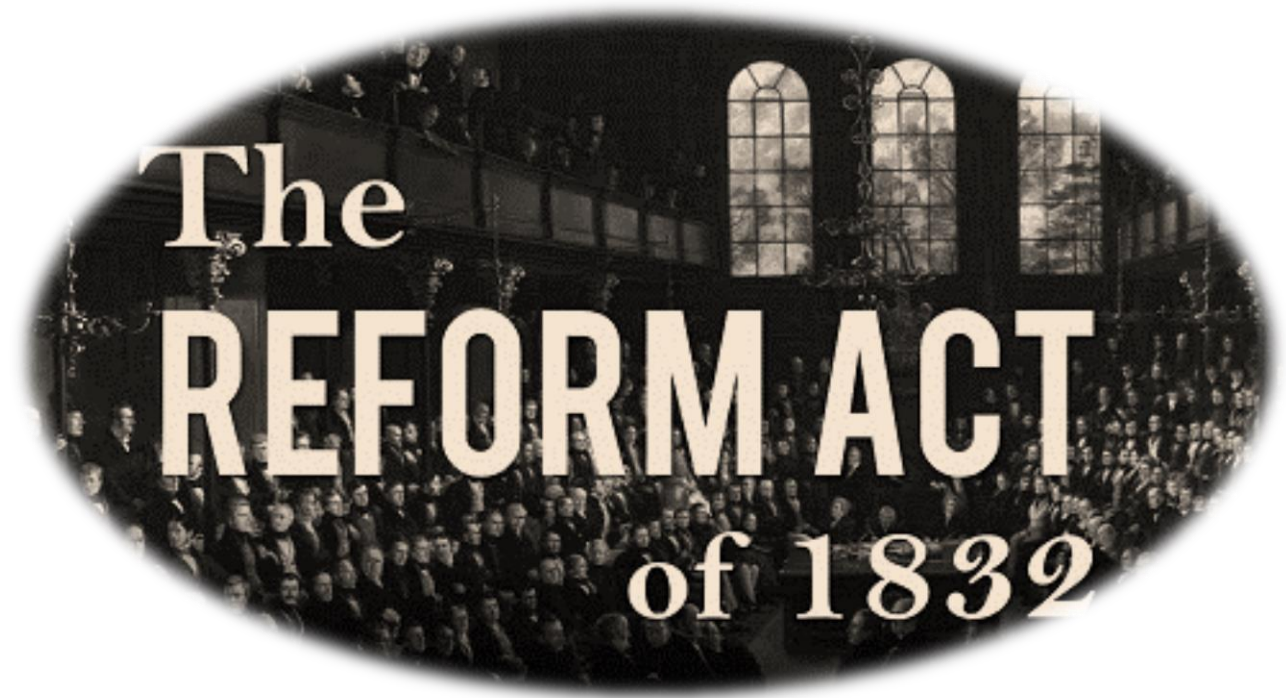




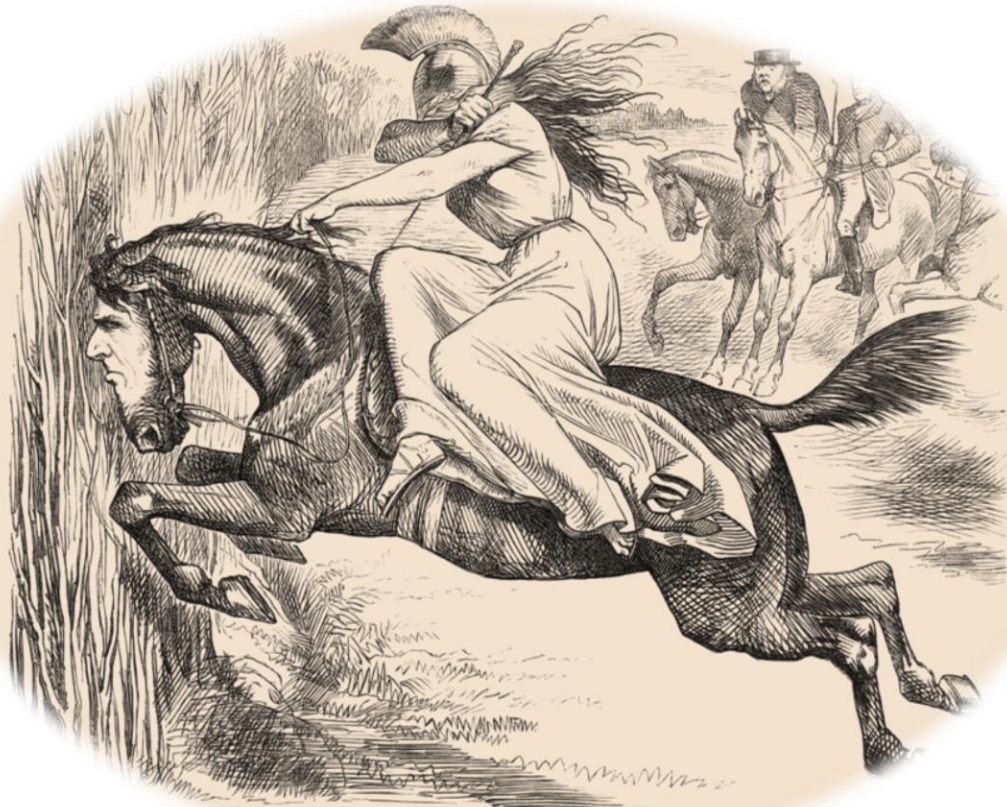
LATER ON, INSTEAD OF THE PRIVILEGE OF HIGH SOCIETY, VOTING BECAME A FUNCTION OF THE RIGHT OF CITIZENSHIP... THERE WERE THREE REFORM ACTS THAT WERE PASSED DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA.



*THE FIRST REFORM IN 1832 GUARANTEED THE VOTING RIGHT TO ANY MAN WHOSE HOUSE WAS WORTH AT LEAST A CERTAIN MONETARY AMOUNT.*



**IN 1867, THE SECOND REFORM ACT ADDED ALMOST 1,000,000 VOTERS TO THE ROLLS... MANY FEARED ADDITIONAL VOTERS WOULD HURT THE MONARCHY AND GROW DEMOCRATIC REFORMS.**



A LEAP IN THE DARK.



**THE FINAL REFORM WAS PASSED IN 1884, WHICH ALLOWED ALMOST ALL MALE FARM WORKERS TO VOTE... NOTICE, WOMEN DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA WERE STILL NOT ALLOWED TO VOTE.**

## The Third Reform Act (1884)

- enfranchised all male house owners in both urban and rural areas and added 6 million people to the voting registers - fell some way short of introducing universal manhood suffrage.



Farm laborers voting for the first time  
Illustrated London News(1884)



THE CORN LAWS CONSISTED OF A SERIES OF LAWS ENACTED IN 1815... DUE TO PARLIAMENT'S CONCERN OVER IMPORTATION OF CORN, THE LAW KEPT CORN PRICES HIGH.

# The Corn Acts

## THE CORN LAWS.

Repealers say "the Corn Law is a Tax on Bread---a law for the advantage of the few---cruel and unjust act of oppression," &c. Now, so far from this being the case, it is a tax *not on*, but *for*, Bread,---not *against*, but *for*, the poor---not to render Bread dearer, but *virtually cheaper*, by securing for the poor man permanent employment and a just remuneration for his labour. And lastly, not a law for the few, but for the advantage of ALL! *Attend to a few facts---incontrovertible stubborn facts!*

<i>Supposed advantages of a Repeal of the Corn Laws.</i>	<i>Real results from the Repeal.</i>	THE PROOF.
<b>HIGH WAGES.</b>	<b>LOW WAGES, OR NO WAGES.</b>	If the Corn Laws be repealed, there will be little or no demand for the products of the land; consequently Farmers will not cultivate it, and therefore must discharge their workmen; these will flock in thousands into the Towns for work, and will be compelled to take <i>any</i> wages, rather than <i>no</i> wages! thus depriving them of their usual wages.







**SADLY, THE LAWS KEPT ALL FOOD PRICES HIGH, WHICH BENEFITED THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT, MANY WHO WERE LANDOWNERS.**



# The Poor Acts

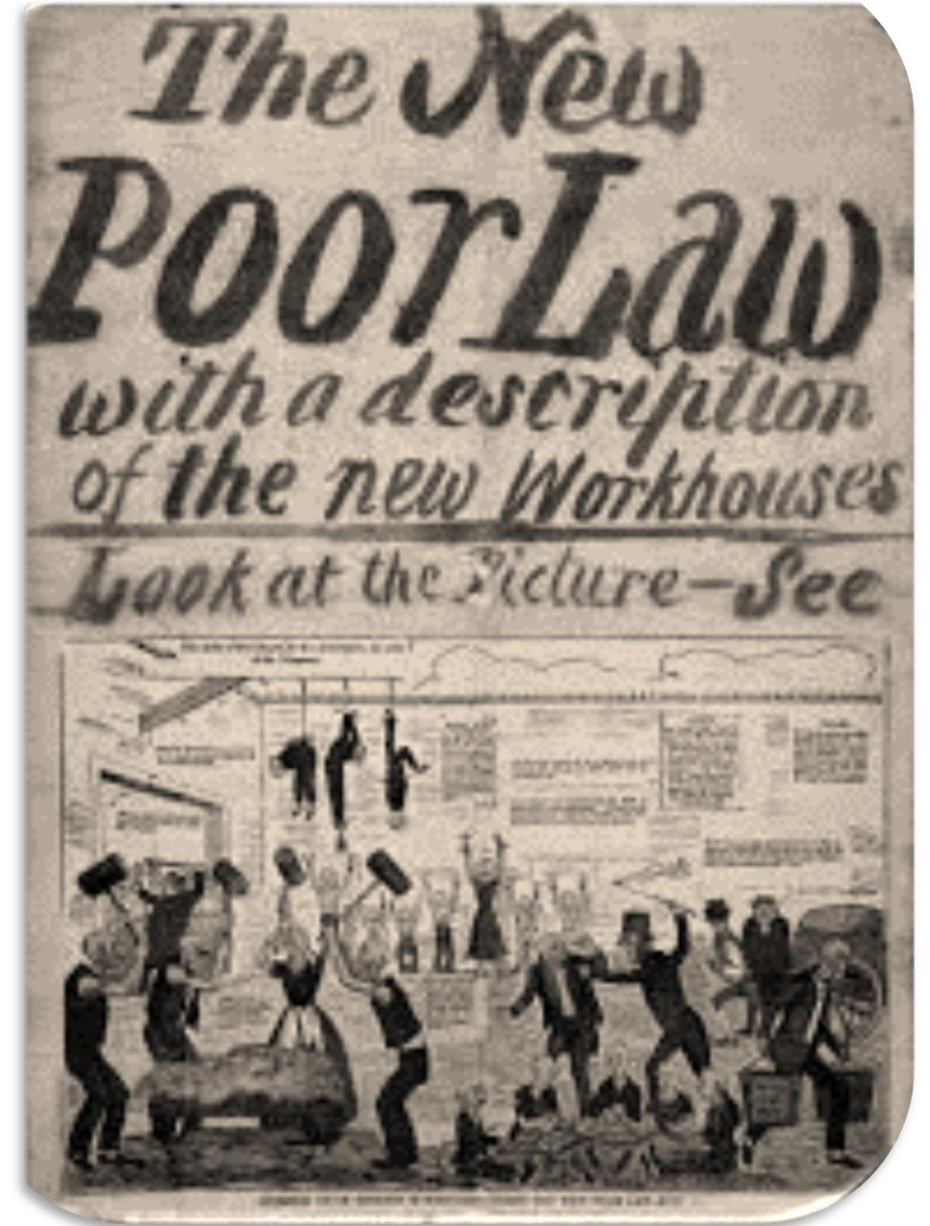
*PRIME MINISTER EARL GREY PASSED THE POOR LAWS IN 1833 TO DEAL WITH CONDITIONS OF THE WORKING AND POOR CLASSES.*



... AND HE HAD A TEA NAMED AFTER HIM ALSO...



THE POOR LAWS STATED: NO ABLE-BODIED PERSON  
WAS TO RECEIVE MONEY OR OTHER HELP UNLESS  
THEY WERE IN A WORKHOUSE;



**THE POOR LAWS STATED: WITH AN AIM TO DISCOURAGE PEOPLE FROM RECEIVING HELP, WORKHOUSE CONDITIONS WERE TO BE MADE VERY HARSH;**



**THE POOR LAWS STATED: EVERY PARISH OR UNION OF PARISHES WOULD HAVE A WORKHOUSE;**



**THE POOR LAWS STATED: EACH WORKHOUSE  
WOULD ELECT A BOARD OF GUARDIANS FOR  
SUPERVISION OF THE WORKHOUSE;**



**THE POOR LAWS STATED: A THREE-MAN CENTRAL  
POOR LAW COMMISSION SUPERVISED THE  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACT.**





OUR ERA HAD A WIDE GAP BETWEEN THE POOR, MIDDLE, AND UPPER CLASS. THE REASON WAS THE LAWS THAT SEEMED TO BENEFIT THE RICH, HURT THE MIDDLE, WORKING CLASS AND THE POOR.

## SECOND EDITION.

*Herald Office, Friday Afternoon, Four o'Clock,*

### **NEW POOR LAW ACT.** *Jan 4 1834*

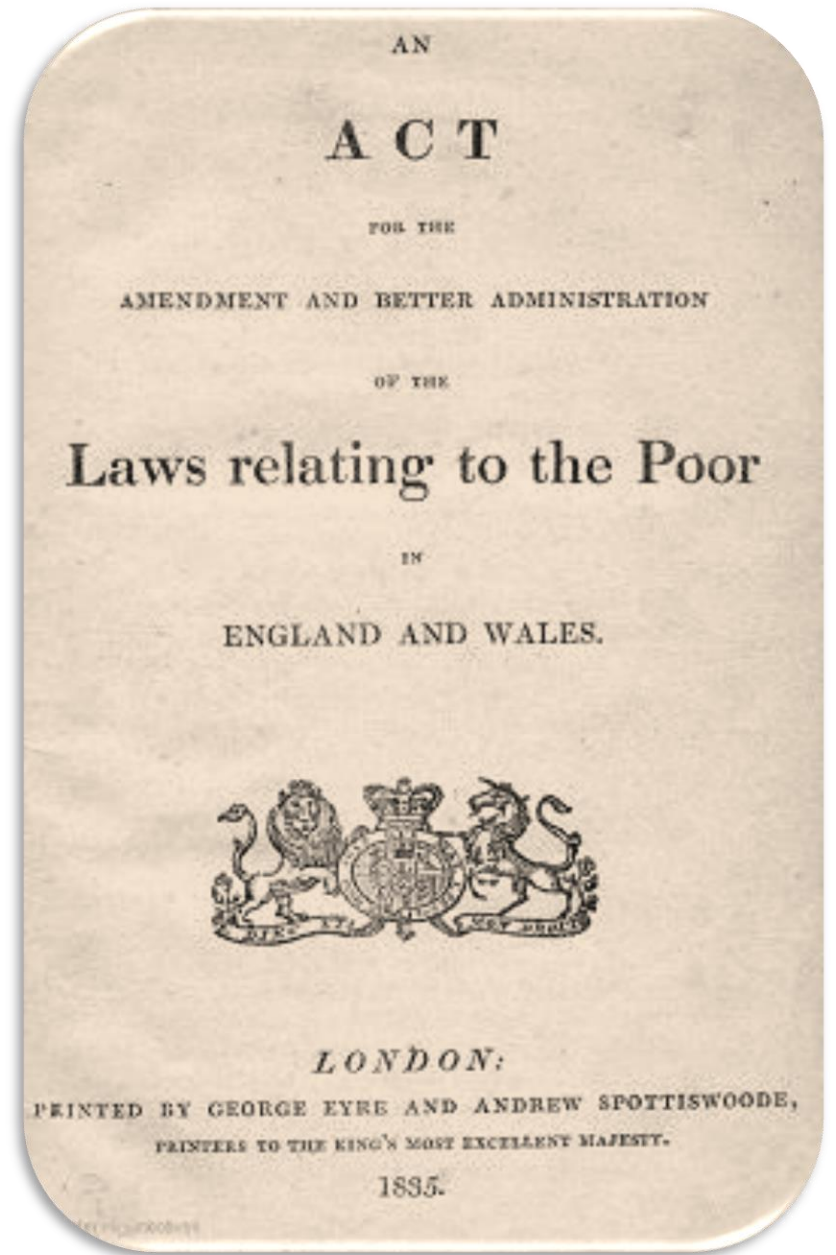
We stop the press to announce that Mr. Weale, the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, held a Meeting at Walcot Poor-house this morning, and after one of the most able and luminous explanations on the subject ever listened to, proposed that a "Union of Parishes" under the New Act be formed for this district.

#### PROPOSED UNION.

Saint James, Saint Michael, Saint Peter and Saint Paul, Walcot, Lynecombe and Widcombe, Bathwick, in the City of Bath; Bath-easton, Bathford, Bathampton, Saint Catharine, Langridge, Woolley, Swainswick, Charlcombe, Weston, Twerton, Englishcombe, South Stoke, Moneton-Goombe, Dunkerton, Coombe Hay, Wellow, Claverton, Charterhouse Hinton, in the county of Somerset, with a population



**PRIME MINISTER EARL GREY, WANTING TO CONTROL THE GAP WITH GROWING MIDDLE AND LOWER CLASSES, ENACTED THE POOR LAWS.**



*HOWEVER, BEING FROM THE UPPER CLASS, HE WAS  
UNABLE TO COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND THE LIVING  
CONDITION OF THE POOR.*



*BEFORE THE POOR LAW AMENDMENT, REPORTS ABOUT THE CONDITIONS OF THE WORKHOUSES ACROSS ENGLAND WERE ASKED... AS ONE WOULD EXPECT, THE REPORTS GIVEN BY THE WORKHOUSE OFFICIALS WERE NOT HONEST.*



# The Married Women's Property Rights Act

*PRIME MINISTER WILLIAM GLADSTONE, IN 1882,  
PASSED THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY RIGHTS  
ACT.*



THE  
**MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY  
ACT 1882.**

WITH  
AN INTRODUCTION

AND  
CRITICAL AND EXPLANATORY NOTES

AND  
*Appendix.*

CONTAINING  
THE MARRIED WOMEN'S PROPERTY ACTS, 1870 & 1874,  
ETC.

BY  
H. ARTHUR SMITH, M.A., LL.B. (LOND.)

OF THE INNER TEMPLE, BARRISTER-AT-LAW,  
ATTORNEY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, AND OF THE FACULTY OF ADVOCATES.



LONDON:  
STEVENS AND SONS, 119, CHANCERY LANE,  
Printed and Published.  
1882.

**AS PER ENGLISH COMMON LAW, WOMEN DID NOT  
HAVE ANY RIGHT TO DISPOSE OF PROPERTY OR  
MAKE A WILL AFTER MARRIAGE WITHOUT THE  
CONSENT OF THEIR HUSBAND.**



*ONLY WIDOWS COULD CLAIM ANY PROPERTY FOR THEMSELVES.*



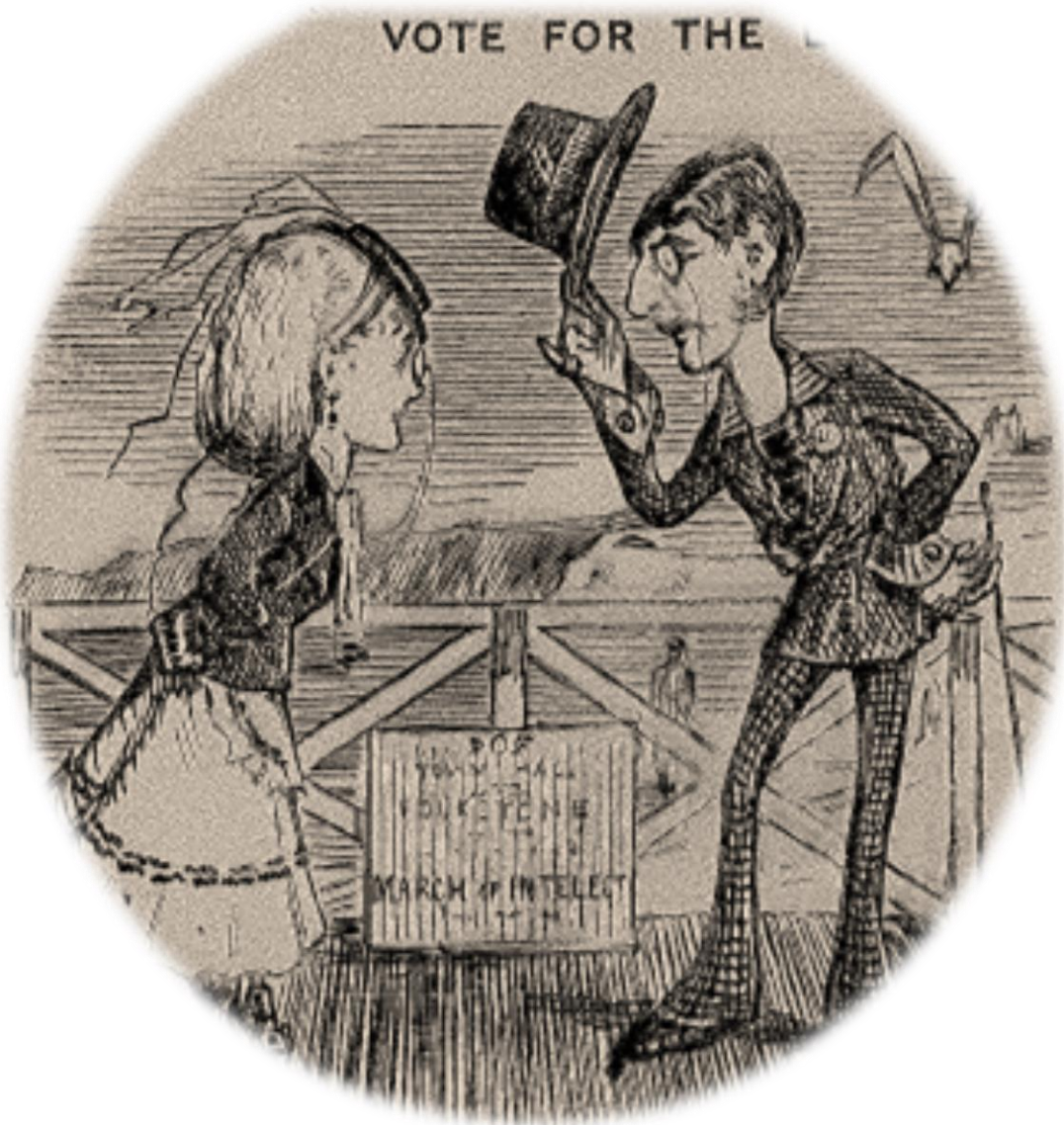


**IN MARRIAGE, THE HUSBAND RETAINED HIS PROPERTY AND MOST OF HIS WIFE'S PROPERTY.**





VOTE FOR THE



*IN OUR SOCIETY, THE UNMARRIED WOMAN  
ACTUALLY HAD MUCH MORE RIGHTS THAN THE  
MARRIED WOMAN HAD.*



A WOMAN WANTING TO DIVORCE HER HUSBAND IS  
LOOKED DOWN UPON; THEY WERE NOT GIVEN ANY  
OF THEIR PROPERTY OWNED BEFORE MARRIAGE.



"LADIES! LADIES!"  
(The Mystery of Modern Maternity.)

AND THESE FRENCH SAY WE WERE

**THE NEW LAW GAVE MARRIED WOMEN EQUAL RIGHTS TO THE AVERAGE UNMARRIED WOMAN.**



LOGIC; OR, FRANCHISE FOR FEM

NEAR THE WAY, THERE, FOR THESE

ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS TO THEIR HUSBANDS, THIS WAS NEVERTHELESS A HUGE PROGRESS FOR THE MARRIED WOMAN.



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 120 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 121, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT THE CONCEPT OF FREEMASONRY DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.





# Victorian-Era.org Victorian Era Information for Kids

## ORIGINAL SOURCE MATERIAL FOR FOR THIS TOPIC:

- VAIJAYANTI JOSHI, [HTTP://WWW.VICTORIAN-ERA.ORG/LAWS-IN-THE-VICTORIAN-ERA.HTML](http://www.victorian-era.org/laws-in-the-victorian-era.html)



# Baker Street *Elementary*

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY

LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE

RUSTY MASON &

STEVE MASON

