

Lord Shaftesbury



Lord Shaftesbury is best known for his work for social reform in the following areas:

- **Preventing young children from working in factories and the Factory Act**
- **Preventing young children and women working in coal mines and the Coal Mines Act**
- **Preventing young boys from sweeping chimneys and the Chimney Sweeps Act**
- **Improving education for working children**
- **Praying for God's guidance for his life**
- **His willingness to obey God**

Lord Shaftesbury



Anthony Ashley Cooper, the eldest son of the 6th Earl of Shaftesbury, was born on 28th April, 1801 and became the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury in 1851.

Lord Shaftesbury had a very unhappy childhood because his parents were very strict and too busy to look after their children. Shaftesbury was given lots of love and care by one of the maids called Maria.

Maria introduced Shaftesbury to Christianity and the love of Jesus. Shaftesbury put his faith in Jesus and this, along with his experience of being treated badly as a child, caused him to work to improve society.

Lord Shaftesbury

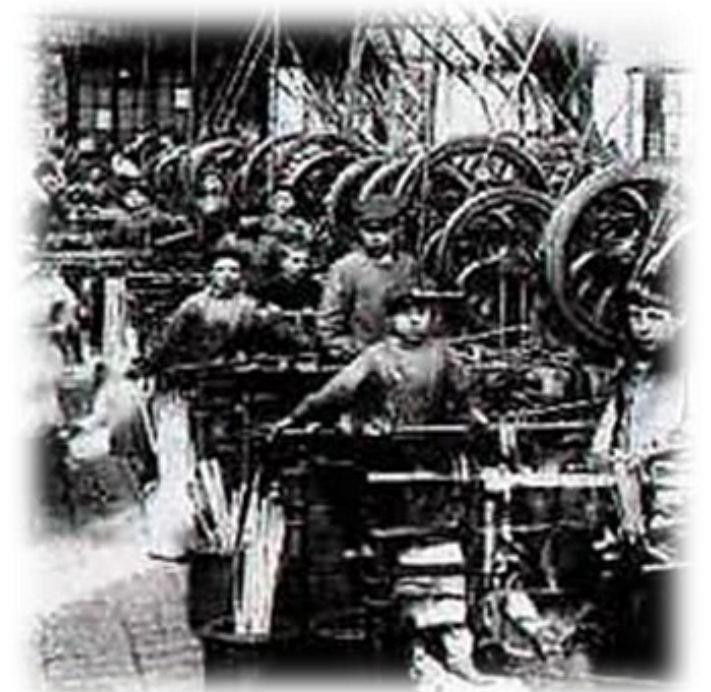


Lord Shaftesbury became a Member of Parliament in 1826 at the age of twenty-five, during the Victorian era.

Shaftesbury began to take an interest in the sorry situation of poor children after reading newspaper reports about child labour in industry.

He heard that children as young as five were working down mines for as long as fourteen hours each day. He also read reports about children working in textile mills. Shaftesbury worked hard to prevent this abuse of children.

In all the campaigns for reform that Lord Shaftesbury was involved with he was always driven by his Christian faith, which gave him compassion and care for everyone whether they were rich or poor, male or female, black or white.



Lord Shaftesbury



Sweeping Social Changes!

- 1833 proposed that children should work a maximum of 10 hours per day
- 1834 the Factory Act became law, preventing children under nine working in factories and children over nine working for more than ten hours per day
- 1842 the Coal Mine Act was passed, making it illegal for a child or woman to work underground
- 1844 Shaftesbury became president of the Ragged Schools Union, which aimed to ensure working children were provided with education.
- 1875 the Chimney Sweepers Act became law, preventing young boys being employed in the dangerous work of sweeping chimneys

Lord Shaftesbury



- Born in 1801
- Became an MP in 1826
- Factory Act passed in 1834
- Coal Mine Act passed in 1842
- Became president of Ragged School Union in 1844
- Became Earl of Shaftesbury in 1851
- Chimney Sweepers Act passed in 1875
- Died 1885

Lord Shaftesbury was strong in his conviction that Christ must be the centre of a living faith. He was a warm friend of the atheistic Prime Minister Palmerston who gently mocked his belief. The people, however, did not mock. When he preached Christ, they listened with respect. At his funeral, hundreds of thousands of poor people stood hatless in the pouring rain to show their love for the man who had loved them. He is credited with possibly preventing revolution and certainly with easing class tensions.