
The Moral Bases of Literacy: Society, Economy, and Social Order

Morality is worthy of the attention of the economist.

J. P. KAY

*The Moral and Physical Condition of the Working
Classes Employed in the Cotton Manufacture
in Manchester (1832)*

In general terms, literacy opens up innumerable possibilities in the way of individualized response in the intellectual, moral, spiritual, and political spheres. But in the concrete case, the institution which provides literacy training at the same time exercises a determining influence by narrowing the range of choices and possibilities open to the subject.

JOHN MCLEISH

Evangelical Religion and Popular Education (1969)

The case of literacy is more complex. The ability to read and usually (though not always) to write was, of course, an aim of all nineteenth-century educators. Yet it is important to stress that literacy . . . was embedded in all kinds of other aims which predominated in the minds of providers.

RICHARD JOHNSON

*"Notes on the Schooling of the English
Working Class, 1780-1850" (1976)*