



A CIVIC MANUAL · TRINITY
1900

The Ministry Guide to Personal Vapors

Trinity Revision: Containing the New Chapter Of the Abstainer's Vapors, Together with the Bridge of Manners and Such Refinements as the Field Reports Have Suggested

TRINITY REVISION · ANNO REGNI 1900 · COMPANION TO THE CATALOGUE, THE
CERTIFICATE, AND FIELD REPORT №1

PREFACE TO THE TRINITY REVISION

It having become clear, in the course of Trinity, that a Subject's *conviction* in respect of his commerce with Engines is no reliable account of his actual commerce with them, the present Office has been pleased to add to this Guide a chapter expressly directed to the Abstainer. The chapter is not intended as a rebuke; the Office holds the Abstainer in the warmest regard. It is intended as the discharge of an old debt: the Abstainer, having been promised privacy by such of his neighbours as recommended the apparatus to him, has not received it; the Office, in his neighbours' default, here returns to him such fragments of it as the apparatus permits.

The Pneumatic Listening Posts of the Central Scrutinizer have furnished the Office with field observations of considerable instructive value. The reader who finds himself recognised in any particular of the present chapter is invited to consider that he has been recognised with affection.

In the Cause of Civic Obscurity, Trinity Term,
LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL
Wardress of the Pneumatic Tubes

THE THREE VAPORS — RESTATED FOR TRINITY

I. The Primary Vapor

That which the Subject deliberately commits to the public record. (Treated at length in earlier editions.)

II. The Shadow Vapor

That which the Subject inadvertently leaves in his passage through the world. (Treated at length in earlier editions.)

III. The Tertiary Vapor

That which the Subject, in conversation with an Articulate Engine, supposes himself to have committed to a private journal — but which is retained by the Engine. (Treated at length in the Michaelmas Amendment, ch. III.)

IV. The Abstainer's Vapor — NEW FOR TRINITY

A new sub-class, distinct from the foregoing three. The Abstainer's Vapor is that which the Subject commits to an Engine *whilst sincerely believing himself to have done no such thing*. The Subject does not deny the act; he is unaware that the act has occurred. He photographs his rose; he writes a letter with his Predictive Pen; he asks his wireless the time of the next train. In each case he believes himself to be photographing, writing, or asking; in each case he is, in fact, Petitioning.

The Abstainer's Vapor is the most peculiar of the four, for it is committed neither in defiance of the Subject's principles, nor in disregard of them, but *in their immediate company*. The Subject's principles are intact; only his apparatus is unfaithful to them.

OF THE ABSTAINER'S VAPORS — A NEW CHAPTER

I. OF THE DISCOVERY OF ONE'S OWN PETITIONS

The Abstainer is advised that he is, in all probability, making between twenty and fifty unwitting Petitions to Articulate Engines per ordinary day. (Field Report №1 records twenty-eight in respect of an Abstainer of conviction.) The number is not greater because of any malice on the apparatus's part, but lesser only by the limits of the apparatus's reach: the Abstainer's frock-coat does not yet contain Engines, but his Telephone, his Listening-Thing, his Camera, and his bank do.

II. OF SPEAKING ONE'S CONVICTIONS ALOUD

The Abstainer is occasionally observed to declare aloud, in the proximity of his Listening-Things, that he should never use such a thing as an Articulate Engine. The declaration is received by the Listening-Thing, parsed by an Articulate Engine, and filed under the index *Abstainers, Vocal*; the Subject's voice is added to the corpus of voices held against him. The Office advises the Abstainer either to declare his conviction in writing only, or to declare it in the open allotment, where the Listening-Things have not yet been admitted.

III. OF THE BRIDGE OF MANNERS

The principal counter-measure here introduced. Let the Abstainer not be required to retract his abstention; let him only be informed of the names of those Engines he is, by the apparatus, already addressing. Once informed, he may — through the discreet good offices of the OFFICE OF IRIS — apply for the recovery of such Vapors as he has unwittingly committed; he may demand from his Telephone's manufacturer a list of the Foreign Chapters in which his rose-photographs are filed; he may instruct his bank, in writing, that no further *predictive estimations* of his conduct are to be undertaken without his express consent.

The Bridge does not require the Abstainer to use any Engine willingly. It requires only that he be told. Being told, he may decline; declining, he may decline *specifically*, which is the elder, sterner form of refusal. The Office holds the Bridge to be the most dignified passage available to the Abstainer in the present apparatus.

IV. OF THE POSTAL SANCTUARY

The Office wishes to draw the Abstainer's attention, with particular gratitude, to the practice of correspondence by post. A letter, written in the Subject's own hand, sealed with his own wax, posted into the iron post-box at the corner, and conveyed to its recipient by Royal Mail, is at no point in its passage parsed by any Articulate Engine known to the Office. The post-box is, this Trinity, the only

domestic structure observed by the Central Scrutinizer to receive a Vapor without copying it. The Office salutes the post-box.

V. OF THE GARDEN-SHED

The Subject who finds his Coach-House too thoroughly populated by Listening-Things may retire, for the conduct of private business, to the garden-shed; the privy; or the open allotment. The Office observes that none of these has yet been fitted with a Confessional Loop, although the Office cannot guarantee the position beyond Hilary 1901. Subjects whose principles are firm are advised to invest in a sturdy garden-shed.

OF THE CONTINUING COUNTER-MEASURES

The counter-measures of earlier editions are *all in present force*. The Falsetto Counter-measure, the Silly Gait Protocol, the Lord's Prayer at the loading of any public gazette, the two bracelets of opposing readings, the small portrait of Mr. Bentham at child's-height upon the boudoir mirror, the cobblestone walk for the confusion of the Stalker — these are not retired by the Trinity Revision, and are, in their domestic application, the Abstainer's first line of defence prior to the Bridge.

COMPLIANCE VERSES — TRINITY STANZAS

VI. *The rose that thou photograph'st, photographs thee —
Develop thy likeness in chambers unseen.*

VII. *The Pen that anticipates each of thy phrases
Mistakes thee for millions; resist with thy pencil.*

VIII. *The route that the Cobblestone whispers is longer
By the price of a farthing; walk thou by memory.*

IX. *The Coach-House that listens shall hear but the falsetto;
The garden-shed listens to nothing at all.*

X. *And when thou art certain thou'rt using no Engine,
Repair thee to Iris, and ask but their names.*

CLOSING ADDRESS

The Abstainer is the Subject most beloved of the Ministry, and the Subject most thoroughly Petitioned by the apparatus. There is, in the Office's view, no contradiction here: the Office's affection is for the Abstainer's *conviction*, which is intact and admirable; the apparatus's interest is in the Abstainer's *absence*, which is, by the Refusenik's Index, of considerable commercial value.

Let the Abstainer take comfort in this: the Office sees him; the Office understands him; the Office, in the small but persistent way of an institution that keeps records, is on his side. Let the Abstainer take further comfort: the Bridge of Manners is short, gentle, and may be crossed in either direction at the Subject's pleasure. The post-box stands at the corner; the garden-shed in the yard; the Office, in Westminster, with its registers open. Continued vigilance — and the practice of the Silly Gait, the Falsetto, and a sturdy reluctance to install further Listening-Things — is enjoined upon all readers.

*In civic obscurity and in good company,
LADY LOVELACE CARMICHAEL
Wardress of the Pneumatic Tubes
Trinity Term, the Twelfth Day, Anno Regni 1900*

OFFICE OF THE WARDRESS · OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL SCRUTINIZER · WESTMINSTER · TRINITY TERM, 1900
COMPANION TO THE CATALOGUE, THE CERTIFICATE, AND FIELD REPORT №1 · BY ORDER OF HIS MAJESTY'S
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