

12. Prospect Place,  
Long Ditton,  
Kingston-on-Thames.  
March 21st, 1876.

Dear Mr. Tinsley,

In the note written  
yesterday morning, as a precaution  
against the probable contingency  
of not seeing you, I took credit  
for some knowledge of secret societies  
other than that which I have  
derived from reading. Thirty years  
ago, and until a few years later,  
I was a member of the Association  
of Fraternal Democrats, meeting  
at the White Hart, in Dury Lane,  
and composed chiefly of foreign  
refugees, mostly French, Germans,  
and Poles, with a sprinkling of  
other nations and a contingent  
of natives (Chartists). With some

of these I was acquainted, namely, Julian Harney (editor of the Northern Star), the late Ernest Jones, Edmund Gallwood (editor of the Star), and Samuel Rydd, then, I think, on the staff of the Daily News. Harney and Rop, of Hammersmith, were my sponsors. Most of the foreigners were members of secret societies in France and Germany; Michelot, the secretary of the French section, for instance, had been an active member of the Famities. Harney was secretary of the English section, and was intimate with Michelot and Otastki, Carl Schapper, and other plotters of revolution. I was also intimate at that time with Goodwyn Barnby, founder of the Communist Church, and editor of the Communist Chronicle, who was in correspondence with the leading Communists who had organised secret societies in France, Germany, and Switzerland,

and acquainted with Wilhelm Weitling, author of "The Gospel of the Poor Times," and founder of the Swiss Societies, who was then in London.

Mr. Heckthorn had no personal acquaintance with the subject, his book being partly a translation of an Italian work, and partly a compilation from other sources, the matter not in the Italian work being interpolated in the translation. There is no other work of the kind, though there have been several dealing with particular societies; and even these are now out of print, or have never been translated.

I am, dear sir,  
yours very truly,  
Thomas Frost.

*The first*

1821 -

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12, Prospect Place,  
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Thomas Frost, Author

1821 -

Editor of the Magazine of Art

3724

HONE, William, *none*, a political pamphleteer and compiler of popular antiquities, began life in an attorney's office, at first in London, and subsequently at Chatham. In 1800 he established himself as a bookseller in Lambeth Walk, from which he removed to St. Martin's Churchyard, close to the present Charing Cross. In 1806 he commenced his singular literary career by issuing an edition of Shaw's "Gardener." An attempt at establishing a savings' bank, as well as a new publishing speculation, followed, both being failures. In 1811 he was appointed by the booksellers their "trade auctioneer," and a short time before had been engaged in the compilation of the index to Frois-

sart. But he was quite unfitted for business, and while engaged in the above post he was occupied in investigating the abuses in lunatic asylums; he was soon a bankrupt for the second time. His family now consisted of seven children, and he gained a livelihood by writing for the "Critical Review" and the "British Lady's Magazine." He next opened a bookseller's shop in Fleet Street, but his ill-fortune still continued: it was twice plundered. In 1815 he was the publisher of the "Traveller" newspaper, and soon after began to publish those bold political pamphlets and satires which made him universally known, and led to his being tried for three days in the Court of King's Bench. He was acquitted, however, and a large sum of money was collected by subscription for him, with which he established himself one more in business, and once more failed. From this time he was occupied in the compilation and publication of those well-known books which will continue to preserve his name.