

What Evidence Do We Have That Frances Wright Personally Was An Epicurean?

Post by "Cassius" of September 23, 2020 at 9:49 PM

We're going to need to be careful to steer clear of analyzing this from strictly political terms, but I am finding some interesting reading in this version of her "[course of popular lectures](#)"

divert public attention from examination of the political edifice. There, all and every thing resolves itself into chartered monopolies. There, no one imagines that abolition or anti-abolition signifies aught but clerical or federal intrigue; or that these find not their support in chartered companies in general. There, no man conceives that religious zeal means aught but stock-interest in the churches or favour in the church-building banks; that trade means aught but land-speculating or produce-monopolizing by aid of bank favour and long credits, nor

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It sounds like she has gotten herself deeply into the controversies around abolition, which I think I understood from reading about her career, but this part apparently seems to go in the direction of her seeing an even BIGGER problem in "chartered companies" and "banks," which I am gathering means that she is diagnosing overriding financial considerations are worse problems. I may be misreading this but I am gathering she is approaching this from an anti-Hamilton, pro Jeffersonian / Jacksonian perspective.

Not sure what I gather from that other than that she is super-wrapped up in lots of types of politics, but certainly from a perspective friendly to Jefferson and Jackson at least from an "anti-monopoly" perspective.

I may have misunderstood this by not reading the whole thing but her writing style does definitely seem similar to me with "A Few Days In Athens."

Ha - maybe we'll end up here with the example being - "Here's another person who thoroughly understands Epicurus and translates his advice in a very Julius Caesar / Cassius Longinus / Thomas Jefferson "activist" kind of way.

And aside from the intrinsic merit of the substance of "A Few Days In Athens," her example of taking that knowledge and then "seizing the day" / channeling her energy into activism may be the ultimate lesson.

Maybe she WAS the full and complete genius behind A Few Days in Athens, maybe she DID understand Epicurus better than anyone else of her time, and maybe FOR THAT VERY REASON she became one of the leading social reformers and activists of her age! Is that possible????

instructions. They who esteem the contrary will attend them. My individual duty! This regards my own convictions, both as respects my views of general utility, and my own persuasions as to my fitness to advance it. Such is my answer to the instigators of Federal Bank mobs, such as assaulted me and my hearers at the Falls of Schuylkill; to preacher politicians, such as attempted to prevent my occupying the public Court-house in York, Pennsylvania; and to the Mayor of this city, whose official summons tendered in a lawful way, I shall always be ready respectfully to answer, but whose arbitrary orders I shall at all times disregard, and whose incendiary proceedings I shall resist, and, as I believe, defeat, even as was the case on a late occasion.

FRANCES WRIGHT DARUMONT.

Philadelphia, 15th Sept., 1836.