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## Development Of Science And Democracy In Victorian Age-

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### Abstract:

The Victorian age was a time of tremendous development in both science and democracy. During this period, advancements in science and technology transformed the way people lived and worked, while political and social movements led to the expansion of democratic rights and freedom. The Victorian was an age of rapid development in the contemporary rural life of common people. This age was an age of rapid, flux and baffling complexity. Moody and Lovett ever Never before, not even in the troubled seventeenth century had their changes in the social fabric of England. The discoveries of Charles Darwin and his theory of natural selection changed the pattern of religious belief. In the mid of 19th.Century, development of steam power and electricity, transformed the transportation industry and also communication. The rise of democracy during the Victorian era also had a significant development in literature. As more people gained the to vote and participate in public life, there was a greater emphasis on Individualism and the importance of individual voice. Thomas Carlyle used Darwin's theory of evolution to argue for the need for strong leadership in his work "On Heroes, Hero-worship, and Heroic in History".

Keywords: Development, Science, Religion, Rights, Religion, Freedom

### Introduction:

The Victorian Age witnessed enormous changes occurred in political and social life in England and the rest of the world. The Innovation of the scientific and technical field, the emergence of modern sophisticated nationalism, and European colonialism –of much of Africa, and the middle east and far changed most of Europe in an abnormal way. Throughout the reign of Queen Victoria, she maintained a sense of dignity and decorum that restored the high opinion of the monarchy after a series of growth of horrible ineffective leaders. The growth of the British empire resulted in the industrial revolution in England and this causes England the wealthiest country in the world.

During this time, there were numerous breakthroughs in various scientific disciplines, and democratic ideals and practices were evolving.

#### Scientific Advancements:

1.. Charles Darwin and Evolution: One of the most influential scientific developments of the Victorian Age was Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, which he published in his book "On the Origin of Species" in 1859. Darwin's theory revolutionized the understanding of the natural world and challenged traditional religious beliefs.

2.. Industrial Revolution: The Victorian Age witnessed the peak of the Industrial Revolution, which brought about major technological advancements. Innovations in steam power, manufacturing processes, transportation, and communication had a profound impact on society and the economy. Scientists and engineers played crucial roles in these advancements.

3. Physics and Chemistry: The Victorian era saw significant progress in physics and chemistry. Prominent scientists like Michael Faraday and James Clerk Maxwell made groundbreaking discoveries in electromagnetism and formulated fundamental laws and equations that laid the foundation for modern physics. Meanwhile, chemists like John Dalton, Dmitri Mendeleev, and William Perkin made significant contributions to the understanding of chemical elements, atomic theory, and the development of synthetic dyes.

4.. Medicine and Public Health: The Victorian Age witnessed notable developments in medicine and public health. The establishment of the germ theory of disease by Louis Pasteur and Joseph Lister's pioneering work in antiseptic surgery revolutionized medical practices. Improved sanitation measures and the development of vaccines contributed to better public health conditions.

#### Democratic Progress:

1. Expansion of Voting Rights: The Victorian Age saw a gradual expansion of voting rights. The Reform Acts of 1832, 1867, and 1884 extended suffrage to more men and, to some extent, women. These reforms aimed to make the political system more inclusive and representative.

2.. Social Reforms: Victorian society witnessed various social reforms aimed at addressing issues such as working conditions, child labor, public health, education, and women's rights. Prominent social reformers like Florence Nightingale, Octavia Hill, and Josephine Butler advocated for change and contributed to improving the lives of many.

3. Parliamentary Democracy: The Victorian Age was characterized by the development of parliamentary democracy. The role of the British Parliament expanded, and constitutional monarchy became more entrenched. The monarchy gradually evolved into a symbolic and ceremonial institution, with real political power resting with elected representatives.

4 . Emergence of Political Parties: The Victorian Age saw the emergence and consolidation of political parties. The Liberal Party, under leaders like William Gladstone, championed reform and individual liberties, while the Conservative Party, led by Benjamin Disraeli, emphasized social order and tradition. The party system played a crucial role in shaping political discourse and policy-making.

The best that of known scientific development is the Theory of Evolution. The theory of Evolution is credited to Charles Darwin. One scientific book, in particular “, On the Origin of Species” impacted the lives of thousands of Victorians. Although it took a long time for this work to be widely accepted. The theory of Evolution in the book broke many perceptions of the Victorians about themselves. The book completely changed the future thoughts, and beliefs, of people and the literature itself.

This age saw the birth and spread of political movements, most notably socialism, liberalism, and organized feminism. Politics were important to the Victorians. They believed in the perfection of their evolved representative government and in exporting it throughout the British empire. It was an age of comparative peace because of democracy. Dr. T. Singh said in his book about this age that “England begins to think less of the pomp and false glitter of fighting more of its moral evils, as the nation realizes that it is the common people who bear the burden” Multiple invention and discoveries in the field of science, medicine, and agriculture occurred in this age. The invention of sewing machines, gas engines, the telephone, the phonograph, the microphone, the wireless telegraph, and the X-rays machine. In 1940, the development of Physical Science become a boon for Victorian people which transformed the masses directly and indirectly. Materialism and Commercialism Inevitably lead men to restlessness as much as hectic activity. The concept of “the busy hum of men” was alien for r all spiritual responses. We Could have another Wordsworth lamented:

“The World is too much with us; late and soon; Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers: Little we see in Nature that is ours.”

No doubt Victorian scientists started "seeing" much in nature, but not in Wordsworth sense. For Wordsworth, nature is seen as a human being and a living thing of God. To them, Nature was non-human as a spider or a weed that is so nonchalantly cut up and read lectures upon. Second or later prominently, the scientific temperament reflected in writers of the Victorian age reveals the true side of age. For instance, Tennyson followed as the poet of a particular scientific method of narration and description. According to Compton- Rickett,

“Like the work of an inspired –scientist”. In the writings of Thomas Carlyle who bitterly opposed science in other ways. About the impact on fiction, Compton - Rickett maintains:

“In fiction, the scientific spirit is no less than discernible: the heredity and environment preoccupying the attention of the novelist... The social problem of the earliest Charlotte Bronte, Dickens, Kingsley and Reade, give place to points in biology, psychologically and pathology.....” Development in democracy was one of the key aspects of this era. This period saw a gradual expansion of the right to vote. The Reform Act of 1832, 1867, and 1884 extended suffrage to a broader section of the population albeit limited to property-owing men. The impact of these reforms increases the representation of women and poor people in parliament. The reform act for instance eliminated “soften thoughts” and redistribute seats to the more popular area. The emergence of the chartist movement advocating for political and social reform proved a large setback to discriminatory powers.

From a literary point of view, these themes were often explored and reflected upon by writers of the time. In the realm of science, the Victorian era witnessed remarkable progress and discoveries across various fields. This period saw the rise of scientific disciplines such as biology, chemistry, physics, and geology. Writers like Charles Darwin, with his groundbreaking work "On the Origin of Species" (1859), revolutionized the understanding of evolution and natural selection. Darwin's theories challenged traditional religious beliefs and sparked intense debates about the relationship between science and faith.

From the literary canon of the age:

Literary works of the time often grappled with these scientific advancements and their implications. Authors sought to reconcile new scientific knowledge with existing religious and moral frameworks. For example, Thomas Hardy's novel "Tess of the d'Urbervilles" (1891) explores the conflict between religious beliefs and the scientific ideas of determinism and natural selection. Through the character of Tess, Hardy raises questions about the role of fate and the consequences of scientific progress on traditional values.

The development of democracy and political reforms also had a profound impact on Victorian literature. During this period, societal shifts led to the expansion of voting rights, the emergence of the middle class, and increased social mobility. These changes gave rise to a greater focus on individualism, social justice, and the rights of women. The works of writers like Charles Dickens and Elizabeth Gaskell reflected the social issues of the time and advocated for the rights of the working class. In novels such as "Hard Times" (1854) and "North and South" (1855), these authors shed light on the harsh realities of industrialization, the dehumanizing effects of capitalism, and the need for social reforms. Their portrayals of characters from various social backgrounds highlighted the struggles of the lower classes and contributed to the push for democratic reforms.

Furthermore, the Victorian era witnessed the emergence of women writers who tackled themes of gender inequality and women's rights. Prominent figures such as Charlotte Brontë, George Eliot, and Virginia Woolf explored the limitations placed on women by society and advocated for their intellectual and creative emancipation. Their works, such as "Jane Eyre" (1847), "Middlemarch" (1871-1872), and "A Room of One's Own" (1929), respectively, challenged gender norms and contributed to the feminist discourse of the time. The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 abolished slavery in British land. The abolitionist cause closely tied to a nation of human rights and the principles of equality and freedom all of which are central to democracy.

Conclusion :

In conclusion, the Victorian age stands as a testament to the transformative form of science and the evolution of democratic ideals. The interplay between science and democracy during this era propelled society forward fostering an environment of intellectual curiosity, social progress, and egalitarianism. The scientific advancement of the Victorian age was not natural world but also laid the foundation of modern democratic societies.

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