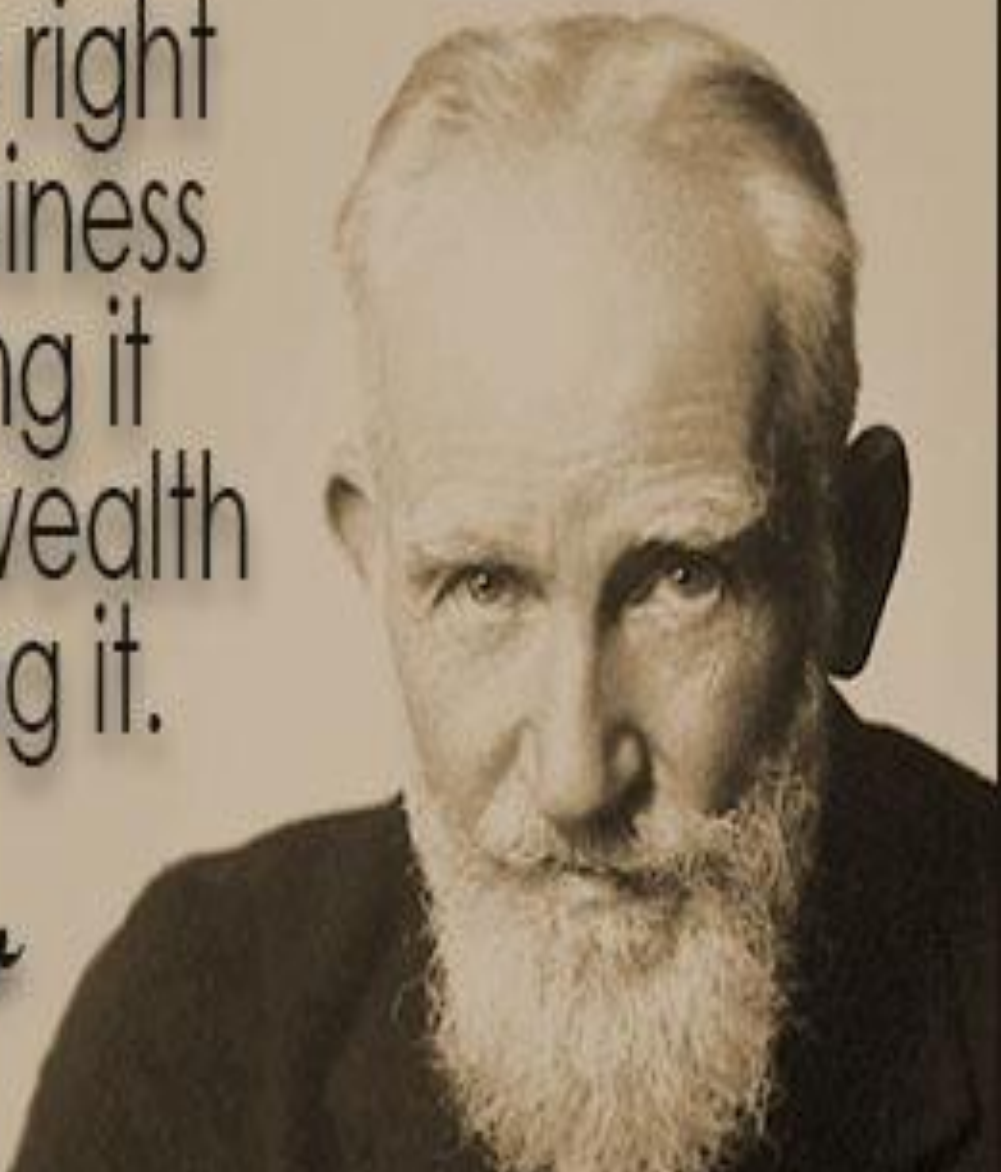


We have no more right
to consume happiness
without producing it
than to consume wealth
without producing it.

--G. B. Shaw



GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

George Bernard Shaw was born in the year 1856. He was a famous Irish dramatist, critic and novelist. He was well known for his plays, often called as problem plays because all of them deal with the social vices which affect human lives. He was awarded the Noble prize for Literature in the year 1925. He left this world at his ripe age of ninety four in the year 1950 leaving all his socialist views in the hearts of good men.

LESSON'S INTRODUCTION

Bernard Shaw's "HOW I BECAME A PUBLIC SPEAKER" recalls how he became a successful public speaker. Before taking his public speaking career, he knew nothing about public oration and meetings. When he spoke for the first time, he became nervous and failed in that endeavor. After many efforts he won success in the art of oration.

SHAW'S EXPERIENCES IN THE ZETETICAL SOCIETY

Shaw went to the meeting at Zetetical society with his friend Lecky. It was his first experience. There was a debate going on. He stood up and blabbered something towards the speaker. He was able to estimate his reply as a meaningless one. He felt ashamed of it. So, he joined the society and attended every meeting. At the starting, his speeches were ignored by the members of the society. But, the members gradually started to hear his speeches. He perfected his oration techniques progressively by hard work.

SHAW'S SECURING OF FREEDOM OF SPEECH

He became a socialist orator. His first lecture was called "Thieves". He spoke for an hour without any notes. He spoke extempore. He spoke whenever and wherever he was asked. It was first come first served with him. When he got an application for a lecture, he gave the applicant the first date he had vacant. One of his best speeches was delivered in Hyde Park, London in heavy rain. Only six policemen attended his lecture. They were on duty to listen to his speech, plus the secretary of the Society who held umbrella over Shaw. He spoke for more than an hour.

Shaw's nature of giving free oration:

Shaw never took payment for speaking. The Sunday Societies paid him ten guineas fee on a condition that he should not speak on controversial politics and religion. But Shaw said that he would talk only on controversial politics and religion and he didn't want any fee except his third class railway ticket. On this condition Shaw was allowed to speak on controversial politics and religion. Thus Shaw obtained freedom of speech.

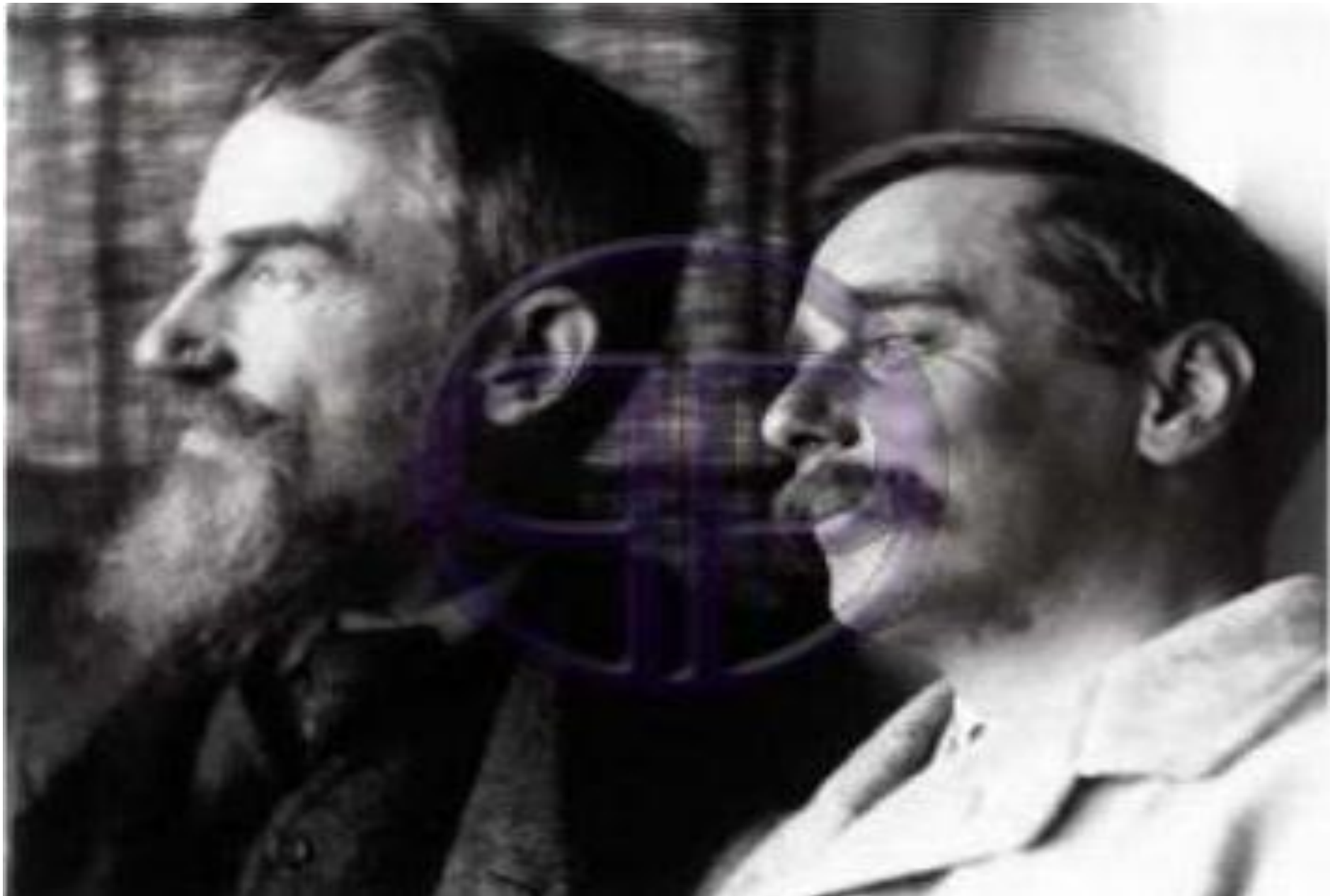
SHAW AND ANTI-FABIANS:

At once occasion, Shaw was delivering his talk at St. James Hall in London. At that time, a hostile group entered the room. They were anti-Fabians. In a few minutes, they all broke up the meeting and insisted to make their leader as the chairman of the meeting. Shaw scored their notion and dealt with them carefully. He demanded some time to give a talk and spoke for a long time. By his persuasive speech, the news papers wrote articles criticizing the anti-Fabians on the next day. Thus, Shaw by his wit disgraced all the anti-Fabians.

SHAW AND H.G.WELLS

Shaw got perfection in community training along with platform techniques. He got a great success as a public speaker. On the contrary, H. G. Wells who was a gifted writer and thinker never practiced this talent. At one meeting, H. G. Wells tried to insult the Fabian society. But Shaw by his talent as a platform artist defeated Wells' views.

SHAW AND H.G.WELLS



CONCLUSION

Shaw cured his nervousness by his regular practice on public speaking in a gradual manner. He delivered speeches on various themes till to the age of eighty five. All of his speeches were highly commanding and tend everyone who hears them. His socialistic views were reformatory and made the people aware of the social conditions of London.