

**HISTORY OF THE WORKING CLASSES
IN FRANCE; A REVIEW OF
LEVASSEUR'S HISTOIRE DES CLASSES
OUVRIÈRES ET DE L'INDUSTRIE EN
FRANCE AVANT 1789, PP. 1-135**

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FRANCE AVANT 1789



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Historical Review

PREFACE

Nothing sooner reached the intellect as well as the heart of the scholarly woman whose review appears in this little volume than the state of the poor. To examine the conditions of laborers, to study the economic causes and results operating for or against their well-being, was one of the chief interests of her life. Especially was this true of the great period of history known as the Middle Ages. Her extensive investigation in this field was first shown by her doctorate thesis, *Aetleiding*, a study of those early Norse laws by which children of illegitimate birth could be given social position. A few years later followed *Slavery in Germanic Society during the Middle Ages*; and still later the review here reprinted of Levasseur's *Histoire des classes ouvrières et de l'industrie en France*.

Though prevented by circumstances from producing a monumental work of her own,

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1913

these three short studies amply prove her ability and equipment, and are in themselves valuable contributions to the subjects treated. That on slavery has indeed been recognized as authoritative. This review of Levasseur's great work is not merely an ordinary review. It is rather a running commentary in brief, for which the author himself showed warm appreciation. It throws emphasis on the chief features of the work and arouses the English reader's and the student's desire for further acquaintance with the original. This is the justification for reprinting it as a separate volume. It appeared first in the *Journal of Political Economy*.

K. M.

CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I. Mediaeval Period	I
II. Renaissance and Modern Periods	68