

**NOTES OF A TRAVELLER, ON THE SOCIAL
AND POLITICAL STATE OF FRANCE,
PRUSSIA, SWITZERLAND, ITALY, AND
OTHER PARTS OF EUROPE, DURING THE
PRESENT CENTURY. FIRST SERIES**

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Notes of a Traveller, on the Social and Political State of France, Prussia, Switzerland, Italy, and Other Parts of Europe, during the Present Century. First Series by Samuel Laing

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SAMUEL LAING

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BY SAMUEL LAING, ESQ.,

AUTHOR OF "A JOURNAL OF A RESIDENCE IN NORWAY," AND OF "A TOUR IN SWEDEN."

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PREFACE.

THE changes produced by the French Revolution in the social economy of the European people are so extensive and important, reaching downwards to the very foundation of the former feudal structure of society, that History, it may be truly said, only begins for posterity with this century. The monarchical, aristocratical, and ecclesiastical elements of the former social economy of Europe, even property, law, power, have all been altered in relations, proportions, and intensity of influence; and the living of the generation which witnessed the commencement of the French Revolution have, in fifty years, been removed five hundred from the order of things previously established. The events and personages connected with this great convulsion will, no doubt, find their historian; but the alterations produced by it in the social structure and arrangements of almost every country, are scarcely noticed by our travellers and political writers, occupied with the more brilliant scenes or novelties of the age; and the future historian or philosopher may even want materials, notwithstanding all the literature of our days, for forming a just

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estimate of the amount, nature, and tendencies of the changes effected, or in progress, during this half century, in the social economy of Europe. The Author of the following Notes has attempted in two preceding works—one on Norway,* and one on Sweden†—to collect materials on the social economy of those two countries, which, although distant from the centre of action, have not been beyond the reach of its disturbing force. This work is intended to be a continuation of the same attempt, to collect materials for the future historian or philosopher who shall endeavour to describe and estimate the new social elements in Europe which are springing up from, and covering the ashes of, the French Revolution.

* *Journal of a Residence in Norway*, by Samuel Laing. Longmans, London.

† *A Tour in Sweden*, by Samuel Laing. Longmans, London.

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