

**A PLEA FOR PEASANT
PROPRIETORS; WITH THE
OUTLINES OF A PLAN FOR THEIR
ESTABLISHMENT IN IRELAND**

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A plea for peasant proprietors; with the outlines of a plan for their establishment in Ireland by
William Thomas Thornton

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WILLIAM THOMAS THORNTON

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FOR
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WITH THE OUTLINES OF A PLAN FOR THEIR
ESTABLISHMENT IN IRELAND

BY

WILLIAM THOMAS THORNTON, C.B.

AUTHOR OF A TREATISE "ON LABOUR" ETC.

Modum agri imprimis servandum (PLINI Nat. Hist. lib. xviii. 7)

NEW EDITION

London
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1874

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TO MESSIEURS

LÉONCE DE LAVERGNE & ÉMILE DE LAVELEYE

PRE-EMINENT *among* LIVING WRITERS *on* RURAL ECONOMY

THIS EDITION

OF

'A PLEA FOR PEASANT PROPRIETORS'

LONDON

THE RESULT OF RESEARCHES IN A CORNER OF THE SAME FIELD

18

WITH AN ADMIRING FELLOW-LABOURER'S CORDIAL REGARD

INSCRIBED BY THE AUTHOR

PREFACE.

THIS WORK appeared originally in 1848, and has been long out of print. Some years ago, while the discussions which terminated in the passing of the Irish Landlord and Tenant Act were at their height, it came greatly into request, and I was strongly urged by the late Mr. Mill and other friends to republish it; but to do so required an amount of preliminary labour for which I neither then had, nor have since, until recently, been able to find, leisure. For the last few months, however, my spare half-hours have been occupied with little else. Every portion of the book has been searchingly revised; the first Chapter has been almost rewritten, two new Chapters (the fourth and seventh) have been

introduced, and to or in all the rest material additions, corrections, and other alterations have been made. No pains, in short, have been spared to render this edition an adequate exposition of its subject, and also an effective aid to study of the still greater subject with which it is inextricably bound up.

Of neither subject—of neither Peasant Proprietorship nor Landed Property in general—is the daily increasing interest likely to begin to diminish for some generations to come.

CADOGAN PLACE: *January, 1874.*

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