HOW THE PEASANT OWNER LIVES IN PARTS OF FRANCE, GERMANY, ITALY, RUSSIA

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How the Peasant Owner Lives in Parts of France, Germany, Italy, Russia by Frances Parthenope Verney

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BY LADY VERNEY

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PREFACE

A COMPARISON between the condition of peasant owners in the principal countries of Europe as given in different official reports lately published is so extremely interesting, that I have collected these papers from the *Nineteenth Century*, etc., as a very small contribution to so large a subject. I have added a fresh paper on the application of the system to Ireland, and have inserted a map of a French estate, to show by the eye the enormous inconveniences inherent in the "pulverisation of the land," and what is almost worse, the scattering of the plots and scraps, over half a commune, even when belonging to the same owner, and the consequent impossibility of carrying out any decent agriculture. This distinctive feature of the *mor-*

cellement is hardly known in England, though abroad it is constantly mentioned as reducing the value of the soil, sometimes as much as by half.

To make a mistake about the question of land in Ireland at this moment would be so disastrous, that all evidence on the subject of small ownerships in different countries must be important to look into.

CLAYDON, 11*th June*.

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MAP.

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FOREIGN OPINIONS ON PEASANT PROPERTIES

It is strange that in the numerous discussions concerning Peasant Properties, Germany, where they abound, is comparatively hardly alluded to. Their condition there is, however, considered to be so serious, that three Government Commissions have simultaneously been issued to inquire into the remedies necessary to counteract the evils connected with the present state of their land tenure—one by the Prussian Minister of Agriculture in 1883; another for the Grand Duchy of Baden, which is considered the most searching and complete; the third by the Society of Social Economy, which has been carried out by local inquiries in all parts of Germany, Bavaria, Austria, the Rhine Provinces, Westphalia, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, etc. "The fear that haunts