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The Great French Revolution, 1789-1793 by P. A. Kropotkin; N. F. Dryhurst
Review by: Fred Morrow Fling
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revision of the book for the press show traces of haste and carelessness. Misspellings and grammatical errors are not infrequent, and the construction of the sentences is sometimes awkward and involved. In spite of these minor defects—defects which a careful reading of the proofs might easily have eliminated—the *Life of W. J. Fox* is a substantial contribution to the political and economic history of England in the years between the battle of Waterloo and the death of Lord Palmerston.

The Great French Revolution, 1789-1793. By P. A. KROPOTKIN. Translated from the French by N. F. DRYHURST. (London: William Heinemann; New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1909. Pp. xi, 610.)

JAURÈS has given us a series of volumes on the Revolution from the socialist point of view and now comes Kropotkin, the Russian prince and revolutionist, with a volume presenting the communist conception of the great upheaval. It is with the rôle of the masses and with the great economic changes that he is chiefly concerned, matters that have not received in the past the consideration that is due them. As a result, the histories of the Revolution have been chiefly political histories from which one can learn but little concerning the abolition of feudal rights of the confiscation and sale of land, and of the action of the masses of the people during the period 1789-1794. And yet, to Kropotkin, these things appear the fundamental facts of the Revolution. "The insurrection of the peasants for the abolition of the feudal rights and the recovery of the communal lands which had been taken away from the village communes, since the seventeenth century, by the lords, lay and ecclesiastical, is the very essence, the very foundation of the great Revolution. Upon it the struggle of the middle classes for their political rights developed. Without it the Revolution would never have been so thorough as it was in France. The great rising of the rural districts which began after the January of 1789, even in 1788, and lasted five years, was what enabled the Revolution to accomplish the immense work of demolition which we owe to it. It was this that impelled the Revolution to set up the first landmarks of a system of equality, to develop in France the republican spirit, which since then nothing has been able to suppress, to proclaim the great principles of agrarian communism, which we shall see emerging in 1793. This rising, in fact, is what gives the true character to the French Revolution, and distinguishes it radically from the Revolution of 1648-1657 in England." This is the thesis of the book. How successful is the development of it?

If the old books emphasize the political side of the Revolution and the work of the upper classes, this book, in the attempt to restore the balance, devotes undue space to the economic side and to the work of the masses. It is probable that the method was consciously followed and,

under the circumstances, was justifiable. The volume should be looked upon as a work dealing especially with the action of the masses and with the economic side of the Revolution, well fitted to supplement the older histories which treat too exclusively of the political side of the movement. There is no volume of the same size in English, nor in any other language, so far as I am aware, that gives as satisfactory an account of this very important and much neglected side of the Revolution. Members of the guild of historians will find it semi-scientific and will note many weak spots in the narrative. How could it be otherwise? The real reason that we have had no satisfactory account of the Revolution from the economic point of view has been that it was impossible to produce a satisfactory account in the present state of our knowledge. The popular uprisings, the destruction of feudal rights, the land question, and the communist movement, these are the subjects with which Kropotkin concerns himself, and yet so little monographic work has been done upon them that the historian is forced to form his synthesis from facts established by a study of the sources, a task that is impossible for any one man. Kropotkin is acquainted with most of the good monographs that have been written on his subject—he refers to them in foot-notes—and has used a goodly number of printed sources, but he has not frequented the archives and he was not able to make use of the monographs and sources, considerable in number, which have been published in the last three years. The specialist will find here little that is new, will shake his head over many daring constructions, and will find places indicating that Kropotkin is not as well informed as he should be, but everything considered, it must be acknowledged that with all its faults the book is full of hypotheses which are worth testing and which will open the eyes of students of history who are not acquainted with the monographic work that has been done on the economic side of the Revolution. The volume was well worth translating into English and should be read by every teacher as a help to a better understanding of the great French movement of a hundred years ago.

FRED MORROW FLING.

The Love Affairs of Napoleon. Translated from the French of JOSEPH TURQUAN by J. LEWIS MAY, with numerous portraits. (London and New York: John Lane Company. 1909. Pp. xii, 378.)

Napoléon Adultère: Suivi du Dialogue sur l'Amour par Napoléon Bonaparte. Par HECTOR FLEISCHMANN. (Paris: Albert Méricant. 1909. Pp. viii, 288.)

THE first epoch of interest in Napoleonic studies, which practically began with the translation of the remains of the emperor from St. Helena to the Hotel des Invalides in 1840 and ended with the fall of