

terms with the wanderers he met along the high roads. But he was also an educated English gentleman ; this was soon seen to be the case when he was living in towns. When he was living in a town, such as Blois, he made acquaintance with military officers who were Royalists and ultimately, as *émigrés*, fought against France and endeavoured to arrest the Revolution or to restore the Monarchy. He formed closer friendships with military officers who were ardent Republicans determined to resist at all costs the invaders of their country. He became, as we have noted, the close ally of the leading Girondins, who, whatever their defects, were the sincerest of French Republicans ; while they were enthusiasts for equality, they were not inclined to sacrifice to its attainment their fervent love of liberty. Compare the opportunities which fell to Wordsworth for studying the character of Frenchmen with the opportunities of Arthur Young, a man of rare ability who noted with care the condition of France at the outbreak of the Revolution. Young's Journal of his travels in France is still, as far as Englishmen are concerned, the main authority for the needs and the desires of French farmers and agriculturists in 1789. But Young was then a well-known man. He had introductions to noblemen and gentlemen. He travelled on horseback or in a carriage. Wordsworth did not possess Young's knowledge of agriculture ; and Young must have known more than Wordsworth of the nobility and gentry of France. But Wordsworth, we may well believe, must have learned more than did the intelligent gentleman-farmer about the enthusiasm of the French peasantry and about the sufferings and the feelings of the poor in Blois or in Paris. And if Young was an incomparable observer of