

PREFATORY NOTE.

THE writings of Professor Bücher, in their German dress, require no introduction to economists. His admirable work *The Population of Frankfurt in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*, published in 1886, gave him immediate celebrity with economic historians, and left him without a rival in the field of historical statistics. In his treatment of economic theory he stands midway between the "younger historical school" of economists and the psychological Austrians.¹ A full list of his writings need not be given.² But I may recall his amplified German edition of Laveleye's *Primitive Property*, his little volume *The Insurrections of the Slave Labourers*, 143-129 B.C., his original and suggestive *Labour and Rhythm*, discussing the relation between the

¹ A few facts and dates regarding Professor Bücher's career may not be uninteresting. Professor Bücher was born in Prussian Rhineland in 1847. He completed his undergraduate studies at Bonn and Göttingen (1866-69). His rapid rise in the German scholastic world is evident from his academic appointments: special lecturer at Göttingen (1869-72), lecturer at Dortmund (1872-73), at Frankfurt Technical School (1873-78), and at Munich (1881); Professor of Statistics at Dorpat, Russia (1882), of Political Economy and Finance at Basel (1883-90), at Karlsruhe (1890-93), and at Leipzig (1893 to present). From 1878 to the close of 1880 he was Industrial and Social Editor of the *Frankfurter Zeitung*.

² This may be found in the *Handwörterbuch d. Staatswiss.*