## Communist Manifesto

the common platform acknowledged by millions of working men from Siberia to California.

Yet, when it was written, we could not have called it a Socialist Manifesto. By Socialists, in 1847, were understood, on the one hand, the adherents of the various Utopian systems: Owenites in England, Fourierists in France, both of them already reduced to the position of mere sects, and gradually dying out; on the other hand, the most multifarious social quacks, who, by all manners of tinkering, professed to redress, without any danger to capital and profit, all sorts of social grievances, in both cases men outside the working class movement, and looking rather to the "educated" classes for support. Whatever portion of the working class had become convinced of the insufficiency of mere political revolutions, and had proclaimed the necessity of a total social change, that portion, then called itself Communist. It was a crude, rough-hewn, purely instinctive sort of communism; still, it touched the cardinal point and was powerful enough amongst the working class movement. Socialism was, on the Methods of the contending classes, socialism was, on the contending classes and produce the Utopian Communism; still, it touched the cardinal point and was powerful enough amongst the working class movement. Socialism was, on the contending classes, socialism was, on the contending classes to produce the Utopian Communism; istill, it touched the cardinal point and was powerful enough amongst the working class must be the act of the working class must be the act of

PREFACE.

The "Manifesto" was published as the platform of the "Communist League," workingmen's association, first exclusively German, later an international, and under the political conditions of the Continent before 1646, unavoidably a secret society. At a Congress of the League, held in London in November, 1847, Marx and Engels were commissioned to prepare for publication a complete theoretical and practical party-program. In January, 1848, the manuscript was sent to the printer in London a few weeks before the French revolution of February 24th. A French translation was brought out in Paris shortly before the insurrection of June, 1848. The first English translation, by Miss Helen Macfarlane, appeared in George Julian Harney's "Red Republican," London, 1850. A Danish and a Polish edition has also been published.

The defeat of the Parisian insurrection of June, 1848—the first great battle between Proletariat and Bourgeoisie—drove again into the background, for a time, the social and political aspirations of the European working class. Theseeforth, the struggle for supremacy was again, as it had been before the revolution of February, solely between different the working class was reduced to a fight for political elbow room, and to the position of extreme wing of the Middle-class Radicals. Wherever independent proletarian movements continued to show signs of life, they were ruthlessly hunted down. Thus the Prussian bolice hunted out the Central Board of the Communist League, then located in Cologne.

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The war is for the patriot.
The worker pays the cost;
The death is for the soldier
Be the battle won or lost.
The widow and the orphan
Get almost all the woe,
The general gets the glory
Of conquering the foe.
The fighting nations, weakened,
Lose what they've battled for,
By stronger neighbors gobbled,
And that, my son is war!
—Chie