

an independent landed proprietor, born in the north-west of Germany, and occupied during the greater part of his life with the management of an estate in Mecklenburg, one of the independent sovereign states of North Germany.

82.
J. H. von
Thünen.

With a natural bent towards abstract and mathematical reasoning, and possessed of great practical experience and influence, he certainly carried out, more than Fichte himself did, the injunction of the latter not to leave things which could be calculated to a fatal hazard. Born in 1783, he published, after prolonged studies and experience, his principal work, with the characteristic title, 'The Isolated State with respect to Agriculture and Economics' (1826). The title further indicates that the book deals with the influence which price of corn, fertility of the soil, and taxes have upon agriculture. In order to investigate the relation and influence of these different factors he adopts a method similar to that used in the mechanical sciences, as, *e.g.*, in physical astronomy, where the motion of cosmical bodies, subject to a definite law, is first calculated upon the supposed simplest arrangement, and then corrected by introducing perturbations such as are to be met with actually in nature.

of subsistence of the mass of the community. He arrived . . . at a formula which expresses the amount of natural wages. . . . To this formula he attributed so much importance that . . . it led him to establish on his estate a system of participation by the labourers in the profits of farming, of which some account will be found in Mr

Sedley Taylor's 'Profit-Sharing between Capital and Labour' (1884). Von Thünen deserves more attention than he has received in England; both as a man and as a writer he was eminently interesting and original, and there is much in his works that is awakening and suggestive." (Ingram, 'History of Political Economy,' 1893, pp. 187-8.)