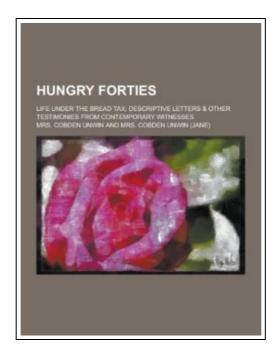
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Theclassics.Us, United States, 2013. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 246 x 189 mm. Language: English. Brand New Book ****** Print on Demand ******. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can usually download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1904 edition. Excerpt: . CHAPTER I PROTECTION IN THE MIDLANDS The letters in this chapter, coming as they do from the central counties of England, deal with a district in which the conditions under Protection, as now, were naturally more varied than perhaps in any other. The district is neither so purely agricultural as eastern or western England, nor yet so completely manufacturing as the North. The proximity of large towns exercises a favourable influence on agricultural wages by offering the rural labourers an alternative to field work. Hence, London and Birmingham being within reach of many of the counties with which we here deal, the poverty of the rural labourers was hardly quite so deplorable as that of which we have evidence in Devonshire and Dorset; nor, considering its size and population, has the district been quite so eloquent. Perhaps the following letter, with its quaint and picturesque detail, gives as good an idea of actual life conditions in protected England as any. The details it gives as to wages, c, are particularly clear. The letter is dated February 12, 1904, from 14, Bouverie Street, Northampton: -- I, Joseph Boddington, was born on May 27, 1827. Our family consisted of 7 brothers, 2 sisters, father and mother. I was the youngest but one. Father hedgecutter and thatcher, and all hard work of any kind. I had to go to work with him at the age of six years old, weather hot or cold. My little hands...



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