

<input type="checkbox"/> This tells me why the protesters thought they should be free.	<input type="checkbox"/> This tells me how the protesters wanted to make themselves free.	<input type="checkbox"/> This tells me what Froissart thought about the protesters' ideas.
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It is common in England for the Lords to have great privileges over the peasants, whom they keep in bondage; that is to say, they are bound by law and custom to plough the lands of the Lords, to harvest the grain, to carry it home to the barn, to thresh and winnow it: they are also bound to harvest the hay and carry it home. All these services they have to perform for their lords, and more. The bishops and the Lords are thus served.

The evil-minded peasants began to rebel, saying, they were too severely oppressed; that at the beginning of the world there were no slaves, and that no one ought to be treated as such, unless he had committed treason against his lord, as Lucifer had done against God. But they had done no such thing, for they were neither angels nor spirits, but men made after the same likeness as their Lords, who treated them as beasts. This they would no longer bear, but had decided to be free, and if they laboured or did any other works for their Lords, they would be paid for it.

A crazy priest in the county of Kent, called John Bull who, for his absurd preaching, had been put in the prison of the Archbishop of Canterbury three times, was greatly to blame in spreading those ideas. Every Sunday after mass, as the people were coming out of the church, he preached to them in the market places and would gather a crowd around him; to whom he would say:

"My good friends, things cannot go on well in England, nor will they, until everything is held in common; when there shall be neither peasant nor lord, and all privileges abolished; when the lords shall be no more the masters than ourselves. How ill have they used us! and for what reason do they hold us in bondage? Are we not all descended from the same parents, Adam and Eve? And what can they show, or what reasons give, why they should be the masters rather than us?"

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