

like the physical astronomer, not merely takes for granted all the great movements of the political fabric; but combining with this a knowledge of the perturbations proceeding from the mutual actions of its parts, dares to look into futurity, and to speculate on events, that time may hereafter bring to light within the world he contemplates. The labours of the one belong chiefly to the elements of political philosophy, the labours of the other belong to its consummation.

The great objects, with a wise legislator, are the security of the state and the happiness of its subjects. But national wealth (in however extended a sense the term may have been used) is, after all, but one of the means of securing these great ends. And among the greatest blunders the economist has committed, has been a hasty spirit of generalization (and what infant science has not suffered by that spirit?), an affectation of deductive reasoning, and a rash attempt to usurp, before his time, the chair of the lawgiver. Political economy has, however, now a permanent place among the applied moral sciences, and has obtained an honorable seat in most of the academic establishments of the civilized world. Surely then we may dare to hope (without being accused of rashness in counting on the coming fortunes of mankind), that it may, in the end, assist in enabling men to see more deeply into the sources of social happiness or national greatness—that it may allay the bitterness of national animosity; teaching kingdoms, as well as individuals, how much they gain from mutual support and mutual good-will—and, more than all, that it may (when combined with christian knowledge) help to lighten the pressure of such evils as belong