

**A SKETCH OF ANNE ROBERT  
JACQUES TURGOT, WITH  
A TRANSLATION OF HIS  
LETTER TO DOCTOR PRICE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649342129

A Sketch of Anne Robert Jacques Turgot, with a Translation of His Letter to Doctor Price by  
James M. Barnard

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JAMES M. BARNARD**

**A SKETCH OF ANNE ROBERT  
JACQUES TURGOT, WITH  
A TRANSLATION OF HIS  
LETTER TO DOCTOR PRICE**



Barward

A SKETCH

OF

" ANNE ROBERT JACQUES  
TURGOT,"

*WITH A TRANSLATION OF HIS LETTER TO  
DOCTOR PRICE*

J. m. Barward

BOSTON

GEO. H. ELLIS, PRINTER, 272 CONGRESS STREET

1899

(19)

IN MEMORY  
OF  
WILLIAM GARDINER HAMMOND  
OF ST. LOUIS, MO.

*The Most Learned Civilian in the United States.*

TO HIM I OWE MY APPRECIATION OF THE VALUE OF THE  
ROMAN LAW, AND MY RESPECT FOR THE HIGHER  
BRANCHES OF JURISPRUDENCE  
AND LEGISLATION.

JAN. 10. 1899.

J. M. B.

## SKETCH.

---

WASHINGTON and his associates warned their countrymen against entangling alliances with the European powers.

M. Turgot, Minister of State under Louis XVI., our great friend in France, in his letter of the 22d of March, 1778, to Dr. Price, our best friend in London, in relation to the new republic writes, "In order that all these good results, which he foresaw were possible in America, may be brought about, it will be necessary for America to keep itself from imitating or becoming an image of Europe."

Again, he goes on to say: "We see her [America] irrevocably independent. Will she be happy in her freedom? This new nation is situated so advantageously to give the world the example of a constitution where the individual enjoys all his rights, freely uses all his faculties, and is only to be governed by nature, right, and justice. But will the people know how to

form such a constitution? Will they know how to ground it on eternal foundations? America is the hope of the human race. It may become its model. It could prove to the world by deeds that men can be free and peaceful, and are able to dispense with fetters of all kinds, which the tyrants and impostors have pretended to impose upon them under the pretext of the public good."

In regard to the moral sciences, particularly with the noblest of them all, the highest statesmanship, it is otherwise. Here we might profit by the experience of Europe.

It requires but a very superficial acquaintance with juridical history to know that a broad and all-comprehensive knowledge of the Roman law, of the historical school of which perhaps Montesquieu was the founder, of the Physiocrates in France, of Immanuel Kant, of Thomas Hobbes, of Jeremy Bentham and his great followers, is necessary for that end. Now, as far as I can find out, these are known only partially in our law schools. This is the more surprising, inasmuch as the Americans have an especial talent for law, producing the best of legists. In historical sense they seem to



be deficient. If the philosophy of evolution is correct, this sense is as necessary here as it is in geology or in any other science.

It has been my good fortune during the last few years to become somewhat acquainted with many of the works of the above-mentioned great writers, among them with M. Turgot, perhaps the noblest of them all. A sense of gratitude and admiration leads me to print this humble study of him. To it I have annexed an admirable translation of M. Turgot's celebrated letter to Dr. Price, made for me by my friend, Helen Billings Morris. Many of the dangers anticipated by M. Turgot have been obviated by the great freedom and strong political sense of our people. But it would have been well, had we heeded his counsels; namely, against the monarchical militarism of Europe (America, he said, is destined to become great, not by war, but by culture), against great taxes, the tendency to borrow, an excessive commercial spirit. He called upon us to exhibit an example of political, religious, commercial, and industrial liberty. He himself gave an example of ability, courage, and purity in office.

These were his contributions to the political moral

currency in all forms of government and to all times. These counsels and acts are as pertinent now as they were with Moses in the wilderness, Christ in Jerusalem Marcus Aurelius in Rome, Washington and Lincoln in America. They should not be forgotten. We should teach them to our young people, and, better still, act them out in market-places.

J. M. B.

JAN. 10, 1899.

The photographic portrait is taken from a 12mo edition of Condorcet's "Vie de Monsieur Turgot," published at Berne, chez Kirchberger & Hatton, Libraires, MDCCLXXXVII."

ANNE ROBERT JACQUES TURGOT,

OF FRANCE,

*Sometimes called "The Godlike."*

BORN MAY 10, 1727.

DIED MARCH 20, 1781.

---

By nature and character, great. Fired with an uncompromising love of truth.

On the title-page of Condorcet's "Vie de Turgot" we have these lines from Lucan :—

"Secta fuit servare modum, finemque tenere,  
Naturamque sequi, patriaeque impendere vitam ;  
Non sibi, sed toti genitum se credere mundo."

*Lucan.*

These have been admirably translated by Dr. William Everett :—