

**SMALL BOOKS ON GREAT
SUBJECTS, NO. XV:
THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS
OF A STATESMAN**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649546145

Small Books on Great Subjects, No. XV: Thoughts and Opinions of a Statesman by Wilhelm Von Humboldt

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

WILHELM VON HUMBOLDT

**SMALL BOOKS ON GREAT
SUBJECTS, NO. XV:
THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS
OF A STATESMAN**

Small Books on Great Subjects.

Already published.

No. I.

Philosophical Theories and Philosophical Experiences.

(Second Edition.)

No. II.

On the Connection between Physiology and Intellectual Science.

(Second Edition enlarged.)

No. III.

On Man's Power over Himself to prevent or control Insanity.

No. IV.

An Introduction to Practical Organic Chemistry.

No. V.

A Brief View of Greek Philosophy up to the Age of Pericles.

By the same Author,

Pericles, a Tale of Athens in the Eighty-third Olympiad.

No. VI.

A Brief View of Greek Philosophy from the Age of Socrates to the Coming of Christ.

No. VII.

Christian Doctrine and Practice in the Second
Century.

No. VIII.

An Exposition of Vulgar and Common Errors,
adapted to the Year of Grace 1845.

No. IX.

An Introduction to Vegetable Physiology, with
References to the Works of De Candolle, Lindley, etc.

No. X.

On the Principles of Criminal Law.

No. XI.

Christian Sects in the Nineteenth Century.

No. XII.

General Principles of Grammar.

No. XIII.

Sketches of Geology.

No. XIV.

On the State of Man before the Promulgation
of Christianity.

No. XVI.

Will be published in July, 1849.

W^m Bancroft.



Small Books on Great Subjects.

EDITED BY A FEW WELL WISHERS
TO KNOWLEDGE.



N^o. XV.



THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS
OF A STATESMAN



LONDON
WILLIAM PICKERING

1849



THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS OF A STATESMAN.

INTRODUCTION.

THE name of Von Humboldt is too well known in Europe to require that we should give any very detailed account of the writer, from whose letters to a friend the following extracts are taken. Wilhelm Von Humboldt, besides the fame which he has justly acquired as an oriental scholar, was employed largely by his monarch in diplomatic affairs: amongst the rest, he appeared as the envoy of Prussia at the Congress of Vienna. A lady whom he had formerly known, whose fortune had suffered much from the events of the war of liberation, was induced on this occasion to apply to him for assistance in recovering her rights from the sovereigns there represented. His efforts were unsuccessful, but he endeavoured to alleviate her

disappointment, first by pecuniary assistance, conveyed in the kindest manner, and then by supporting her courage under a life of toil and privations; for she honorably resolved to maintain herself by the labour of her own hands. He kept up a correspondence with her till his death, A. D. 1835. His grateful friend thought that the wisdom and kind feeling which had so often consoled her under her afflictions, might have a like comfort for others, and prepared the letters she had received from him for publication after her own death. They have just appeared.

The Editors of the "SMALL BOOKS" think they are doing their readers good service in introducing them to the thoughts and opinions, on many subjects, of this distinguished man. It is no recluse who here preaches from his closet the lessons of religion and virtue: it is the man of the world,—the statesman,—the diplomatist,—whom we find teaching and acting upon the precepts of Christianity. Never was religion shown in a more amiable light than in the outpourings of his benevolent, yet firm mind. We see it as his guide and his support under all circumstances, and yet so unostentatiously so, that but for the publication of these Letters, proba-

bly none but his intimates would have known more of Wilhelm Von Humboldt than that he was a profound scholar, and an able statesman : and the moving spring of all his actions would have remained concealed till the day when the secrets of all hearts shall be made known. It is well for the world that this has not been so : it is well to see the nobleman and the minister of state gathering from Christianity the rule of his life, and depending on its promises with the child-like confidence so acceptable to God. We have only to hope that our readers may find as much pleasure and edification from the extracts we are here enabled to give, as we have ourselves done from the perusal of the original work.