

**A TREATISE ON MAN
AND THE DEVELOPMENT
OF HIS FACULTIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649466290

A Treatise on Man and the Development of His Faculties by M. A. Quetelet

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

M. A. QUETELET

**A TREATISE ON MAN
AND THE DEVELOPMENT
OF HIS FACULTIES**

PEOPLE'S EDITION.

A TREATISE ON MAN
AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS FACULTIES.

By M. A. QUETELET,

PERPETUAL SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF BRUSSELS, CORRESPONDING
MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, ETC.

NOW FIRST TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.

EDINBURGH:

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM AND ROBERT CHAMBERS;
W. S. ORR AND COMPANY, LONDON; W. CURRY JUNIOR AND
COMPANY, DUBLIN; AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

PRICE THREE SHILLINGS.

ISSUE OF AN IMPROVED AND EXTENDED SERIES OF

CHAMBERS'S INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE.

IN AN OCTAVO FORM,
UNIFORM WITH THE "PEOPLE'S EDITIONS."

THE "INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE," published in 1833-4, consisted of fifty sheets in large quarto, each (with a few exceptions) containing a summary of a particular branch of human knowledge. The large sale which this work continued to experience as a volume, suggested to the Editors the propriety of throwing it into the more convenient form of royal octavo, and at the same time extending and improving its contents.

They have therefore respectfully to announce, that the issue of AN EXTENDED AND IMPROVED EDITION OF THE "INFORMATION FOR THE PEOPLE" was commenced on the first Saturday of January 1841, and will continue, at the rate of a sheet every Saturday, till the work is completed. It will consist of 100 sheets, or double the former number, and treat more than double the former number of subjects. The existing articles will be in many instances re-written, and in all so much improved, that the work, considering at the same time its being so much extended, may, without much inpropriety, be described as *one altogether new*. The New Series will also have the advantage of an arrangement of subjects in some degree accordant with their natural order, and it will be more extensively illustrated by Wood Engravings. Completed in two volumes, containing 1600 double-columned pages, at the price of *twelve shillings and sixpence* (or 12s. 6d., done up with titles and tables of contents), it will be A COMPREHENSIVE POOR MAN'S CYCLOPEDIA, AND PERHAPS THE MOST STRIKING EXAMPLE YET GIVEN OF THE POWERS OF THE PRESS IN DIFFUSING USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.

LIST

OF NUMBERS IN THE NEW SERIES, AS NEARLY AS IT AT PRESENT CAN BE GIVEN.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Astronomy, or System of the Universe. | 28. Conveyance—Roads—Railways. | Phrenology (two numbers). |
| 2. Geology, or Structure of the Earth. | 29. Zoology—Vertebrata. | Logic. |
| 3. Geography—Descriptive and Political. | 30. ——— Vertebrata. | Education, Practical Directions on. |
| 4. Physical History of Man. | 31. ——— Vertebrata. | Principles of Civil Government. |
| 5. Ancient History—Egypt—Arabia. | 32. ——— Articulata. | History of Languages—Writing. |
| 6. History of the Jews—Palestine. | 33. ——— Articulata—Mollusca. | English Literature—Books. |
| 7. History of Greece and Rome. | 34. ——— Mollusca—Radiata. | English Grammar. |
| 8. History of the Middle Ages. | 35. Account of the Human Body. | French Grammar. |
| 9. History of Great Britain and Ireland. | 36. Vegetable Physiology—Botany. | Arithmetic—Interest Tables. |
| 10. History of Great Britain and Ireland—continued. | 37. Natural Theology. | Measurement—Land—Surveying. |
| 11. History of Great Britain and Ireland—concluded. | 38. History of the Bible—Christianity. | Drawing and Perspective. |
| 12. Constitution and Resources of the British Empire. | 39. Private Duties of Life. | Painting and Sculpture—Engraving. |
| 13. Description of England. | 40. Public and Social Duties of Life. | Art of Printing. |
| 14. Description of London. | 41. Life and Maxims of Franklin. | Architecture. |
| 15. Description of Scotland. | 42. Preservation of Health. | History of Inventions and Discoveries. |
| 16. Description of Ireland. | 43. Commerce—Money—Bank. | The Steam-Engine. |
| 17. Emigration to British American possessions. | 44. History and Nature of Laws. | Mining—Coal—Salt. |
| 18. Emigration to the United States. | 45. Political Economy. | Ventilation—Lighting—Heating. |
| 19. Emigration to Australia. | 46. Populaces—Four Laws—Life-Assurances. | Miscellaneous Manufactures. |
| 20. Emigration to Van Diemen's Land and New Zealand. | 47. Pagan and Mahometan Religions. | Manufacture of Silk, Cotton, Linen, and Woollen. |
| 21. Description of the United States. | 48. Superstitions. | Agriculture. |
| 22. Description of South America. | 49. Domestic Economy—Cookery. | Dairy Husbandry. |
| 23. Description of the West Indies. | 50. Proverbs and Old Sayings. | Horses and Cattle. |
| 24. Description of the East Indies. | 51. Title and Index to Volume I. | Sheep. |
| 25. China and the Tea Trade. | | Dogs. |
| 26. Ocean—Maritime Discovery—Navigation. | 51. Natural Philosophy. | Higs, Poultry, Pigeons, Cage Birds. |
| 27. The Whale—Whale Fisheries. | 52. Mechanics—Machinery. | Bees. |
| | 53. Hydrostatics and Pneumatics. | Kitchen Gardening. |
| | 54. Optics—Acoustics. | Kitchen and Flower Gardening. |
| | 55. Chemistry. | Trees—Fossils—Orchards. |
| | 56. Chemistry applied to the Arts. | Gymnastic Exercises. |
| | 57. Electricity and Galvanism. | Out-of-Door Sports. |
| | 58. Meteorology—the Weather. | Angling. |
| | | In-door Amusements. |
| | | Chronology, &c. &c. |

The work is sold in single numbers at 1d.; and in monthly parts at 7d.

Published by W. and R. CHAMBERS, Edinburgh; W. S. ORR and COMPANY, London; W. CURRY, Jun. and Co., Dublin; and sold by all booksellers who usually supply Chambers's Journal.

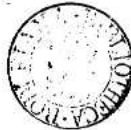
A TREATISE ON MAN

AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS FACULTIES.

By M. A. QUETELET,

PERPETUAL SECRETARY OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY OF BRUSSELS, CORRESPONDING
MEMBER OF THE INSTITUTE OF FRANCE, &c.

NOW FIRST TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.



EDINBURGH:

PUBLISHED BY WILLIAM AND ROBERT CHAMBERS.

1842.

1344.

EDINBURGH:
W. AND R. CHAMBERS.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

THE present work was first printed and issued in Paris in 1835, with the title, "Sur L'Homme, et le Développement de ses Facultés, par M. A. Quetelet, Secrétaire Perpetuel de l'Académie Royale de Bruxelles," &c. &c. (2 volumes 8vo.) Previous to its appearance, the author had attained a high reputation among men of science, being distinguished peculiarly by the cautious, accurate, and comprehensive character of all his researches, and by his skill and acumen in applying the important science of numbers to every subject which he investigated. The treatise "Sur L'Homme" brought him a large accession of well-merited fame. It was the first attempt made to apply the art of calculation to the social movements of the human being, and to examine by it his moral anatomy, with the view of detecting the real sources and amount of the evils under which he labours, and, ulteriorly, of remedying them when known. Of the nature of the remarkable truths developed by M. Quetelet, it would not be proper here to speak; nor is it necessary, as the work itself will sufficiently indicate and explain them. Suffice it to state, that the impression made by the treatise over the whole of continental Europe, through criticisms, republications, and translations, has been very great. Fully convinced of its value, Messrs Chambers gladly embraced a proposal which was made to them to publish an English translation, and to present it in such a form and at such a price as might be most calculated to promote its diffusion throughout all sections of the community.

On learning that a British edition was in progress, M. Quetelet came forward in the most handsome manner, and proffered a new preface, which accordingly is presented here in a translated form. In this composition, the object of the author has been, at once to defend his treatise from objections brought against it subsequently to the issue of the original Parisian edition, and also to point out in what manner he intended, in his projected continuations of the work, to follow up and elucidate the principles already laid down by him. It will probably be admitted by the majority of readers, that he has most ably defended his views and estimate of the physical, moral, and intellectual qualities of man, with their results upon his position in society. He has refuted the objections brought against his mode of reasoning; and has cleared himself of the charge of being either a materialist or a fatalist. He shows, also, that he is no theorist or system-maker, but simply wishes to arrive at truth by the only legitimate way, namely, the examination of *facts*—the incontrovertible facts furnished by statistical data. Lastly, he conveys the important information, that the experience of every additional year, since the first publication of his treatise, proves, in the most remarkable manner, the accuracy both of his statistical tables and the inferences founded upon them. His section on crime, in particular, however startling it may have appeared to the world, has been shown, by fresh statistical information, to merit credit in every particular. On these accounts, the publishers are confident that the prefatory matter with which they have been favoured by the distinguished Belgian philosopher, will be felt by the public greatly to enhance the value of the present edition.

It seems only necessary to add, that the present translation has been effected under the able superintendence of Dr R. KNOX, F.R.S.E., Corresponding Member of the French Academy of Medicine, and Lecturer on Anatomy in Edinburgh; and that the work, in its passage through the press, has been indebted to the editorial care of Mr THOMAS SMIBERT, who has also translated the manuscript preface of M. Quetelet. Considering its native value, and these acquired advantages, the publishers present it with the confident hope that it will form a valuable addition to the philosophical literature of their country.

EDINBURGH, November 5, 1841.

CONTENTS.

	Page
PREFACE TO THE PRESENT EDITION, BY M. QUELST,	v
INTRODUCTORY,	5
BOOK FIRST.—DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHYSICAL QUALITIES OF MAN,	9
CHAPTER I.—OF BIRTHS IN GENERAL, AND OF FECUNDITY,	10
CHAPTER II.—OF THE INFLUENCE OF NATURAL CAUSES ON THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS,	11
CHAPTER III.—OF THE INFLUENCE OF DISTURBING CAUSES ON THE NUMBER OF BIRTHS,	21
CHAPTER IV.—OF STILL-BORN CHILDREN,	24
CHAPTER V.—OF THE INFLUENCE OF NATURAL CAUSES ON MORTALITY,	26
CHAPTER VI.—OF THE INFLUENCE OF DISTURBING CAUSES ON MORTALITY,	37
CHAPTER VII.—RELATIONS OF POPULATION TO SOCIAL PROSPERITY,	43
BOOK SECOND.—DEVELOPMENT OF STATURE, WEIGHT, STRENGTH, &C.,	57
CHAPTER I.—OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEIGHT,	58
CHAPTER II.—OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WEIGHT, AND OF ITS RELATIONS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE HEIGHT OF THE BODY,	63
CHAPTER III.—OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRENGTH OR POWER,	67
CHAPTER IV.—INSPIRATION, PULSATION, SWIFTNESS, &C.,	70
BOOK THIRD.—DEVELOPMENT OF THE MORAL AND INTELLECTUAL QUALITIES OF MAN,	72
CHAPTER I.—DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTELLECTUAL FACULTIES,	74
CHAPTER II.—DEVELOPMENT OF MORAL QUALITIES,	78
CHAPTER III.—OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPENSITY TO CRIME,	82
BOOK FOURTH.—OF THE PROPERTIES OF THE AVERAGE MAN, OF THE SOCIAL SYSTEM, AND OF THE FINAL ADVANCEMENT OF THIS STUDY,	96
CHAPTER I.—PROPERTIES OF THE AVERAGE MAN,	96
CHAPTER II.—OF THE ULTIMATE PROGRESS OF OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LAW OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT,	103
AUTHOR'S APPENDIX,	109
TRANSLATOR'S APPENDIX,	119

PREFACE OF M. QUETELET,

DRAWN UP EXPRESSLY FOR THE PEOPLE'S EDITION OF HIS WORK ON MAN.

THE plan which has been pursued by me in the composition of this work, is a vast and comprehensive one. It was therefore natural, that, before drawing up a sequel to it, I should endeavour to learn the opinions of competent persons respecting the character of my researches, and the mode of execution which had been adopted in my treatise.* But in presenting, as it were, only the vestibule of the edifice, I might justly entertain fears lest sufficient light had not been cast on the matter, and lest I should not have been able to make it clear how all the portions of the vast whole were to arrive at agreement and consistency among themselves. In this state of things, it struck me that I could not do better than show, by particular examples, in what manner it is expedient in general to proceed in this line of inquiry, and in what light I viewed the analysis of man, under the triple relations of his physical, moral, and intellectual qualities.

The development of the three examples which I have chosen, will themselves give birth to as many works, the materials of which I am collecting with all the activity and speed that other engagements incidental to my position will permit. Whilst waiting till I can terminate these labours, I have deemed it right to give here an indication of them, and this will afford me, at the same time, an opportunity of clearing up some points in my published treatise, which may have been imperfectly understood.

As regards the *physique* of man, subjects of research are not wanting; but, besides that many of these subjects—as, for example, that of population—have frequently been discussed, and by men of great ability, they do not appear to me to be all equally suited to the end which I propose to attain; some are even complicated by their intimate dependence on moral phenomena, and these I wish to steer clear of as far as possible. The interest excited by the first researches into the growth of the human being, and the happy applications made of them in England, determined my choice of a subject, leading me to direct attention to the proportions of the human frame at different ages, and the causes which modify them. The subject appertains at once to science and the fine arts; and my relations in society permitted me to count upon the assistance of men of enlightenment, who promised to co-operate with me in my inquiries.

The study of the proportions of the human frame was carried very far by the Grecian artists, but they have left us no other monuments of their knowledge than those admirable works of sculpture, which the moderns regard to this day as models, and to which they resort for their finest inspirations. The principal artists of the era of the revival of letters, such as Leon Baptista Alberti, Michael Angelo, Leonardo da Vinci, Albert Durer, with many others who comprehended what art ought to borrow from science, felt the neces-

sity of resorting to observation, in order to rebuild in some sort the ruined monument of ancient artistical skill. They studied nature in a philosophical manner; sought to strike out the limits within which they ought to confine themselves in order to be truthful, without taking away from each age, and one may say from any passion, its individual character; and from those profound studies which kept them ever before the face of nature, they deduced original views and new models, destined to distinguish for ever that celebrated age. The proportions of the human body did not alone attract their attention: anatomy, perspective, and chemistry, formed parts of their studies; nothing was neglected; and some of these great artists even gained for themselves a first place among the geometers of their day. Their successors have not devoted themselves to such serious studies, and hence it so frequently happens that they are reduced to content themselves, either with copying from those who went before them, or with working after individual models, whose proportions they modify according to mere caprice, without having any just or proper ideas of the beautiful.

It would be an error, doubtless, to suppose that science makes the artist; yet it lends to him the most powerful assistance. In general, it is difficult to keep it within due limits; and I shall even freely admit, that Albert Durer, in his work upon the proportions of the human frame, has imparted to it a certain scientific dryness, which lessens its utility. One finds there more of the geometer than the artist, and the geometer, moreover, such as he was at a time when it had not yet been discovered how much the rules of style enhance the value of scientific works, and, above all, of those which appertain at the same time to the domain of the fine arts.

After the example of Leon Baptista Alberti, whom he followed closely in the order of time, Albert Durer commences by stating the divisions of the body, in parts or proportions of the total height taken by him as *unity*. Changing afterwards his measure of proportions, he takes as unity the size of the head, and assigns successively the proportions of several individuals, giving them seven, eight, nine, and even ten heads of height [or, in other words, a body corresponding to the measurement of so many heads]. The scale thus formed by him has been received into all studios; and, without reverting very often to the measurements which their predecessors had taken from nature or from the works of the Greeks, artists have, for the most part, bound themselves down to follow a blind routine. Noble exceptions, however, have presented themselves. Nicholas Pousin, one of the most profound thinkers whom the arts have produced, took care to correct and regulate by the *antique* the proportions which Leon Baptista Alberti and Albert Durer had given from the living model. At a later period, also, some labours have been undertaken on this subject; and I may mention, in particular, those of the sculptor, Shadow of Berlin.

My aim has been, not only to go once more through the task of Albert Durer, but to execute it also on an extended scale. The German artist had his art exclusively in view, and confined himself to the obser-

* The work upon Man was published at Paris in 1835. In the year following, a copy of it was printed at Brussels; and, in 1836, Dr Riicke gave a German translation of the work, enriched with notes. The Brussels copy was published without my participation, and indeed against my will; such was not the case with the German version, concerning which I had communications with Dr Riicke.