

**POLITICAL ECONOMY
FOR HIGH SCHOOLS
AND ACADEMIES**

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Political Economy for High Schools and Academies by Robert Ellis Thompson

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ROBERT ELLIS THOMPSON

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HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.

BY

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PREFACE.

THIS work is the result of twenty-five years of experience in teaching the subject in the University of Pennsylvania, in the Ogontz School for Young Ladies, in the Central High School of Philadelphia, and in University Extension courses delivered in Philadelphia and the adjacent towns and cities. In this prolonged practice I have aimed at acquiring clearness and conciseness, without coming down to twaddle and commonplace. My experience at Ogontz has been of especial value to me in this respect, as it was there that I learned to adjust teaching to the understanding of younger students, without insulting their intelligence by "talking down" to them. That lesson I found just as useful in addressing the more miscellaneous audiences, young and old, trained and untrained, which University Extension work brings together.

The book presents the views of Political Economy which are held by the American or National School of List and Carey. I leave it to be judged whether these or the rival doctrines of the English or Orthodox School—whether as originally taught, or as modified by what is called the Historical School—are most in harmony with the experience of mankind and the needs of our own country. In treating

of Bimetallism and Protection especially, I have been obliged to tread on the ashes beneath which the lava glows. I have tried to walk on the straight line of justice, and to deal with entire fairness in discussing opinions which I do not share.

In using the book teachers will deal with the Notes in small print according to their judgment. They contain matters which I thought the student should know of, but which it is not necessary for him to study. I would suggest that in no case should the words printed in *Italics* be passed, until it is known that the class has a clear sense of their meaning.

PHILADELPHIA, June, 1895.

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POLITICAL ECONOMY FOR HIGH SCHOOLS AND ACADEMIES.

CHAPTER I.

What Political Economy is, and how it came to be.

1. **ECONOMY** means housekeeping. In early times housekeeping was much more of an affair than it now is. The people of each house built their own home, fashioned their tools, tanned their leather, got ready their wool and flax for spinning, spun and wove them, made their clothes, and in fact produced all or nearly all they needed, instead of buying them ready-made. Each houseful was a group much larger than a family, and it provided itself with whatever it needed.

2. It is that kind of housekeeping that we mean when we speak of Political Economy, which is the housekeeping of the nation or State. It is not merely keeping the house clean, home-like and wholesome, seeing that the food is wholesome, and that the outlay on what is bought is no greater than the income. It is, as in the early household, seeing that all who can work are busy at work which needs to be done, and that there is plenty of material on which they may work, and a proper distribution of what is made according to the needs of each person. There is indeed some buying and selling with other national households. We send them what they cannot so well provide themselves and we take in exchange what they have that we do not