

**INTRODUCTORY LECTURES ON
POLITICAL-ECONOMY: BEING
PART OF A COURSE DELIVERED
IN EASTER TERM, MDCCCXXI**

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Introductory Lectures on Political-economy: Being Part of a Course Delivered in Easter Term,
MDCCCXXXI by Richard Whately

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RICHARD WHATELY

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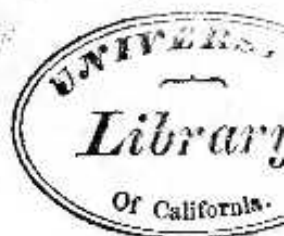
INTRODUCTORY LECTURES

ON

POLITICAL ECONOMY,

BEING

PART OF A COURSE



DELIVERED IN EASTER TERM, MDCCCXXXI.

BY

RICHARD WHATELY, D.D.

PRINCIPAL OF ST. ALBAN'S HALL;

PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL ECONOMY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD.

Τί οὖν; τῶ φιλοσόφῳ, ὅταν μετ' ἑαυτὸς περὶ τῶν καμίνων σὶ λίγη, αἰσχρὸν
μᾶτι ἵκεῖναι τοῖς λεγομένοις δόξασθαι, μᾶτι συμβάλλεσθαι μηδὲ; καὶ ἴσως
ἄλλοις τις τῶν δημοκρατῶν, ὡκυότας; ἔστι δὲ δικαστὴς, ἢ βασιλεὺς. ἢ ἄλλοις τις
ὅτι τῶν διπλόμων, οὐκ αἰσχρὸν περὶ αὐτῶν μᾶτι ἵκεῖναι δόξασθαι, μᾶτι
συμβάλλεσθαι περὶ αὐτῶν; PLATO, EPICETUS, §. 9.

LONDON,

B. FELLOWES, LUDGATE STREET.

1831.

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TO THE

MUNIFICENT AND ENLIGHTENED

FOUNDER

OF THE

PROFESSORSHIP OF POLITICAL-ECONOMY

AT OXFORD,

AND TO THE

MEMBERS OF CONVOCATION

THE ELECTORS,

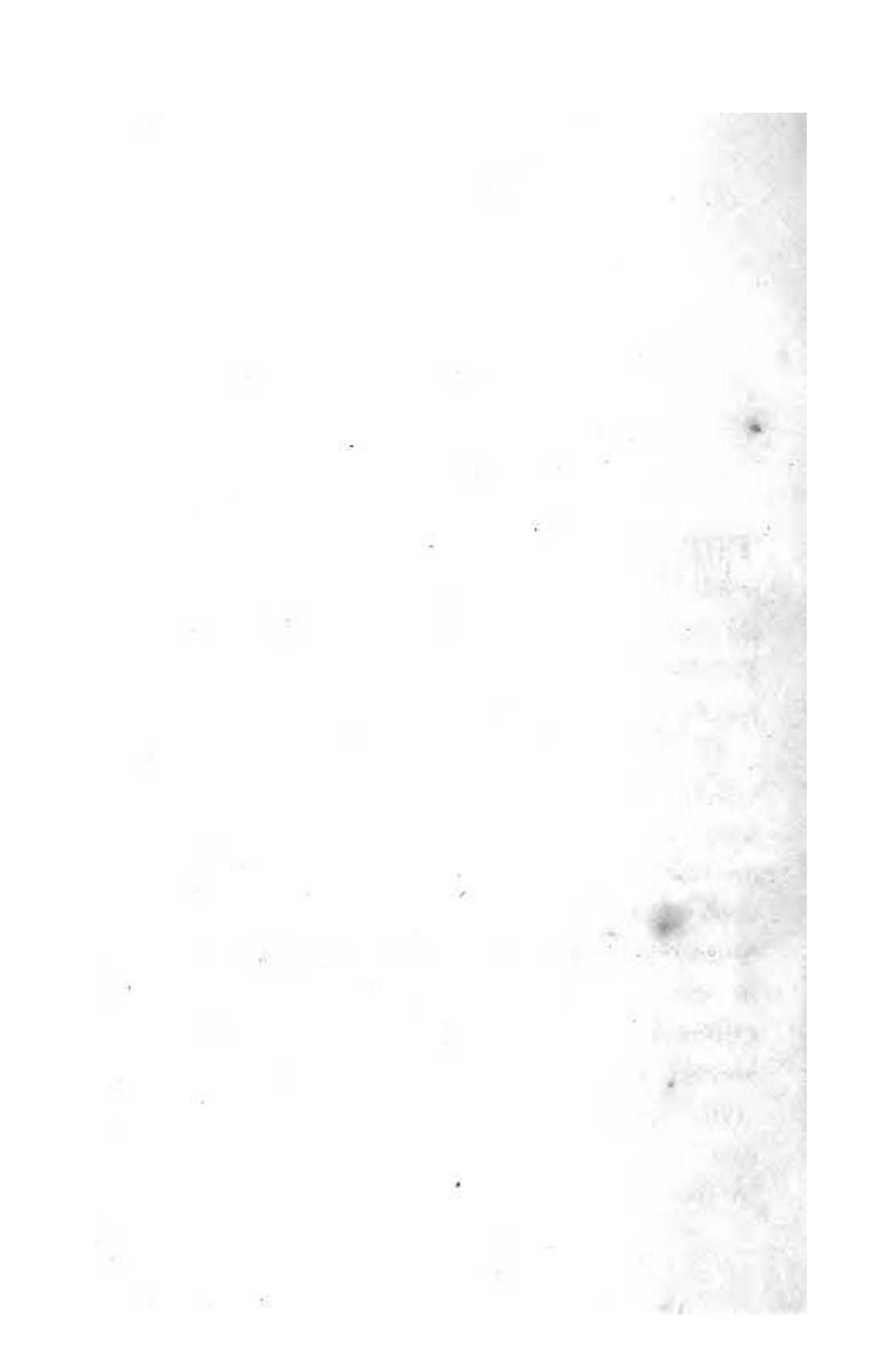
THIS VOLUME

IS

RESPECTFULLY AND GRATEFULLY INSCRIBED

BY

THE AUTHOR.



PREFACE.

THE following pages are presented to the public, in compliance with a requisition of the Statute relative to the Professorship of Political-Economy, that one Lecture at least shall be published every year.

Conceiving that one object of that provision must be, that the public may have some knowledge of what sort of Lectures on the subject are annually delivered at Oxford, I have not thought myself at liberty to make any material alterations in the Lectures as they were delivered. Otherwise, I might, perhaps, have endeavoured to change the method and the style, adopted with a view to oral delivery, for such as might be more suited to the closet. Perhaps, indeed, I might,

but for that requisition, have hesitated as to the publication of such a Work at all. For the title of it is not unlikely to deter one class of readers, and to disappoint another. Those who have never applied themselves to the study, may perhaps be led to anticipate, from the title of Political-Economy, something dry, abstruse, and uninteresting; and those again who are, and have long been, conversant with it, may perhaps expect such discussions of various important questions, as I have thought it best not to enter on, in an introductory Course.

It has been my first object, to combat the prevailing prejudices against the study; and especially those which represent it as unfavourable to Religion. Convinced as I am, that the world, as it always in fact has been governed by political-economists of some kind, must ultimately be under the guidance of such as have systematically applied themselves to the science, I could not

but regard it as a point of primary importance, to remove the impression existing in the minds of many, both of the friends and the adversaries of Christianity, as to the hostility between that and the conclusions of Political-Economy.

It was indeed, in great measure, this feeling, that induced me to offer myself as a candidate for the Professorship. I considered myself, in this, to be contributing, as far as lay in me, to second what has been done by the University of Oxford, towards counteracting the false and dangerous impressions to which I have alluded.

By accepting the endowment of a Professorship of Political-Economy, the University may be regarded as having borne her public testimony against that prejudice; and as having thus rendered an important service to the public, independently of the direct benefits resulting from the cultivation of the science. And subsequently,