

ELEMENTS OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

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Elements of political economy by James Mill

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JAMES MILL

**ELEMENTS OF
POLITICAL
ECONOMY**

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POLITICAL ECONOMY

BY
JAMES MILL, ESQ.

AUTHOR OF
THE HISTORY OF BRITISH INDIA.



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PREFACE.

THERE are few things of which I have occasion to advertize the Reader, before he enters upon the perusal of the following Work.

My object has been to compose a school-book of Political Economy; to detach the essential principles of the science from all extraneous topics, to state the propositions clearly and in their logical order, and to subjoin its demonstration to each.

I am myself persuaded, that nothing more is necessary for understanding every part of the book, than to read it with attention—such a degree of attention as persons of either sex, of ordinary understanding, are capable of bestowing.

They who are commencing the study ought to proceed slowly, and to familiarize themselves with the new combinations of

ideas as they are successively presented to them. If they proceed to a subsequent proposition before they are sufficiently imbued with the first, they will of course experience a difficulty, only because they have not present to their memory the truth which is calculated to remove it. If they who begin the study of mathematics were to content themselves with merely reading and assenting to the demonstrations, they would soon arrive at doctrines which they would be unable to comprehend, solely because they had not, by frequent repetition, established in their minds those previous propositions, the prompt application of which was required.

In a work of this description I have thought it adviseable not to quote any authorities, because I am anxious that the learner should fix his mind upon the doctrine and its evidence, without any extraneous consideration. I cannot fear an imputation of plagiarism, because I profess to have made no discovery; and those men who have contributed to the progress of the science need no testimony of mine to establish their fame.

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ERRATA.

Page 26, line 15, <i>for is, read are.</i>	
— 30, — 5 from the bottom, <i>for assurance, read reliance.</i>	
— 96, — 7 from the bottom, <i>insert i.</i>	
— 162, — 3, <i>for are immaterial evils, read is an immaterial evil.</i>	
— 173, — 19, <i>for There, read These.</i>	
— 207, — 1, <i>before which, insert for.</i>	
— 208, — 3, <i>after stock, insert ;</i>	