

quence during the whole period. *Of the Government of Princes*, by Thomas Aquinas, and the *De Monarchia*, by Dante, represent the best that was written on each side of the controversy. Yet the original elements in these productions are interesting mainly as showing how difficult it was, under the existing political and social conditions, for even the best minds of the age to produce anything worthy of serious thought. Only when we come to the time of Machiavelli, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, do we find something original and at the same time scientific. Freely accepting the position that the good of the ruler is the main object of government, he proceeds to set forth the conditions necessary to this end. Yet, taking, as he does, a liberal view of the good of the ruler, he comes round to the position that in most respects it coincides with the good of the subject. His real interest, as his writings abundantly show, is the good of the subject, and his general conclusion is that the wise ruler, looking to his own interest, will find it best served in respecting the interests of his people. In his theory of government, so far as it is worked out, everything is approached from the point of view of the ruler. The same point of view prevails in all the subsequent developments of Political Science down to very recent times. Thus, in the writings of Bodin, Spinoza, Hobbes and Locke, two chief questions claim attention,—the nature of sovereignty and the authority of law. In such a science there could be little room for social or economic elements, hence we find them receiving very scant and subordinate treatment.

The economic side, however, was at the same time finding a modest development of its own under quite another patronage, yet always from the point of view of the sovereign. Modern Economics, as a special science, finds its origin in public finance. It arose from the efforts to reduce taxation to some sort of system and to place it upon a sound basis. Thus the first economic writings are little more than treatises on taxation, or the ways and means of raising the government revenue.

At the beginnings of modern nations the functions of government were very limited. They consisted in little more than the keeping of a rather uncertain peace, and the administration of a somewhat uneven justice. The government revenues were practically the personal revenues of the sovereign, drawn largely from