

if, on two separate occasions, two apples fall from a tree, four will be the number comprehending them. I have said that nearly all the sciences to which I have thus far directed your attention are inductive. Of the three social sciences, two are inductive and one deductive. The deductive science is ethics. By conscience and divine revelation we are furnished with general principles, and from these we deduce rules for daily conduct. But such is not the case with politics and political economy. These are built upon facts, which it is the duty of the politician and the economist to observe, compare, and make induction of general laws from. There is a separate science of recent date which deals altogether with the facts and figures upon which the two inductive social sciences are founded; this science is called statistics. The term statistics is a barbarous one, being composed of a Latin word meaning *standing* or *condition*, and a Greek termination that signifies pertaining to. The object of the science is to collect facts of every kind relating to social life, such as births, marriages, deaths, health, disease, wealth, commerce, agriculture, military and other resources, government, crime, education, religion, and everything tending to show the physical, intellectual, moral, and social condition of any class of men, or of the whole human family.

These, then, constitute social science:—Ethics, politics, political economy, and statistics. Some writers make the number of sciences more, others less, according to the point of view from which they regard them; these four are, however, sufficient, and yet not more than sufficient, to exhaust this important department. While it is the duty of every intelligent person to acquire some knowledge of the world in which he lives and of the history of his race, there is a still more imperative obligation laid upon all men to become acquainted with those systems of knowledge which so closely concern them as members of human societies.

#### *Social Sciences.*

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| 1. Ethics.   | 3. Political Economy. |
| 2. Politics. | 4. Statistics.        |

#### THE LAW OF NATURE AND NATIONS.

SIR JAMES MACKINTOSH, historian, philosopher, and Parliamentary orator :  
1765-1832.

THE science which teaches the rights and duties of men and of States has, in modern times, been called "the law of nature and