

a science or an art? The inquirer may be at once assured that it is both an art and a science. For it is essentially scientific, just as there is a medical art and a medical science, so there is also an art and a science in political economy. Science is nothing other than a system of notions deduced from the highest causes—"cognitio rei per causas ultimas." Now, a science, taking only the highest principles, does not stop with any consideration until it reaches the relation of cause and effect within its own field. It concerns itself with tracing effects back to their causes, as well as with projecting causes forward to their effects. Therefore, we have a science that treats of the production, distribution and use of wealth, and this science is evidently political economy. Nor does it stop here, for, as an art, it is a process of the intellect, and proceeds by reasoning also. An art is the perfect disposition of things feasible—"est recta ratio factibilium." It is the result of rational rules about the making of a thing, starting with assumption that a thing is desirable or undesirable, good or evil; it seeks to ascertain how the good may be attained or the evil avoided. In a word, art takes the application of all the rules. If all the painting were destroyed there would still remain the art of painting. The same composition of colors on canvas would produce the same effect. Thus, the art would exist, even though every rule or semblance of a rule were to vanish from the earth. So long as there are goods, no matter of what kind, and exchange, we will have the art. Then, political economy, dealing with the relation of cause and effect, and also establishing laws governing these relations as well, must play the double role of an art and a science. In this way we are bound to consider economics in its twofold aspect in the same manner as that of medicine.

While supporting the double category, still it is dependent upon other sciences for its perfection. The fact that science is determined by its formal object directs political economy to the activity of man ordained to his temporal well-being or happiness. While ethics, by its formal object (honesty), the activity of man ordained to his eternal well-being or happiness, places economy as a stepping-stone to attain the end of morals. That is, the object of economy is only a means to the end of morals, and is thus subordinate to ethics. Politics, or the science of governing society, having for its formal object the entire well-being of man as to his intellectual, moral and material progress, claims economics as a part of itself, and subordinates it as any part is subordinate to the whole. The more carefully we