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LESSONS
ON
POLITICAL ECONOMY:
DESIGNED AS A
BASIS FOR INSTRUCTION IN THAT SCIENCE
IN
SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES.

By J. T. CHAMPLIN,
PRESIDENT OF COLBY UNIVERSITY.

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PREFACE.

THE title-page explains the object of this little book. It is called "Lessons on Political Economy," to intimate that it treats the science familiarly, and does not pretend to treat it exhaustively. It is designed as a "basis for instruction in the science," on which the teacher may rear a more or less elaborate superstructure according to his own tastes and inclinations, or the condition and wants of his classes. It is prepared for "schools" as well as "colleges," because the author believes that a science so practical and so essential to all classes of society should be more generally studied in our schools. There is nothing in the principles of the science, when clearly and simply set forth, that places political economy above the comprehension and mastery of the average of scholars in our academies and high schools. Indeed, its principles are singularly simple and exact, all flowing from a single postulate of human nature, "that

men will always obtain what they want by the least amount of irksome labor or its products."

The terrible civil war, which we have lately passed through, necessitating the raising of vast revenues to sustain the government, has imparted new interest to the science, and particularly to that part of it which pertains to finance—which is, indeed, the whole science in epitome. Such a time seems favorable for the further introduction of so important a study into our course of popular instruction. If these "Lessons" shall tend to promote such a result, they will answer one important end for which they have been prepared. At the same time, it is hoped that they will not be found inadequate to the wants of college classes. It is believed that they contain all the fundamental principles of the science, and all, indeed, that are required in a general course of education. Subordinate principles and details can be added by the teacher; but, if the principles here presented are thoroughly mastered, the student will have a competent knowledge of the science for all ordinary purposes.

WATERTOWN, March, 1868.

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