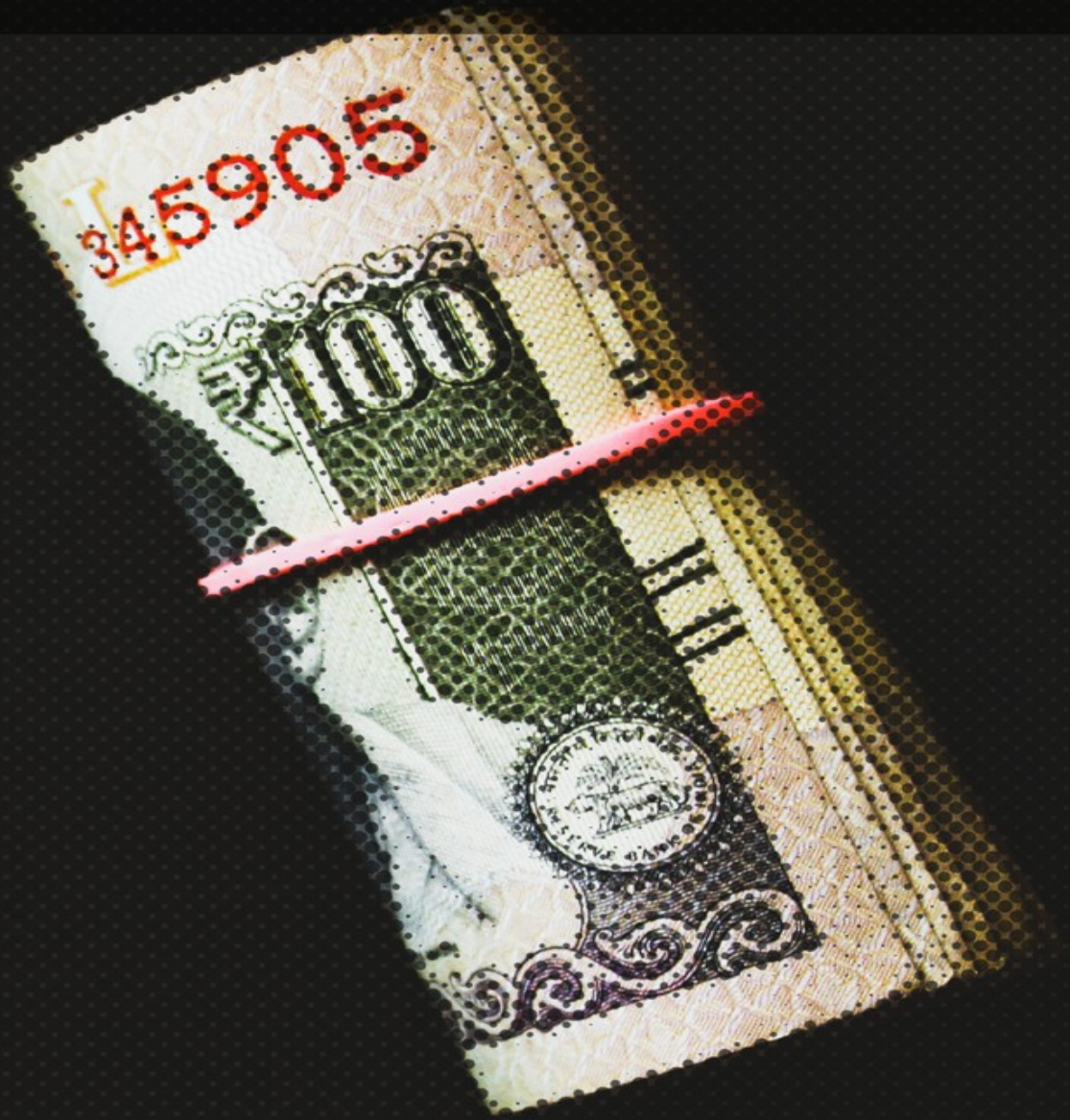


Wilson Lloyd Bevan



*Sir William Petty :
A Study in English
Economic Literature*

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Sir William Petty : A Study in English Economic Literature — Preface

PREFACE.

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The following monograph, originally prepared as a dissertation, is presented with a good deal of diffidence to a wider public. Sir William Petty seems to merit more attention than he has hitherto received. An ordinary student must generally content himself with the few pages devoted to him by Roscher or by Cunningham. What has here been done is designed to give a fuller account than can at present be found elsewhere, with the hope of calling forth in the future a more satisfactory work than this can pretend to be. The reason for the space given up to Petty's biography may not be very apparent. It is believed that it will be found to throw some light on his writings. Petty was no *littérateur*. His own experience and career supplied him with the material of his "Tracts."

I wish here, as I have had no opportunity in the work itself, to express my great obligations to my honored friend, Professor Brentano, of the University of Munich. Without implying any responsibility on his part, it can with truth be said that, without his direction and encouragement, this essay would not have been undertaken or completed. It is pleasant for me here to record that a kind word from Professor Cossa, of Pavia, well known for his tenderness towards youthful work, induced me to think of republishing

what seemed to me too imperfect even to offer as a short-lived contribution to a neglected field of study.

W. L. B.

CONCORD, MASS.,

September, 1894.

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LIST OF WORKS USED OR REFERRED TO.

AUBREY.—Letters and Lives of Eminent Persons.

———History of Wiltshire, edited by Britton.

BOYLE'S WORKS.—London (1744 and 1772).

BURROWS.—Register of Oxford Visitation (Camden Society).

BURTON.—Parliamentary Diary.

BUXTON.—Finance and Politics.

CARTE.—Life of the Duke of Ormond (Oxford ed.).

CHALMERS.—Critical Estimate of the Nation.

CUNNINGHAM.—Growth of English Industry (2d ed.).

DE MORGAN.—Budget of Paradoxes.

EDEN.—State of the Poor.

EVELYN.—Diary and Correspondence, edited by Bray.

FABER.—Agrarschutz.

HARLEIAN MISCELLANY.

JOHN.—Geschichte der Statistik.

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LECKY.—History of England (1st ed.).

LORIA.—Analisi della teoria capitalista.

LOWNDES.—Bibliographical Manual.

MACAULAY's History of England.

MACPHERSON.—History of Commerce.
 MASSON.—Life of Milton.
 McCULLOCH.—Literature of Political Economy.
 MORGAN.—Phœnix Britannicus, London (1742).
 NOTES AND QUERIES.
 PEPYS' Diary, Bohn edition.
 PRENDERGAST.—The Cromwellian Settlement.
 ROSCHER.—Zur Geschichte der Englischer
 Volkswirtschaftslehre.
 ROYAL SOCIETY Transactions.
 RUSHWORTH.—Historical Collection.
 SOMERS.—Tracts.
 TEMPLE.—Works, edited by Swift.
 THORPE.—Sale Catalogue.
 THURLOE.—State Papers, London (1742).
 WARD.—Lives of the Professors of Gresham College,
 London (1740).
 WOOD.—Athenæ Oxonienses, edited by Birch.
 WORTHINGTON.—Diary (Cheetam Society Publications).
 WREN.—Parentalia, London (1750).

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PRINTED WORKS OF SIR WILLIAM PETTY.

In Petty' s manuscript remains in the British Museum, I have found, presumably in his own handwriting, the following list of his works. Some of them it is difficult to identify with those that are in print. (1) Analysis of the people and their wealth, (2) Expenses of a state and the branches of its revenues, (3) Weight of the Crown, (4) Art and methods of taxing the people, (5) The people and religions of the world, (6) The commercial world and the

great emporium, (7) Observations on the births, burials and marriages of London, Paris and Dublin, (8) Multiplication of mankind, (9) Growth of London, and of uniting the English and Irish, (10) Of peace in religion.

A collection of Petty's printed works is to be found in the library of Brasenose College, Oxford. I am indebted for a list of this collection to the kindness of Mr. Madan, of the Bodleian Library. To it I have been able to make a few additions:

Advice of W. P. to Mr. Samuel Hartlieb for the advancement of some particular parts of learning, London, 1648, 4to, reprinted in Harleian Miscellany vi vol. On double writing, London, 1647, folio. Declaration concerning the newly discovered Art of Double Writing, London, 1648, folio. Brief of proceedings between Sir H. Sankey and the Author, London, 1659, folio. Reflections upon some persons and things in Ireland, London, 1660, 12mo.; Dublin, 1790, 8vo. Treatise on Taxes and Contributions, 1662, 4to; 1667, 4to; 1679, 1685, 1689, 1690, 1691; Dublin, 1769, 8vo. On Duplicate Proportion, London, 4to, 1674. Colloquium Davidis, 1679, folio. Apparatus to the History of Dyeing, 1667. Political Arithmetic, London, 8vo, 1690, 1691, 1699. Essay on the growth of London, London, 1683. Observations on the Dublin Bills, 1683. Maps of Ireland, 1683. Essay on Multiplication of mankind, London, 1682, 1683, 1686. Further observations on the Dublin Bills, 1686, 12mo. Two Essays in Political Arithmetic, London, 1686. Essay in Political Arithmetic, London, 1682, 1687, 1751, 1759; in French, London, 1686, 8vo. Five Essays in Political Arithmetic, London, 1687, 8vo. Treatise of Naval Philosophy,

London, 1691, 12mo. Political Anatomy of Ireland, London, 1691, 8vo., 1719, and Dublin, 1769. Verbum Sapienti, 1691, 1719. Several Essays in Political Arithmetic, London, 1699, 1711; Edinburgh, 1751; London, 1755. Quantulumcunque, London, 1682-1695, also in Scarce and valuable Tracts on Money, 1760, in Somers's Tracts and in Select Tracts, 1856. History of the Down Survey, Dublin, 1651, 4to. Politician Discovered, 1681, 1690. Privileges and practices of Parliament, 1680, 1690. Letter to John Pell, in Collection of scientific letters edited by Halliwell, 1841. Three letters to Boyle in vol. v, pp. 276-278 of Boyle's Works, 1st ed. Essays in Political Arithmetic republished in Arber's English Garner, 1877, and also in part by Professor Morley in Cassel's National Library. Papers in the Proceedings of the Royal Society, 161, 167, 183, 185, 198. Discourse of making cloth, printed in Birch's History of the Royal Society, 1665. Observations on the Bills of Mortality, 1661, 1662, 1663, 4to, London; fourth ed., London and Oxford; fifth edition, 1676, 8vo., London; 1759, reprinted. Handgreifliche Demonstrationen (a German translation of the Bills), Danzig, 1693, 1724.

NOTES ON THE PETTY MANUSCRIPTS.

In Lowndes's "Bibliographical Manual" it is asserted that several of the Petty manuscripts are to be found in the Bodleian Library. This is evidently a mistake, for the Bodleian contains only a few letters catalogued in the Aubrey and Pepys collection. After a careful search I failed to discover any other manuscript remains. The British Museum contains manuscript copies of the "Political Anatomy of

Ireland," and of the "Essays in Political Arithmetic," two unprinted tracts in defense of the Cromwellian settlement of Ireland, some short papers of no great importance, and a few letters. A list of these manuscripts is given in Ayscough's Catalogue, p. 884, and in the Catalogue of Additional Manuscripts, p. 1137.

Thorpe's "Sale Catalogue," London, 1837, contains a notice of a manuscript volume of the correspondence between Petty and Sir Robert Southwell. Extensive extracts covering several pages are given. In *Notes and Queries*, 2d series, viii, 130, mention is made of a collection of letters by Petty, advertised for sale in a catalogue of M. A. Cooper's library, Dublin, 1831. In whose hands these two important volumes at present are there is little prospect of discovering. Aubrey reports (iii, 488) that after Petty's death he saw in his closet a great many *tractatiuniculi*, among others "An essay to know and judge the value of lands," and an autobiography in Latin. À. Wood, in his notice on Petty (*Athenae Oxonienses*, pt. iv, 215,) mentions an autobiography of Petty, which he had heard of, but had not seen.