

which began with the consideration of play has risen to the most important objects of human knowledge.”

In 1823, soon after the appearance of the works of Laplace and other French writers, this application of the theory of probabilities was taken up by Adolphe Quetelet, who collected his researches in his celebrated work, ‘*Sur l’Homme et le Développement de ses Facultés, ou Essai de Physique sociale.*’¹ Quetelet

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¹ In addition to this work, which was published at Brussels in 1836 in two small volumes, and which Quetelet (1796-1874) describes as a ‘*résumé de tous mes travaux antérieurs sur la statistique,*’ he published, besides a great number of memoirs, a series of ‘*Lettres sur la Théorie des Probabilités*’ (begun in 1837, pub. 1845, Eng. trans. by O. G. Downes, 1849), and as a continuation of the former work in 1848, ‘*Du Système social et des Lois qui le régissent.*’ Less known than those of Quetelet, but about the same time, and independently, there appeared in France the writings of A. M. Guerry, beginning with the publication in 1829—in collaboration with A. Balbi—of ‘*Statistique comparée, et l’état de l’instruction et du nombre des crimes,*’ and in 1833, ‘*Essai sur la statistique morale de la France.*’ The term “moral statistics” appears here for the first time. Quetelet was the inventor of the term “Social Physics.” Guerry employed graphical methods, and published in 1864 ‘*Statistique morale de l’Angleterre comparée avec la statistique morale de la France.*’ M. Block (‘*Statistique,*’ p. 43) attributes to Guerry and Charles Dupin the general introduction of the graphical method in statistics; geometrical representation having been adopted at the

end of the eighteenth century by Wm. Playfair in England, and, before him, by Crome, professor at Giessen, in 1782, and tabular synoptical statements going back to the Danish writer J. P. Anchersen, in his ‘*Descriptio Statuum Cultiorum in Tabulis*’ (Copenhagen and Leipzig, 1741); see V. John, ‘*Geschichte der Statistik,*’ p. 88. Referring to Guerry, V. John (p. 367) says: “Quetelet is incontestably to be regarded as the founder of the new science (viz., moral statistics), for the rival works of the French lawyer Guerry appeared only partly before Quetelet’s, and are excelled by the latter in the use made of the material. Independently of this formal difference, the two authors have quite different conceptions of the new science. Guerry regards its object as consisting mainly in collecting data in order to gain an opinion of the moral status of a country. Thus he looked upon moral statistics as auxiliary to the history of civilisation. Quetelet went beyond this, inasmuch as he was the first to inquire into the cause of the moral level of a population, and in as much as in his criminal statistics of Belgium, 1833, he had already given expression to the fundamental idea, ‘*Society bears the germs of crime in itself.*’”