









# PSYCHOLOGY,

OR,

## ELEMENTS

OF A

NEW SYSTEM OF MENTAL PHILOSOPHY,

ON THE BASIS OF

CONSCIOUSNESS AND COMMON SENSE.

DESIGNED FOR COLLEGES AND ACADEMIES.

*Samuel*  
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## P R E F A C E.

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As the following publication proposes a system of mental philosophy in some degree new, a few words in regard to its origin may be due alike to the writer and the reader. In general, it owes its existence to the author's desire to promote the cause of truth and science. That cause he regards as identified with the happiness of his fellow-men and the glory of his God. At an early age, he was deeply impressed with the conviction, which no reflecting mind can fail to feel, that mental philosophy is properly the basis of all science, and that a correct acquaintance with the properties and operations of the mind, would not only facilitate our progress in the study of every department of truth, but, what to him was a matter of supreme importance, would also enable us to acquire a more correct view of the moral condition of the soul, and shed abundant light on some of the practical doctrines of Revelation. This latter consideration is mentioned here, because it was really the writer's principal motive for pursuing this subject, although he has by no means mingled religion with metaphysics in the following treatise; on the contrary, his

investigations of the one were conducted altogether independently of the other. About sixteen years ago, having been called to take charge of a theological seminary, he felt it a duty to devote particular attention to his instructions in this department, and formed a resolution, which has doubtless had some influence on this system. He had considerable acquaintance with the patriarchs of British metaphysics, Locke, Reid, Stewart, and Brown, as well as with some few German authors; but neither of them seemed to present an entirely natural and satisfactory exhibition of his own mental phenomena. He then resolved to study exclusively his own mind, and for ten years he read no book on this subject. During this period, he spent much of his time in the examination of his own mental phenomena, and having travelled over the whole ground, and employed the leisure of several additional years to review and mature his views, he now presents to the public the following outline of a system, as in all its parts the result of original, analytic induction. That he regards it as a more natural, faithful, and intelligible exhibition of the operations of his own mind than is contained in any other work which he has seen, he will not dissemble. Since the features of his own system have been settled, the writer has looked at various other works, and found much that is valuable, especially in the re-



cent publications of his own countrymen, Professors Upham, Day, Tappan, and others, yet nothing which seemed to invalidate his system, or render dubious the propriety of its publication.

As this work is designed, not only for intelligent popular readers, but also for use in colleges and academies, the author has abridged his manuscript, and made it sufficiently brief to leave ample room for the explanatory observations of the professors and teachers, as well as written exercises of the students. For an experience of more than twenty years in teaching has convinced him, that the most successful method of imparting a thorough knowledge of such subjects, is to combine with a brief text-book the explanations and illustrations of the instructor, and, at the same time, to require the student to exercise his pen in preparing either essays on the most prominent topics, or an analysis, or a regular compend of the whole.

After frequent solicitation from those who heard the author's lectures, and from some other gentlemen of high literary and scientific rank who examined the manuscript, this work is at length submitted to the public, with an earnest solicitude that it may subserve the cause of truth and human happiness. The author does not flatter himself that his views on all the topics discussed, have reached entire accuracy; he will thankfully receive and carefully

weigh any suggestions which may be made, especially if presented in the spirit of benevolence or of literary comity. If the map of the human mind here presented is found to be more faithful and intelligible than those heretofore in use, if it tends to make perspicuous a subject hitherto proverbially abstruse and obscure, it will doubtless find friends, and the author will rejoice in the assurance that he has not toiled in vain. Of the salutary influence of the principles and results attained, on the grand interests of fundamental Christianity, he entertains no doubt.

The influence of the views here presented on logic, rhetoric, and a number of related sciences and topics, will be evident to the scientific scholar. Perhaps at a future day some of these relations may be prosecuted by the author, if his health and numerous other duties will permit. With these remarks the work is now commended to the blessing of God, and the favour of the friends of true philosophy and religion.

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## SECOND EDITION.

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IN preparing for the press this enlarged edition of his Mental Philosophy, the author faithfully availed himself of the suggestions of the principal reviews of the work which have met his eye. Among these, that in the American Biblical Repository, by the distinguished President of Pennsylvania College, exhibited the greatest familiarity with the subject and with the work, and presented the most numerous suggestions for its enlargement. To that gentleman, as well as to the reviewers in the Methodist Quarterly Review, and the New World, and others, the author takes pleasure thus publicly to acknowledge his obligations. In all cases he has carefully weighed their suggestions, and, in most instances, been led to make some farther illustrations or additions, which, he trusts, will contribute to the value of the work. He has been happy to find in these writers but little dissent from his general system. The principal topics on which he has made additions, amounting in all to about one third of the whole work, are the following: the classification of the different objects or entities in

the universe ; the subject of mnemonics, or the art of improving and aiding the memory ; the processes of perception and sensation through the bodily organs, and the different theories for their explanation ; the different classes of feeling, especially the intellectual and moral emotions ; the nature of analytic reasoning, and laws of human belief ; imagination ; and the operations of conscience.

The work is again commended to the blessing of God and the favour of the public.

*May, 1843.*

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# INTELLECTUAL PHILOSOPHY.

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## INTRODUCTION.

It has long been a subject of remark, that while the science of mathematics, which discusses the properties and relations of space and number, is accompanied by the most conclusive evidence, and bears conviction with it at every step of its progress, the philosophy of the mind still remains enveloped in comparative darkness and uncertainty, after the intellect of ages has been expended in its investigation. The question arises, Are not both similar in their nature, and alike susceptible of demonstrative discussion? It seems evident, that they are not precisely alike, and yet much of the obscurity enveloping mental science, doubtless arises from the unphilosophical manner, in which its investigations have been conducted, and the inappropriate style in which the result of them has generally been recorded. The superior force of mathematical reasoning, arises from three sources. *First*, from an intrinsic difference in the nature of the subjects discussed. *Secondly*, from the more rigidly analytic method of investigation, pursued in the mathematics. And, *thirdly*, from a less elegant, indeed, but more precise and perspicuous method of conveying to others the knowledge we have acquired.

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