

**REALISTIC PHILOSOPHY
DEFENDED IN A
PHILOSOPHIC SERIES**

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Realistic philosophy defended in a philosophic series by James McCosh

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JAMES MCCOSH

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PHILOSOPHIC SERIES

BY

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

WHAT AN AMERICAN PHILOSOPHY SHOULD BE.

AMERICA has arrived at a stage at which there is a body of men and women who have leisure and taste to cultivate the liberal arts and advance the higher forms of civilization. She does not claim to have accomplished in a century or two what Europe has done in twice that time. It would not be just to require her, as one country, to be doing as much as all the countries of the Old World are doing. Still, she now ranks with any other one nation in literature, science, and art. She has a literature which promises to rival that of England. Her historians, in respect both of research and style, are equal to those of Europe. She has not yet produced a poem of the highest class, such as the *Iliad*, *Æneid*, the *Inferno*, or *Paradise Lost*, or *Faust*; but some of her poets in this past age may be placed on the same level as any of their contemporaries. She can show statues and paintings (in landscape, for example) full of vigor and freshness. She has humorists, not perhaps of the highest order—they are too much given to startle by exaggeration—but with a manner of their own. Franklin, Thompson (Count Rumford), and Joseph Henry have led the way in original scientific research, and there are