

# **AN ANALYSIS OF THE HUMAN MIND**

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An Analysis of the Human Mind by Richard Pearson

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**RICHARD PEARSON**

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BY  
RICHARD PEARSON.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THE following brief treatise was written in circumstances so unfavourable that few persons would have undertaken the task. There was, however, no choice between writing it as it is, or leaving it unwritten. I have felt this statement necessary in order to place the work in a proper light, whilst presenting it to the public. The views advanced in the work are not expressed so fully and accurately as the author could have wished, had circumstances supplied a more favourable opportunity. The doctrines contained in the work, rather than the work itself, the author would respectfully submit to the public. Should it receive encouragement, the author will be happy to do what he can to enlarge and perfect it.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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At first sight, the opinion of the reader may be somewhat prejudiced against the following treatise, by reason of its brevity. He is likely to feel convinced that justice cannot be done to the subject within limits so narrow. And he is the more likely to be confirmed in this opinion by the books which have been written upon the subject, as these are generally very large. But most of the large books on this subject were delivered in the shape of lectures, and others have introduced into them subjects which do not strictly belong to mental science. The principles advanced in the largest works might be condensed into a very small volume, and yet be as intelligible to the reader as in their present shape. The probability is, that to the mere learner, they would be much more so, and that for several reasons. When a subject which has the name of being difficult is presented to the general reader in a great, elaborate volume, it disheartens him in proportion to its extent. If the reader of such a volume has previously studied the subject, his difficulty is not so great. He knows what is irrelevant or of little importance, and passes it accordingly. But the mere learner cannot do this; he searches every corner in the great book with the same stretch of attention. In such a case, it very commonly happens that the learner loses sight of the important points, or gets but a weak impression of them, amid the crowd of quotations, criticisms, examples, and considerations with which the book is made up. Such a course may enlarge the views of those who have mastered the subject, but it is