

**AN EXPOSURE OF THE
FALLACY OF THE
HAMILTONIAN SYSTEM**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649239115

An Exposure of the Fallacy of the Hamiltonian System by John Hooper Hartnoll

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

JOHN HOOPER HARTNOLL

**AN EXPOSURE OF THE
FALLACY OF THE
HAMILTONIAN SYSTEM**

Recd. Sept. 7. 1831.

AN EXPOSURE

OF THE

Fallacy

OF THE

HAMILTONIAN SYSTEM.

BY JOHN HOOPER HARTNOLL.

" All his own confessions, Squibb!"

" Little did I think, that a man of my mild and peaceable disposition, that would not hurt a cat, should be forced out to battle."

LONDON:

**PUBLISHED BY EFFINGHAM WILSON,
ROYAL EXCHANGE.**

1828.

PRICE ONE SHILLING.

AN EXPOSURE, &c.

AS it is probable that this pamphlet will reach the hands of many persons who were present at Mr. Hamilton's Lecture, at the City of London Tavern, on Monday, the 12th Instant, it is perhaps unnecessary to offer any apology for troubling them with a relation of certain circumstances which led to the occurrences of that evening. It is well known that for the last five or six months, the London papers have been inundated with the advertisements of Mr. Hamilton, who professes to teach the French, Latin, German, and other languages, on a system peculiarly his own. He says, every pupil will acquire "a perfect knowledge of the French language, so as to pronounce with the propriety of a native of France, to translate any book in the language with an accuracy unknown on any other system, and to write and speak it with grammatical purity in forty-eight lessons." He professes to teach

ten thousand words, or the whole of the Gospel of St. John in that language, in ten lessons of one hour each. He asserts, "it is verily believed that the Hamiltonian school, is the most perfect model of what a school ought to be, now in existence." And he declares, that "we ought not to be surprised that his system should produce effects which, when compared to the effects of the vicious systems of the schools, *may have the appearance of a miracle.*"

Struck with the boldness of this man's pretensions, I attended his lecture at the City of London Tavern, on March 13th, for the purpose of ascertaining how far his system deserved the high encomiums he had passed upon it, and whether or not there was any thing in it beyond the mere quackery which is so frequently presented to John Bull for his patronage. At the time appointed, Mr. Hamilton entered the lecture-room with all the apparent self-satisfaction and bustling importance of a man who was about to communicate some marvellous information. He commenced an address to the Meeting by stating, that he had lately come from America; where, if we may believe his assertions, he worked miracles so truly extraordinary, that Prince Hohenloe's dwindle into mere ordinary occurrences. He made the most unjustifiable attacks upon our academic institutions, and endeavoured, by a series of false and illiberal

representations, to depreciate the talents and characters of our teachers. He expatiated upon his own attainments and energies; and dwelt upon the ignorance and inability of others. And he descanted on the origin and progress of grammar, and on the perfection of language at the beginning of the world, in a manner that admirably illustrated the words of Seneca, "*plus sonat, quam valet.*"

He then proceeded to develop his plan of tuition, and to give the persons present a lesson on his system. This I considered exceedingly fair, as it would enable the company to judge whether or not he could, as he had professed, teach a thousand words in an hour. But mark the result! At the expiration of the lesson, which lasted above half an hour, instead of having taught *five hundred words*, he had only read, and caused to be repeated, the diminutive number of—*forty*. There was something so barefaced in this proceeding, and the greater part of the meeting seemed so insensible of it, that I rose at the conclusion of the lecture for the purpose of endeavouring to remove so confirmed a mental opthalmia. Mr. H. endeavoured to oppose my being heard, but the resolution of a great majority of the company, overcame his opposition. My address was brief, as my sole intention in rising was to excite a spirit of enquiry in the good-natured people present. I

thought it charitable to do so; for it was rather distressing to behold five or six hundred persons applauding a man whose talents were evidently of a very ordinary kind, and who had decidedly failed in the purpose for which he had called them together. I wished merely to convince them that in what they had heard that evening, there was something for reflection, and that notwithstanding the applause they had bestowed upon Mr. Hamilton, it was possible on re-consideration they would perceive the fallacy and absurdity of his representations.

On the 29th of March, he gave a Lecture at the Green Man, on Blackheath, which I likewise attended for the purpose of exposing his insufferable arrogance, and of cautioning the Meeting against the pretensions of a man whose effrontery was a veil to the impuissance of his intellect.

I was however pleasingly surprised to find there was little necessity for carrying my intentions into effect, as Mr. Corney, a gentleman of very considerable information, presented himself to the notice of the Meeting at an early part of the evening, and exposed the deceptive nature of a certain part of Mr. Hamilton's proceedings. A very warm discussion ensued, in which several gentlemen joined, and for which they were honored by Mr. Hamilton with the appellation of fools, and other equally gentlemanly terms, the very essence of the learned linguist's technical vocabulary.

A silence at length ensued, as deep as that which followed the memorable combat between the valiant Jan Risingh and the renowned Peter Stuyvesant,—Mr. Hamilton became less feverish and proceeded with his lecture. At its conclusion, Mr. Corney made a very forcible and eloquent appeal to the Meeting on the subject of Mr. Hamilton's pretensions. He charged him “ I. With holding forth deceptive promises as to the acquisition of languages. II. With gross injustice towards those engaged in the instruction of youth. And, III. With having but a superficial knowledge of the principles of composition.”

I fully intended to second this appeal, but was prevented from doing so by a claim upon my attentions from a party whom it was far more agreeable to me to wait upon, than to remain and expose the absurdities of a person, who I had the satisfaction of knowing, was already in the care of a gentleman quite capable of giving him every requisite attention.

It may be supposed from what I have just stated, that I am naturally a very peaceable individual; that I am as easily forced by circumstances out of a tumult as I am forced by them into it. Quite the contrary; I am in most cases absolutely inflexible: hard words or hard blows have no terrors for me: but who, I ask, could have resisted the circumstances which drew me from the Green Man on the evening in question?

I defy Barlow himself, to devise means for counteracting such a powerful local attraction.

After the occurrences of this memorable evening, the world sailed on in its orbit pretty quietly until the evening of the 12th instant, when Mr. Hamilton again gave a Lecture at the City of London Tavern, and at which I was *again* present. He commenced with the grossest invectives against me; he termed me "a person of no education, an ignorant fellow, and no gentleman;" and he stated, that having heard it was my intention to address the persons assembled to hear him that evening, he had provided against such an accident by securing the attendance of the police. This was certainly rather a novel proceeding in a London Lecture.

It is, I am sure, quite unnecessary to make any remarks on Mr. Hamilton's silly vituperation; it is vain to talk of vindicating myself against the aspersions of a man who does not himself possess the attributes in which he says I am deficient; who has not, I believe, the slightest knowledge of who, or what I am; and who, I am confident, would equally calumniate any man in existence who might venture to oppose him. To acquit myself of the charge of ignorance is an attempt which I cannot be expected to make; and to endeavour to remove the imputation of being devoid of the feelings of a gentleman is needless, as I have very cogent reasons for believing Mr.