

**METAPHYSICAL INQUIRY  
INTO METHOD, OBJECTS,  
AND RESULT OF ANCIENT  
AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649203192

Metaphysical inquiry into method, objects, and result of ancient and modern philosophy by  
Isaac Preston Cory

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](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ISAAC PRESTON CORY**

**METAPHYSICAL INQUIRY  
INTO METHOD, OBJECTS,  
AND RESULT OF ANCIENT  
AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY**





**METAPHYSICAL INQUIRY**  
INTO THE METHOD OBJECTS AND RESULT OF  
ANCIENT AND MODERN PHILOSOPHY

BY ISAAC PRESTON CORY ESQ.

FELLOW OF CATUS COLLEGE  
CAMBRIDGE



LONDON:  
WILLIAM PICKERING.

1833.



The following Inquiry was originally published  
in a more condensed form in 1831, as an Appen-  
dix to a collection of Ancient Fragments.

Lambeth. 112633 February 5, 1833.



## METAPHYSICAL INQUIRY.

---

THE revival of literature in modern times was slowly followed by the introduction of a better system of philosophy. In some branches of literature we have not surpassed the ancients, and in their philosophy perhaps there are some points, which, even at the present day, may not be altogether unworthy of attention.

To Lord Bacon the philosophic world justly looks up as the father and founder of modern science. Yet we have, in many respects, unconsciously departed from his instructions, and have arrived at conclusions directly the reverse of his. The differences which occur are not such, as, in the infancy of science, might have es-



escaped his notice : but they arise on points, which had been ably discussed before his time, which he had himself examined and scrutinized with the deepest attention, and which he at length admitted from the philosophy of the ancients as principles satisfactorily established.

In the following Inquiry into the Method, Objects, and Result, of the Ancient and Modern systems of Philosophy, I have no intention, nor would I presume to set them in array against each other : but have endeavoured patiently to examine the foundations upon which they rest, and to draw from the great storehouse of antiquity some speculations, which have been too generally slighted or overlooked by the Metaphysician and Philosopher, but which seem to be of such practical utility, that they may tend to the advancement of science, even amid the brilliant discoveries of modern times.

If we were to ask, what was conceived

to be the great engine of invention and discovery among the ancients, it is highly probable we should be answered that it was Syllogism. And if we were to ask the same question relative to modern science, we should be unhesitatingly assured that it was Induction: and, possibly, at the same time we might be told, that the method of the ancients was something worse than useless. Yet, when we consider, that human nature is the same, and that such admirable productions have been the result of human effort both in ancient and modern times, we shall find reason to suspect that the methods of discovery, or the tools really used in all ages, have been much alike, though their names may have been misapplied, or they may have had no distinct appellations assigned them.

By the **INDUCTIVE METHOD** we are supposed to go about to collect, by experiment and observation, all the facts

and circumstances within our reach, relative to the subject in hand. We must examine them in every light, compare their similarities, and mark their differences; we must reject the particulars that are irrelative or negative; and conclude upon the affirmatives that are left. By these means, from the individuals we rise to some general proposition, and we rest assured of its truth as proved by Induction.

To take a common instance: a child that has been burnt by a flame, is afraid of the *same* result from the *same* cause; and such fear or expectation is said to arise from experience: and in the expectation of the *same* result from *similar* causes, he is said to reason by a species of Induction, though not founded on an enlarged experience. But by trying experiments upon all objects which have the appearance of flame, he learns to distinguish such as are hurtful from such as are otherwise, and excluding