

**PHILOSOPHICAL
FRAGMENTS:
WRITTEN DURING
INTERVALS OF BUSINESS**

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Philosophical Fragments: Written During Intervals of Business by J. D. Morell

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J. D. MORELL

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Written during Intervals of Business

BY

J. D. MORELL, LL.D.

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1878

P R E F A C E.

THE following 'Fragments' have been written, either wholly or in part, at various intervals during the last ten or fifteen years, chiefly as affording a little intellectual recreation and some change of Ideas from the ordinary duties of school inspection. They follow, for the most part, the lines of thought I had previously taken up in my *Historical and Critical View of the Speculative Philosophy of Europe in the Nineteenth Century*, and subsequently in my *Introduction to Mental Philosophy on the Inductive Method*.

A portion of Chapter IV. appeared in an article written for the '*Manchester Papers*,' and also from a translation I wrote and published of a small work on psychology by Prof. Fichte, then of Tübingen. With this exception, the matter is entirely new.

Since the *Historical and Critical View* was written, a great change has passed over the whole complexion of European thought. The revolutions which began in France just before the middle of the century, and which passed throughout Europe like a great political storm, left an indelible impression upon the whole current of European literature. In France, the period of Louis Philippe was distinguished by great intellectual activity, more especially in the department

of philosophy. On the side of Eclecticism there were Cousin, Jouffroi, Jules Simon, Damiron, Barthélemy St. Hilaire, and a host of others, all striving to combat the reigning materialism and bring back the current of philosophic thought into more spiritualistic channels. Opposed to these stood the school of positivism as fashioned by Comte and expounded by Littré. On the side of Sociology the school of Fourier was then in the ascendancy, and numbered men of the highest ability amongst its expounders. All these lights, which were guiding the national mind in the research of truth, were extinguished by the revolution that led to the Second Empire, and never reappeared as a popular influence.

The succeeding revolution in Germany had much the same effect. Hegelianism had just then reached the summit of its glory, and in the hands of the '*Jung-hegelianer*' was showing symptoms of a reaction towards the opposite pole of thought. The political agitation achieved the entire overthrow of that form of idealism which had been a power in the country ever since the time of Fichte. It sank away not under the blows of adverse controversy, but under the more killing effects of popular indifference; and since that time no reigning school of thought has sprung up to take its place. In the following pages the fortunes of the modern school of German philosophy are briefly traced, and their history brought down to the present day. This forms the subject of the first part.

The chief feature of the philosophy of the present is the tendency everywhere shown to bring all human investigation into the *form* of natural and inductive science, and the

question naturally arises—whether the inductive method is not, after all, the real and proper method for the human intellect to follow even in the most recondite and metaphysical researches. The purport of the chapter on the theory of human knowledge, which is marked as Part II., is mainly to expound and confirm this one idea.

Part III. is an attempt to show the application of some of the modern doctrines of psychology to the principles of education. It consists of three lectures which were intended to be delivered to an association of teachers and educationists, but from a variety of circumstances never were delivered, at least in the form here presented. The fact of their having been written for the ear rather than the eye, will account for the style being more ‘*oratorical*’ than would have been natural and proper in a purely didactic treatise.

This, then, is a brief inventory of the matter contained in the following ‘*Fragments*.’ They are now published with the hope that they may be of some interest to the few who shall continue to devote attention to the most unpopular of all the sciences.

J. D. MORELL.

FOLKESTONE, 1878.



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